



MARCH 2018

March is going to be a busy month!

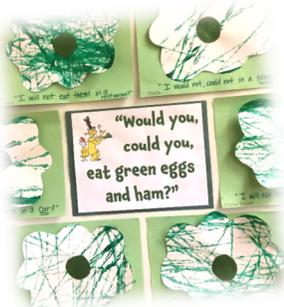
As the weather (hopefully) warms, we will begin cleaning out our garden beds and getting them ready for spring planting. If you are interested in helping or volunteering with our garden, please contact the office or your child's teacher. All hands are welcome!

This month we celebrate the works of Dr. Seuss in honor of his **March 2nd** birthday. From Monday, **March 5th** through **Friday March 9th**, MMO will focus on a different Dr. Seuss book each day and invite students and teachers alike to dress according to each day's theme; see the schedule posted in the newsletter and around the school.

In keeping with the reading focus this month, our Scholastic Book fair will run from Monday **March 19th** through Friday **March 23rd** in the Guild Room. Any books or other items you purchase earn "Scholastic Points" for MMO, which can be redeemed for books and other materials for the classrooms.

Thank you for supporting our Panera Night Fundraiser in February, despite the dismal weather that evening – we are awaiting the total from that evening. We hope you'll join us for the 2nd annual Spring Fling on **April 14th** at Fitzgerald's. This event is a fun, relaxed evening with other grown-ups (!), good food and drinks, and lots of great prizes. Look for more ticket info coming from the Parent Association.

And finally, our Lost and Found crates outside the offices are overflowing! If you are missing items, please come search the crates – you just might find what you are looking for. We will donate any remaining items at the end of the month.



Upcoming dates

- ❖ 3/2: Dr. Seuss' birthday
- ❖ 3/5-3/9: Dr. Seuss Week at MMO
- ❖ 3/12: Mixed Bag fundraiser begins
- ❖ 3/19-3/29: Scholastic Book Fair in the Guild Room
- ❖ 3/30: CLOSED for Good Friday
- ❖ 4/2: CLOSED Easter Monday
- ❖ 4/10-4/11: School Pictures (rain dates 4/17-4/18)
- ❖ 4/14: Spring Fling Fundraiser at Fitzgerald's in Glen Ridge.

Missy Pentecost
 MMO Preschool Programs
 Interim Executive Director



PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Fireflies – Ms. Tara

The Pre-k class has been very busy these past few weeks. The children learned about the water cycle and experimented to see how much water a cloud could hold. We had fun celebrating Valentines Day and the 100th day of school! We learned fun facts about penguins and did an amazing job painting them. To finish off the month of February, the class went on a pretend trip in a Hot Air Balloon for the letter H!

The month of March will continue with our alphabet study. We will concentrate on the letters I, J, K, L, and M. We will create a new **I**nvention, read about **J**ellyfish, try to fly a paper **K**ite, count and graph **L**ucky Charms and play **M**usical instruments together. As always, we will practice our handwriting and brainstorm lists of words.

Now that we have passed the 100th day



of school, the children have been really excited to focus on something new. We will be slowly learning some new sight words to add to our word wall. So far we have learned the word “**the**”. We look forward to adding words such as “**is**” and “**and**”. You will be surprised at what good “readers” we are becoming!

In the science center, the children will be discussing light and **rainbows** for **St. Patrick’s**

Day. We will even do a wind experiment when we talk about kites!

In the afternoons, the children will celebrate the birthday of one of our favorite authors, Dr. Seuss! The class will read his books and have some fun with rhyming. Imagine ***The Thinks We Could Think*** with a little help from our friends! We may even come up with a poem of our own!

Butterflies – Mr. Gary



Spring is coming everyone! We had many exciting things to talk about and celebrate in February. We had an exciting Chinese New Year celebration, had fun predicting the weather and making groundhogs for Groundhog Day. We always enjoy celebrating Valentine’s Day

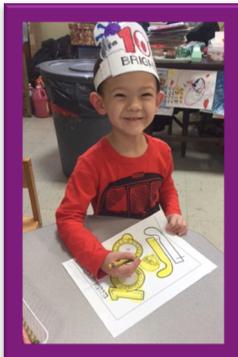
It is March and the learning theme this month will be all things Dr. Seuss. Not only are Dr. Seuss books loved by children the world over but they help to introduce the fundamentals of reading. With Dr. Seuss’ simple word repetition and rhyming words a child can easily begin to hear it, learn it and read it. During the month we will be focusing on teaching the children to think up simple words that rhyme together. This month we will be reading ***The Cat In The Hat***. Sally and her brother let the Cat in the Hat in and he quickly caused lots of trouble with his Thing 1 and Thing 2. The moral of the story teaches children the importance of not opening the door to strangers and always listening to a parent. We will continue to practice patterns this month along with our fine motor skills with the stringing beads activity. A little blue and orange paint and silly Thing 1 and Thing 2 magically appeared out of the children’s handprints.

We will celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with lots of green: Green Day, green crafts, green leprechauns, and Green Eggs and Ham! We will also keep an eye out for signs of spring! We are hoping to be spending more and more time outside as the weather is getting brighter and nicer and we enjoy it very much.

HIP HIP HOORAY FOR 100 DAYS!!!

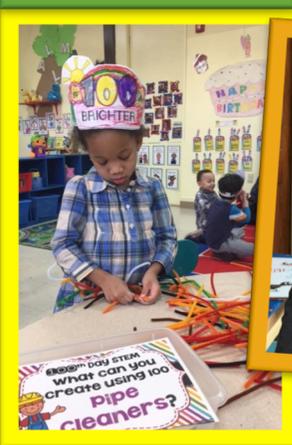
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Our Pre-K students in both the Firefly and Butterfly programs have been counting since the first day of school. They celebrated 100 days of school by doing many different STEM activities to help mark the occasion. Miss. Tara's class took 100 steps to see how far they could go, made necklaces with 100 fruit-loops and every student brought in 100 things they counted at home for show-and-tell.

Our students even got to talk to someone who was 100 year's old in Mr. Gary's class!



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3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS

Dragonflies - Miss Megan



During the month of February we had fun exploring topics such as Groundhog Day, Friendship, Valentine's Day, and Dental Health. For Groundhog Day, we talked about making predictions and shadows! We learned that when we got closer to the light our shadows grew bigger and that when we moved away from the light our shadows got smaller! The children had a lot of fun making shadow puppets in our classroom. We also talked about what it means to be a good friend. We made a friendship quilt as a symbol of our friendship! Each child decorated their own square and we put them together to make our friendship quilt! The theme of friendship led us to Valentine's Day. The children had a lot of fun making love monsters and heart collages! After all of the valentine sweets, we talked about keeping our teeth healthy! We learned that eating healthy foods and visiting the dentist keeps our teeth healthy and strong. The children had fun painting with toothbrushes and flossing with big Lego blocks and play-dough!

Our STEM activity for the month of February was a prediction chart for Groundhog's Day. We discussed what it means when the groundhog sees his shadow and when he doesn't. Then, we thought like scientists and predicted whether the groundhog would see his shadow or not. We made a chart and talked about the results. Eleven children predicted that the groundhog would see his shadow, and seven children predicted that he wouldn't see his shadow!

In March, we will explore themes like Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's Day, and rainbows! We will explore the wonderful books of Dr. Seuss and do some fun activities, like Cat In the Hat name puzzles, a Hop On Pop rhyming activity, and Cat In the Hat beanbag toss! Our STEM focus for March will be a fizzy green egg science experiment!



Bumblebees - Miss Christina

We started February learning all about hibernation, and what types of animals hibernate and why. We had a pajama party and stuffed animal show-and-tell, where we tried to guess which of the stuffed animals hibernate in the winter.

We also learned about our five senses. We used our sense of smell to figure out what was in different cups, like lemon, orange, and peppermint to name a few. We used our sense of sight to play a fun game of I Spy around the classroom. We used our sense of touch to play with scented shaving cream. We used our sense of hearing to listen to different sounds and tried



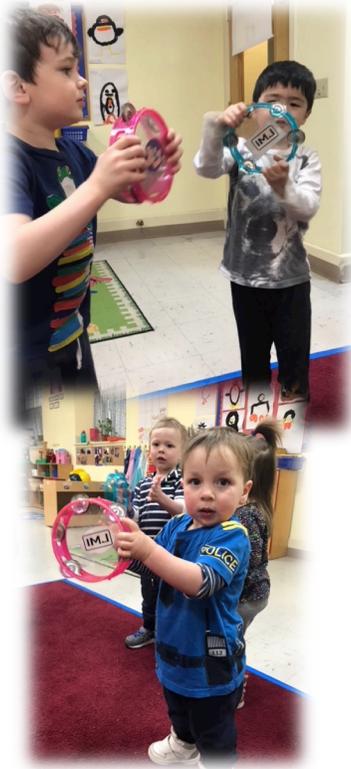
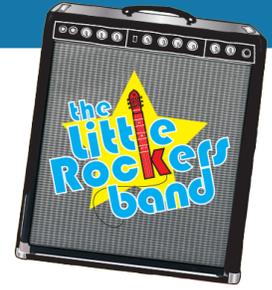
to guess what they were and finally we used our sense of taste to make our very own pizza bagels. We transformed into little chefs and spread our own sauce on and then decided what toppings we wanted. They were delicious!



The month of March will be just as busy! We will begin by celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday, and creating fun art projects based on some of his stories. We will work on fun Dr. Seuss related activities, such as building The Cat in the Hat's hat, learning opposites, and measuring our feet! From there, we will move onto learning about weather and wind, and we will do a fun science experiment using wind. We then will focus on St. Patrick's Day where we will talk about and create rainbows and finally, we will talk briefly about Easter and perhaps even have an egg race!

Spotlight on Aftercare

Little Rockers with Miss Deirdre



If you are not familiar with The Little Rockers Music Band, they combine informal music education with performance-based learning.

Their music programs are designed to introduce children to the world of music using group participation, musical experiences, movement exercises, musical craft making and games!

If you are interested in having your child stay for the Little Rockers, be sure to check our Aftercare Enrichment Schedule and contact our offices.



Aftercare Enrichment:

The month of February was even more exciting and busy in aftercare than ever before. We discussed the theme 'All About Me' and talked about what it means to be an individual. We said how our fingerprints were all different and as unique as each and every one of us. We learned about our families with an activity in which we placed a sticker on our house for every member of our family that lives with us. The stickers were color-coded and we included an orange sticker for ourselves! We learned about Community Helpers and what it means to be a community helper. We made fire trucks, created Police badges, and identified a teacher, nurse, mail carrier, and other people who help our community run every day.

March will be no exception with how busy and productive we will be in aftercare! We will be practicing tracing lines and eventually cutting them out. We will be tracing letters and then practicing to copy them on another piece of paper. We will also be working on our coloring abilities. Aftercare will also focus on St. Patrick's Day activities such as creating a Shamrock Man and match the shamrock. Manners and friendships will center as a second theme and then we will be focusing on the idea that spring has sprung!

Aftercare will continue to have Enrichment instructors including: Art in Nature with Ms. Susan, Yogarate with Ms. Nicole, French with Mr. Jim, Art with Ms. Mimi, Little Rockers with Ms. Deidre, Mr. Gary, Ms. Megan, and activities with Ms. Alex. If any of these exciting activities are interesting to you, please reserve a spot for your child in the MMO office!

- Alex Latona,
Lead Aftercare Teacher

INFANTS & TODDLERS

Grasshoppers Miss Claude



Winter is almost over, and we are looking forward to spring!

During the month of February, we talked about space, the stars, the moon and when they can be seen in the sky; the color of the sun and

how it feels on our skin. We also talked about the planets, astronauts and how they travel to space. We made a space collage and moon sand.

Our theme for the month of March is things that go. We will learn about things that go on land, air and water. We will do fun activities for a special week celebrating Dr. Seuss, along with crafts to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Easter.



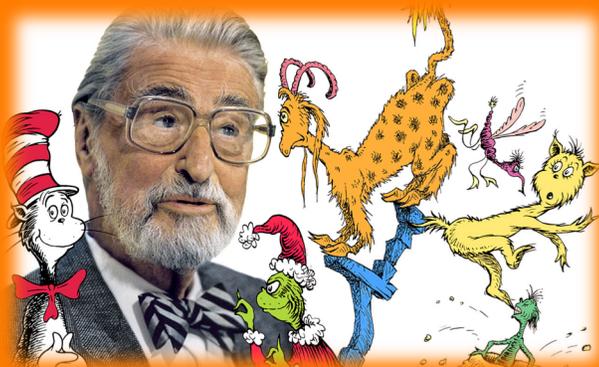
Ladybugs - Miss Joelle

We were on the go in February! Our monthly theme transportation was a big hit. We turned our classroom into a big road. We used blue tape to make the lines of the street and the children helped by sticking the tape to the floor. We then showed the children that cars and trucks drive on the road. We learned that airplanes are different from cars because they fly high in the sky. We turned a cardboard box into a fire truck and a school bus. We sang "Wheels on the Bus" while driving the school bus. We made a train by lining up blocks and sitting in them. We also talked about how trains only go on tracks and say "Choo-choo" as they go by.

In March, our main theme will be "Story Book Classics" Our over-arching developmental task will be connecting with the books by acting them out and visually making art projects related to them. We will be honoring Dr. Seuss by reading some of his books like Put me in the Zoo, The Nose Book, Hop on Pop, and Mr. Brown Can Moo Can You?. The week of March 5th, we will be participating in Dr. Seuss week by having different days to dress in silly clothing/hats, reading stories he wrote and doing projects related to the stories we read. Some other classic books we will be introduced to are The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Runaway Bunny and Goodnight Moon.



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!



**"Children want the same things we want.
To laugh, to be challenged, to be
entertained, and delighted."**

Dr. Seuss

**"Today was good. Today was FUN.
TOMORROW is ANOTHER ONE."**

One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish

by Dr. Seuss

Celebrate Reading

Dr. Seuss Week

Monday - **"One Fish, Two Fish"**

Wear something RED and/or BLUE.



Tuesday - **"The Cat in the Hat"**

Wear stripes and/or your favorite hat.

Wednesday - **"Wacky Wednesday"**

Get wacky! Wear your clothes backwards, inside out, or mismatched.

Thursday - **"Green Eggs and Ham"**

Wear something GREEN.

Friday - **"Sleep Book"**

Let's celebrate an entire day of reading!
Wear pajamas or comfy clothes that are school appropriate.



INFANTS & TODDLERS



Caterpillars Miss Margaret & Miss Melissa



As we move into March, we welcome a new caterpillar to our class. Our older children have been very busy, from sharing stories in the cozy corner, outings to the gym, and taking turns with peers during play. Our caterpillars have become very independent and we are so proud of them and all their accomplishments!

The theme for March will be the concept of movement. The older children will be invited to explore the outdoor playground, obstacle courses, tunnels, and slides. Meanwhile our youngest caterpillars will be invited to participate in tummy time, stretching their bodies, and stroller walks outside, all with caregivers nearby to provide encouragement and support. We look forward to a busy and exciting month of adventure!



The Montclair Literary Festival promotes reading for all, bringing writers and readers together to celebrate the town's literary scene and support the work of local non-profit Succeed2gether, to close the education achievement gap.

More than 90 authors will take part in 50 events over 4 days throughout town.

There will be a full day of FREE children's activities at the Montclair Public Library, the Montclair Art Museum, The First Congregational Church of Montclair (40 S. Fullerton Ave.), The Creativity Caravan and East Side Mags.

We are quite proud to have some MMO alumni parents including Jorge Aguirre, Christina Baker Kline and Matthew Thomas participating in the festival!

SUCCEED2GETHER PRESENTS

Montclair LITERARY FESTIVAL

MARCH 15-18, 2018

FREE CHILDREN'S AUTHORS & ACTIVITIES

Saturday March 17, 2018

Montclair Public Library

3rd Fl Green Space

- 10:30 - 11:20 am Storyteller April Armstrong (age 2-10)
- 11:30 am - 12:20 pm Shy Williams: Proud Black Girl (age 2-10)
- 12:30 - 1:20 pm Sarah Beth Durst: Writing is Magic! (age 8+)
- 1:30 - 2:20 pm Sayantani DasGupta: The Serpent's Secret (age 8+)
- 2:30 - 3:20 pm Denise Lewis Patrick: Finding Someplace (age 8-12)
- 4:00 - 5:30 pm Writing as a Family workshop: The Writers Circle (age 7+)

3rd Fl Storyroom

- Elinor Blake: We're Going to be Friends (age 5-12)
- Jorge Aguirre: Monsters Beware! (age 5-12)
- Illustrator Mike Moran: Poopandou! (age 5-9)
- Illustrator Selina Alko: Why Am I Me? (age 4-8)
- David Lubar: Weenies Series & more (age 8+)

1:30 - 2:30 pm East Side Mags
7 South Fullerton Ave.
Rich Douek: Gutter Magic (age 8+)

1:00 - 2:00 pm The Creativity Caravan 28 South Fullerton Ave.
Tiny Books, Big Ideas Family workshop (age 7+)

1:45 - 2:45 pm Guild Room at First Congregational Church
Beyond Classics: Reinventing Sci-Fi and Fantasy (age 12+)
Alex London, Sarah Beth Durst, Yvonne Ventresca, Josiah Bancroft.

Montclair Art Museum Art & Literature Workshops
Please register online

- 1:00 - 2:00 pm Studio A Create collages for storytelling with Kristine Lombardi (age 5-8)
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm Studio B Make prints of Eric Carle animals with Claudia Sabino (age 3-6)
- 3:00 - 4:30 pm Studio A Intro to comics and graphic novels with Kevin Pyle (age 8+)
- 3:00 - 4:00 pm Studio B Poetry and art with Montclair Cooperative School (age 10-14)

For details & registration visit succeed2gether.org

Parents Association:

Greetings Parents! March is a month full of happenings for the Parents' Association. We continue to prepare for our 2nd Annual Spring Fling – **April 14**. Tickets are on sale now in the office or on the web at <https://mmospringfling2018.brownpapertickets.com>. Don't forget, if you purchase tickets by **March 15**, you save \$5 per ticket! More information on the raffles, including our 'Super Prize', will be coming soon!

Our Mixed Bag Designs Fundraiser will kickoff on **March 12**. They offer an assortment of products for cooking, eco-friendly living, travel and organization. Catalogs and order forms will be sent home shortly. Online ordering can also be utilized, so you can spread the word to your family and friends as well. These will make great gifts for Mother's Day!

Always a favorite with kids is our Scholastic Book Fair, **March 19-23** in the Guild Room. There are still some slots available to volunteer during the book fair, so if you are interested, please check out the Sign-up Genius

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094dafa82ba3f94-scholastic1>.

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

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

MMO Preschool Programs

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Montclair, New Jersey, 07042

mmoprograms.org



Contact Us:

Phone: 973-744-6521

E-mail: info@mmoprograms.org

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Download:

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

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



You're invited

MMO Spring Fling 2018

Saturday, April 14, 7-9:30 PM



17 Herman Street, Glen Ridge

\$45/person until 3/15, \$50/person 3/16 and after
Tickets available in the MMO office (cash/check) or online:

<https://mmospringfling2018.brownpapertickets.com>

Limited space available

Ticket price includes 3 raffle tickets

Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer will be served

Prize baskets – raffle tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5

50/50 raffle – tickets \$5 for arm's length

raffle tickets will be sold in advance at the office & at the event
(winners need not be present to win)

Door prizes the night of the event

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