



Offering Exceptional Educational  
Childcare for Young Children since 1982

## April 2018

As we welcome warmer temperatures this spring, we look forward to getting back out to a playground that is not covered by several inches of snow!

It's going to be a busy month at MMO. **April 16<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>** is the Week of the Young Child. This annual celebration promoted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers and families. Each day of the week has a different theme, so look for special activities and projects from our students and teachers in these areas:

- Music Monday
- Tasty Tuesday
- Work Together Wednesday
- Artsy Thursday
- Family Friday

Earth day is **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** and school-wide MMO will focus on our planet, the environment, and keeping the earth healthy. This month the classes will begin planning and planting their garden beds in the playground.

School pictures by Joy Glenn will be taken **April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>**, with rain dates the following week, if necessary. Joy takes beautiful portraits of the children in an outdoor setting. You will be able to see your child's picture before deciding if you want to purchase prints. You will receive the picture day schedule for your child's class in an email the first week of April.

We hope to see you at our Spring Fling on **April 14<sup>th</sup>** at Fitzgerald's in Glen Ridge. This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year, but it is also a really fun adult-only night of food, drinks, raffles – tickets are \$50 and may be purchased at the MMO office or online.

Many thanks to all of you who have so generously participated in our other recent fundraising efforts - including the Scholastic Book Fair, the Mixed Bag sale, and the Panera and Tacoria nights - despite interference by nasty weather during several of these initiatives! Totals from these events will be coming from the Parent Association soon. Your support in these fundraisers directly enhance the experiences of your children at MMO by providing new books, supplies and other classroom materials.

And finally, Summer Camp registration is under way (if your child is enrolled full-time, no registration is necessary). Spaces are limited, so if you are interested, please come to the office or email us at [info@mmoprograms.org](mailto:info@mmoprograms.org).

Happy Spring!

**Missy Pentecost** MMO Preschool Programs Executive Director

## Upcoming dates

- ❖ **4/2:** CLOSED  
Easter Monday
- ❖ **4/3:** Mixed Bag  
Fundraiser due date
- ❖ **4/10-4/11:**  
School Pictures  
(rain dates 4/17-4/18)
- ❖ **4/14:** Spring  
Fling Fundraiser  
at Fitzgerald's in  
Glen Ridge.
- ❖ **4/16-4/20:** The  
Week of the  
Young Child
- ❖ **4/22:** Earth Day
- ❖ **5/28:** CLOSED  
Memorial Day



# PRE-KINDERGARTEN

## Fireflies – Ms. Tara

March was a busy month in the Pre-k classroom. The children learned about wind, walked on a Labyrinth, experimented with magnets and became familiar with the concept of measurement. Despite some fun in the snow, we are looking forward to some springtime weather!

Throughout the month of April the firefly class will continue their study of the alphabet. The letters O, P, Q, and R, will be the focus. We will create constellations for the Night sky, look at some of our favorite Ocean animals, make Pizza, have a Pajama Party, and make a Rainbow in a Jar!

The class will spend some time learning about the season of SPRING. As we take walks outside we will collect some seasonal samples of nature. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and we will go to the flower garden and sketch all of the flowers we see.

We will discuss Earth Day and the importance of keeping our Earth clean and healthy. Our Caterpillars will arrive this month and we will get to see them make their Chrysalis and transform into Monarch Butterflies.

Our Math focus this month will continue with number recognition 1 -20. We will work on writing numbers, as well as matching quantities to the written number.

Our adventures with “Gingerbread Fred” are continuing throughout the rest of the year. The children have been doing amazing things with our “friend.” We love sharing the pictures and reading about the special times he spends at all of our houses! We can’t wait to see what he does now that the weather is clearing up!



## Butterflies – Mr. Gary

In honor of springtime, and fueled by our curiosity in “growing” we are going to be learning all about GROWING in April. This is a topic that has all the children buzzing! They are increasingly aware that they are growing bigger and bigger each day, so we will embrace this in our classroom through art, science and reading this month.

April will be full of more wonderful activities. We will be moving on to our unit of spring, Earth Day, and recycling. We will also be incorporating real caterpillars into the classroom in order for the children to experience their change to butterflies. We will culminate this unit with the class releasing the butterflies on the playground so that they can be free. We are going to focus on the life cycle of plants in our science area as well, including activities like sprouting seeds in the windows, planting plant sprouts for each child to care for, measuring our friends, and re-growing some common vegetables... hopefully! Butterflies will also create collages with various seeds, practice math concepts with sorting and counting seeds, and plan to take a few “nature walks” to seek out signs of spring.



# 3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS



## Dragonflies -- Miss Megan

During the month of March we explored some fun themes including Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's Day, and Rainbows! We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with a week of themed days. The children especially loved Wacky Pajama Day! We explored the fun rhymes of Dr. Seuss and created amazing projects like our hot air balloons for *Oh, The Places You'll Go* and blow painting Thing 1 and Thing 2!

Since you can find a leprechaun's pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, the children wanted to explore rainbows after St. Patrick's Day! We did a fun STEM experiment called "walking water." We took six cups and filled three of them with water, one with red water, one with yellow water, and one with blue water. The other three cups remained empty. Next, we arranged the cups in a circle,

alternating one with water and one without. Then, we took six strips of paper towels and put them in the cups so that one end was in a cup with water and the other end was in an empty cup. As we watched, we saw the colored water "walking" up the paper towels. The children predicted what would happen when the different colored waters mixed together in the empty cups. They predicted that red and yellow would make orange, yellow and blue would make green, and red and blue would make purple!

In the month of April, we will explore some exciting themes like the zoo! We will talk about the different kinds of animals that can be found at the zoo. We will also talk about Earth Day and the different ways that we can care for our planet!



## Bumblebees -- Miss Christina

March was a busy month for the Bumblebees, and despite some snow days sprinkled in the mix, we were able to accomplish so many things! We kicked off the month learning about wind, and we had fun blowing feathers around the room using our wind. We even made paper airplanes and enjoyed watching as the wind blew them around the classroom. From there we moved on to Dr. Seuss week, where we made red and blue fish, and went on a fish hunt around the classroom to find hidden fish.

Next on our agenda was St. Patrick's Day, where we made our very own green Jell-O! We also painted beautiful rainbows and did an awesome science experiment with Skittles where we watched in amazement as a rainbow appeared. Following our

green filled week, we talked about different farm animals. We listened to different riddles and had to what animal they were describing and we created cows and pigs during art. Finally, we ended the week talking about bunnies and eggs. We did a cool experiment making fizzy eggs using baking soda and vinegar. We also had fun running egg races, working hard to balance our egg on a plastic spoon. We also learned about bunnies and danced to a funny bunny song.

April will be just as busy! We will start the month by learning classic nursery rhymes and doing a Humpty Dumpty egg drop test. We will discuss the season of Spring and the changes that occur, and we will even plant green beans and perhaps even put them in our school garden! From there we will spend a week celebrating The Week of the Young Child, which celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers and families. Finally, we will end the month by discussing butterflies and will even be receiving real live caterpillars to help us learn more about their life cycle!



# Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!



# Spotlight on Aftercare

## Creative Movement with Miss Tess



Miss Teresa is a former Radio City Rockette and a musical theater veteran. She has done numerous regional theater productions, cruise ships, as well as "My Fair Lady" National Tour. Tess also is the creator of Kid's Corner dance program and she teaches creative movement at St. James Preschool and MMO. She is an instructor for Gas Lamp Players as well as a member of their executive board. In addition to instructing our tiny dancers, Miss Tess has choreographed for Melochords, The Theater League of Clifton, as well as for the Orchesis Dance Company.



March was busy in aftercare with us practicing drawing, writing, and cutting. We traced different types of lines such as dotted and squiggle lines with crayons, pencils, and markers. We traced the letters of the alphabet, cut them out, and glued them in order on construction paper. We discussed what it meant to be a good friend and centered various activities surrounding the theme of kindness and friendship. We made a friendship flower, colored and painted pictures as a team -- all while sharing art supplies, and discussed ways in which we can be a good friend. We practiced saying please and thank you and raising our hand! We also celebrated the beginning of spring with talking about what spring is and having various activities.

April will be filled with fun and more learning during Aftercare Enrichment. We will be taking a new spin at projects and activities with having a story be the base and theme to each week and then having different activities around that specific book. We will even be acting it out! Our story themes will be, *The Carrot Seed*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*. The children will create art, play gross motor games, participate in fine motor activities, sing songs, and more surrounding the story theme of the week!

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, Drama with Mr. Gary, and activities with Ms. Alex and Ms. Megan. 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



March was a busy month, we celebrated Dr. Seuss week by dressing up, we made lots of fun projects we even met the Cat in the Hat! We also talked about all the things that go. We had fun decorating our eggs and made a bunny mask.

Throughout the month of April, we will talk about animals, spring and the concept of big and small, while doing many activities and reading lots of stories, as well as celebrating the week of the young child.

We also get to go on the playground. Hooray for spring!



## Ladybugs - Miss Joelle



Happy Spring! We honored Dr. Seuss by reading books like *Ten Apples Up On Top!*, *Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?*, *One Fish, Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, and our favorite of all *Hop On Pop*. We painted a fish bowl and glued fish inside of it while talking about the colors. We also painted with apples while counting them.

We were busy all of March reading and connecting with classic books. Along with all of the Dr. Seuss collection we read *The Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown, *Put Me In The Zoo* by Robert Lopshire, *Pete the Cat: Old McDonald had a Farm* and *Pete The Cat: Wheels on the Bus* by James Dean. We

Painted caterpillars with sponges, made bunnies with all different colored sitters and made "Spot" the leopard out of a paper plate.

In April we will be focusing on sounds. We will listen to animal sounds and guess which animal it is without looking. We will listen to the sounds a tower of wooden blocks make when we knock it down. We will also be playing with bells, clapping/popping bubbles and playing with a real guitar. For art we will see how dotters, chalk and "rolling crayons" sound on paper. Some books we will be reading are *Moo*, *Baa La la la*, *Peppa and the Big Train* and *Beep Beep!* On behalf of the Ladybugs staff we would like to thank all of the families once again for donating books to our classroom!



# INFANTS & TODDLERS

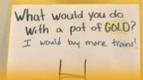


## Caterpillars

### Miss Margaret & Miss Melissa

March has been an exciting month. Our caterpillars have been so busy, moving and grooving. Our older caterpillars have been exploring obstacle courses, tunnels, dancing, and trips to the gym while our youngest caterpillars have been scooting, reaching, and moving their bodies as they explore their surroundings.

As April arrives, we are looking forward to warmer temperatures and the opportunity to experience the outdoors! With that being said, our focus for the month will be nature; our caterpillars will be invited to explore the playground and go for stroller adventures. The children will be invited to explore nature hands on. We look forward to an exciting and busy month.



## Happy St. Patrick's Day

For St. Patrick's Day, students learned that people celebrate by wearing green, dancing, and playing games! We made some fun activities and crafts school-wide, like green Jell-O, paper chain rainbows with a pot of gold at the end and leprechauns with beards (made using forks)! All week long the children were busy building leprechaun traps to try and catch a leprechaun, but he was very sneaky! A leprechaun came to our school and hid some treasure in our classrooms and students followed clues in order to find it.



## Parents Association:

Happy Spring everyone (if only in name right now)! Thanks to all that participated in our fundraisers last month, including the Scholastic Book Fair, Mixed Bag and Tacoria night. Thanks to you, we had our most successful Mixed Bag fundraiser, AND our most successful restaurant night to date! Thanks to Tacoria for hosting us.

There are just a few more days before our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Fling, being held on **Saturday, April 14** at the Sidecar at Fitzgerald's 1928. There are a limited number of tickets remaining, so if you would like to attend, you can purchase tickets in the office or online at <https://mmospringfling2018.brownpapertickets.com>.

Prize packages are on display in the office hallway, and raffle tickets for the prizes, our Super Prize and the 50/50 are on sale now in the office. We have had over \$11,000 in prizes donated this year, thanks to the hard work of Keith Dougherty. You do not need to be present at the event to win a prize, so come take a look at the great prizes on display, and try your luck at winning one!

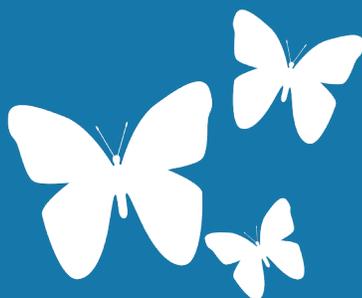
As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us via email, [mmoparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mmoparentsassociation@gmail.com).

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

## MMO Preschool Programs

40 South Fullerton Ave.  
Montclair, New Jersey, 07042

[mmoprograms.org](http://mmoprograms.org)



### Contact Us:

**Phone:** 973-744-6521

**E-mail:** [info@mmoprograms.org](mailto: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](http://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

**SPONSORED BY**



480 Bloomfield Ave, Montclair