



FEBRUARY 2018

January kicked off our 2018-2019 registration and it was certainly a busy time! The registration process is ongoing this month, as we continue touring prospective families for the few remaining spaces. We will begin issuing enrollment agreements in the first week of February.

February's cold winds are sure to inspire a lot of STEM-focused discussions about snow and ice. Our teachers will capitalize on Valentine's Day as an opportunity to discuss the importance of kindness and friendship. Please remember that if your child brings in Valentine candy or other treats for classmates, it will be sent home with students and not consumed in school.

We were thrilled to use fundraising dollars raised through Silver Graphics sales for some special programs presented by "The Lizard Guys" and "Peas and Carrots." See highlights and pictures from those events later in this newsletter!

I'd like to say a special thank you to Nicole Dougherty and Shelby Moser of the Parent Association for all they have done so far this year for MMO, from the teacher appreciation luncheon, to the Kindergarten Roundtable, to the upcoming Panera night on **February 7th** and other fundraisers, both past and upcoming. Our community is richer for their efforts.

Looking ahead, our Scholastic Book Fair will be from **March 19th through the 29th**. Books sold during the fair earn Scholastic points for MMO, which can be redeemed for classroom books and other materials. Also coming up in March will be the Mixed Bag fundraiser. We will have more details about both as that time nears, but want to say thank you in advance for your support. These fundraisers directly enhance the programming we can provide for your children.

Upcoming dates

- ❖ 2/2: Groundhog Day
- ❖ 2/7: Panera night & Parents Association meeting
- ❖ 2/13: 100th Day of School*
- ❖ 2/14: Valentine's Day
- ❖ 2/19: Closed for Presidents' Day
- ❖ 2/20: Closed for Staff Development
- ❖ 3/19-3/29: Scholastic Book Fair
- ❖ 4/10-4/11: School Pictures (rain dates 4/17-4/18)
- ❖ 4/14: Spring Fling Fundraiser

*If no additional snow days



Missy Pentecost
MMO Preschool Programs
Interim Executive Director



PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Fireflies – Ms. Tara

January flew past with a lot of exciting moments in Pre-K! We had our first snow day and brought some of the snow inside our classroom to play with. We had an amazing visit from “The Lizard Guy” and got to see real live animals and interact with them. And most importantly, we began our alphabet study. The children are so excited to learn all about the letters and are doing a great job practicing their handwriting.

Throughout the month of February the Pre-k children will continue their alphabet study with the letters E, F, G, and H. They will learn about Evaporation, read some of their Favorite Fairy tales, make a Giant Graph to record their favorite Goldfish snack, and go for an imaginary ride in a Hot air balloon!

The children have been practicing their counting every day since the first day of school. Our goal was to learn to count to 100 and to achieve this, we have been counting the days of school. To celebrate the 100th day of school, we will have a small in-class celebration. Depending on snow days, this will take place sometime this month. We will do fun activities such as 100 exercises, make 100 handprints and find 100 numbers around our classroom. We will even take a walk to see how far 100 footsteps will take us! There will be a special homework assignment this week as well.

To continue with our Winter theme, the class will take few days to learn about Penguins. We will watch a baby penguin being born, read a weekly reader about penguins, paint a penguin and do an experiment with ice!

The science and math center will include a lesson on the water cycle and Evaporation, counting on Graph paper, creating shapes on Geoboards, and comparing our likes and dislikes using bar graphs and pie graphs.



Butterflies – Mr. Gary



Even though February is the shortest month of the year we have a lot going on!

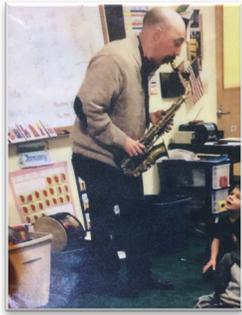
It is the international month of friendship, which we will honor with discussions, stories, and encouragement on how to show love to friends. We have a celebration planned for Valentine’s Day and encourage you to bring valentines for your child to share with their classmates. We do however ask that you address the cards **from your child, but not to a particular child** to make distribution easier at the party. Our Valentine curriculum will feature many art explorations using theme colors and heart shapes to decorate our classroom.



Valentine’s Day is not the only holiday we will be covering in our classroom. We are also going to be discussing Groundhog Day and relating this to our science lessons on shadows and light. We will focus as well on Black history month. The children will be exposed to individuals who have made huge improvements in our daily lives.

We will also continue with winter related projects, writing our letters and names, counting, sorting, patterns, science experiments and a focus on respecting others.

Adventures in Aftercare Enrichment



French through Music with Mr. Jim

Mr. Jim of *Language Rhythm* brings the joy of the French language and music each session! Each class Jim plays one of many instruments (saxophone, clarinet, flute and guitar to name a few!) while singing along in French. This fun enrichment program of French language instruction through songs is a student favorite!

If interested please secure a spot by contacting the office.



Aftercare Enrichment:

February is finally upon us! In the month of January we learned about our shapes, colors, and our Five Senses. We created a Shape House, went on a Shape Hunt, Played Color and Shape Hopscotch, and sang many songs. We discussed what our five senses are as well as focused a day to each of our senses. We listened to the sounds that shook in a container, looked to see what was in our room through binoculars, and learned about our mouth and teeth for taste.

During the month of February we will learn about Valentine's Day, Myself, My Family, and My Community. We will discuss why we are unique as well as create an "all about me" booklet. We will go on a Heart Hunt and participate in various Valentine's Day activities. We will then talk about our families and our homes as well as the people that make up our community.

Aftercare will continue to have Yogarate with Ms. Nicole, French and Music with Mr. Jim, Art with Ms. Mimi, STEM with Ms. Malessa, Art in Nature with Ms. Susan, Little Rockers with Ms. Deidre, Movement with Ms. Tess, and Mr. Gary and Ms. Megan to round out our exciting list of activities. If any of these activities interest you please reserve a space in the office! Aftercare schedules can be found on the bulletin boards outside the Pre-K classrooms, the office, the aftercare office, and though email. February is going to be an exciting month!

- Alex Latona,
Lead Aftercare Teacher

3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS



Dragonflies - Miss Megan

During the month of January we explored some really fun themes, including polar bears, penguins, and other arctic animals! We answered some interesting questions like, "How do polar bears stay warm?" and "How do penguins stay dry?" We learned that penguins rub oil all over their feathers that make them feel waxy. This helps keep them dry when they go in the water! Some other animals we learned about were snowy owls, seals, and walrus. The children were fascinated to learn that the walrus have extra long teeth called tusks! We learned that walrus use their tusks to pull themselves onto the ice and to look for food.

Our STEM activity this month was an experiment to see how polar bears stay warm in the icy water. We learned that they have blubber that helps to keep them warm. We filled a bowl with ice water and put our bare hands in to see how cold it was. Then, we put our hands inside a rubber glove and covered the glove with a layer of blubber (shortening). Then, we wrapped the whole thing in plastic wrap and stuck our hands back into the ice water. We couldn't feel it! The blubber kept our hands nice and warm!



During the month of February, we will explore themes including Groundhog Day, friendship, Valentine's Day, and taking care of our teeth! We will learn what it means if the groundhog sees his shadow. We will also talk about why it is important to be a good friend and how important it is to keep our teeth clean! Our STEM focus for the month will be a fun activity about measuring our shadows!



Bumblebees - Miss Christina

In January we discussed snow and ice, how ice is formed, and even did a science experiment on using different mediums to melt ice. We made icy art by mixing salt and glue and snowy pictures using shaving cream. We then moved on to learning about snowmen, and made a giant class snowman and created a story all about him. From there, we moved onto penguins. We discovered that penguins love to slide on their bellies on ice, so used items from around our classroom and made predictions whether they would slide like penguins or not.

Finally, we ended the month learning about hibernation. We figured out why certain animals hibernate and had fun pretending to hibernate ourselves. The best part about this theme was our special stuffed animal show and tell and our pajama party!

During the month of February, we will be talking about Groundhog Day and shadows. We then will move on to Valentine's Day and things that we love. Once we learn about what we love, we will be diving right into learning about our five senses. We will be listening to different sounds, painting pictures of things that we see, and trying to guess what toy is hidden in a box just by touching it. For our science theme, we will be using our sense of smell to figure out what items are in concealed mystery cups. We will also be cooking something together for our sense of taste. As February ends, we will talk more about ourselves, each other, as well as discussing how we are alike and different. Finally, we will continue working on our teamwork skills by creating an art project with a friend, as well as completing different tasks that require working together.



The Lizard Guys and Peas and Carrots



In late January, MMO students enjoyed programs from special visitors, funded by participation in our recent Silver Graphics fundraiser. Depending on age and days of attendance, students enjoyed either the music of "Peas and Carrots" or the wild creatures of "The Lizard Guy."



Children attending Peas and Carrots jumped, danced, sang, twirled like snowflakes, and shook maracas while joining in on "The Wheels on the Bus," "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" and more. Also children climbed the ladder and sprayed the hose during the "The Firetruck song."



Children attending The Lizard Guy's program had the opportunity to see a wide array of animals, listen to a hissing cockroach, and touch a tortoise's shell and a lizard's body, among other things. We were lucky this visit fell during python French Fry's monthly shedding of his snakeskin. Older children got to peel away some of the skin from near his tail, learning from The Lizard Guy that this does not hurt the snake.



Regardless of which program they attended, the children seemed to enjoy their time with a special guest immensely.

Many, many thanks to the families who supported our Silver Graphics fundraiser and made these fun activities possible!



INFANTS & TODDLERS

Grasshoppers

Miss Claude



During the month of January, we talked about winter, the type of clothes we wear to keep us warm and the concepts of same and different. We made snowflakes and a chubby little snowman by filling an empty

water bottle with cotton balls. We also read many stories about the snow, the cold and snowmen.

In February our themes will be space, Valentine's Day and the different emotions that we feel. We will talk about space, the moon and the stars. We will use the emotions dolls and make an emotions poster to identify and describe different feelings, while reading books, singing songs and making other fun projects and activities related to all the themes.



Ladybugs

Miss Joelle & Miss Malessa



January was an exciting month for the ladybugs. The children learned about big and little objects. They had the chance to paint with big and little cars, talk about the different sizes and blend different colors together. We also did a sensory and gross motor activity using sponge-painting wands. We took our shoes, socks and pants off and talked about how it felt on our legs and toes.

Our theme for February is all about things that go: Cars, trucks, airplanes and trains. Some of the activities we will be doing will include making fire trucks, airplanes and a big school bus. We will go on nature walks to look at all the different vehicles on the road. Some of the

books we will be reading are My Truck Book, Things That Go, and The Little Engine That Could. We will sing "Happy Train", "Bumpin up in my little red wagon", and "The wheels on the bus" as we build our own school bus.



Caterpillars

Miss Margaret & Miss Melissa



With the start of every New Year there is often the hope for a new beginning. This past January was no exception. We welcomed not one, but two new additions into our Caterpillar circle. For the past month they have been working on adjusting to group care and getting to know their caregivers. Our younger and older infants, as appropriate, will be encouraged to play peek-a-boo, clap their hands to the "Head, shoulders, knees and toes" song and listen to stories, such as: Where is Baby's Bellybutton? February's concept "All about Me" will give each of our students an opportunity to focus on the very things that make them one of a kind.



Parents Association:

Greetings! Thanks to all who attended the Kindergarten Roundtable; we hope that the forum provided valuable information for your decision-making.

This month we will be having another MMO Night at Panera Restaurant on **Wednesday, February 7 from 4-8 PM**. Twenty percent of proceeds from your orders (with flyer) will be donated to MMO. Also on the **7th** is our Parents Association meeting, at 7:30 PM; agenda and dial-in number will be sent in advance.

Save the date! Our 2nd annual Spring Fling will be held on **Saturday, April 14** at Fitzgerald's in Glen Ridge. Much more information will follow shortly.

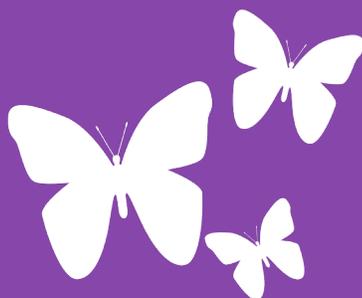
As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us via email, mmoparentassociation@gmail.com

Nicole Dougherty, President
Shelby Ebert-Moser, Vice-President

MMO Programs Preschool

40 South Fullerton Ave.
Montclair, New Jersey, 07042

Mmoprograms.org



Contact Us:

Phone: 973-744-6521

E-mail: info@mmoprograms.org

Follow & Like Us:

Facebook: MMO Programs

Instagram: mmoprograms

Twitter: @MMOPROGRAMS

Yelp: MMO Programs

Download:

Tadpoles (to stay in touch
with your child's teacher)



MMO is a non-sectarian program of
First Congregational Church
www.firstcongmontclair.org



HELP SUPPORT

MMO PROGRAMS

WHERE 15 Bloomfield Ave, Montclair, NJ 07042

WHEN Wed, Feb, 7th

FROM 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Bring this flyer or show an electronic version to the cashier when you place your order and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase.*

Ordering Online for Rapid Pick-Up or Delivery?*

Enter **"FUND"** as your Promo Code to have a portion of your proceeds donated to your organization.

Learn more at PaneraBread.com/fundraiser

*Gift card purchases and catering orders are excluded and will not count toward the event.
Rapid Pick-Up and Delivery only where available.

©2018 Panera Bread. All Rights Reserved.