



Offering Exceptional Educational
Childcare for Young Children since 1982



MAY 2018

Hooray for May! We are so ready for the warmer, sunnier weather this month brings, and look forward to enjoying the outdoors and watching the signs of spring emerge. The children will be exploring many aspects of nature this month, such as watching real caterpillars change into Painted Lady butterflies they will release outside, and digging for worms on the playground. The classes will also soon begin planting in our garden beds on the playground. Talk to your child's teacher if you are interested in donating soil, seeds or other gardening supplies. Please be sure to dress your children in clothes that can get dirty – messy play fosters a deep, rich learning in young children!

For some children, this is also a time for seasonal allergies. Please be sure to inform your child's teacher if your child suffers from seasonal allergies, as both the symptoms and the medications that alleviate symptoms can often affect behavior, energy levels and appetite.

On behalf of FCC Advisory Committee and everyone who is part of the MMO community, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Nicole and Keith Dougherty, for all their work in putting together so many fundraising efforts in April, especially the Spring Fling at Fitzgerald's. Thank you, also, to our sponsor Bareburger and the many attendees and supporters who made the evening a fun event for all.

A special thank you, as well, to the MMO teachers who all provided such meaningful activities and learning opportunities for the children during the Week of the Young Child in April. It was exciting to watch so many connections being made between the students in the different programs, and the teachers came up with some super creative ways for everyone to work together.

School picture proofs should arrive soon from Joy Glenn, and are sure to be wonderful, as usual. We will send an email notification when proofs are ready to send home.

Enjoy the spring weather!



Upcoming dates

- ❖ **5/5:** First Congregational Church Yard Sale
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Rain or Shine
- ❖ **5/16:** Bareburger Fundraiser (all-day)
- ❖ **5/28:** CLOSED
Memorial Day
- ❖ **6/8:** Year-End Staff Appreciation luncheon
- ❖ **6/14:** Last Day of the school-only programs
- ❖ **6/15:** CLOSED,
Summer Camp set-up
- ❖ **6/18:** Summer Camp Begins

Missy Pentecost
MMO Preschool Programs
Executive Director

PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Fireflies – Ms. Tara



The month of April was a busy one in the pre-K class! We celebrated “P” by making pizza and having pajama day! We learned all about rainbows and even made one in our classroom! We loved mixing colors and using different liquids such as dish soap and oil to create layers of color in a jar!



The Spring-like weather has finally arrived...along with some Pre-K pets...6 caterpillars! They arrived at the end of April and we have been watching them grow. We are so excited to see them form their chrysalis and change into butterflies! To coincide with the season of Spring, we will discuss other kinds of insects such as ladybugs,

bumblebees, worms and fireflies. We will discover all the ways the different insects help people and the earth. Maybe we will be lucky enough to find some out on our playground!

The MMO garden is getting ready outside on the playground. The class has been playing with the dirt and talking about how plants grow. In collaboration with the rest of the school, we will be doing some planting. We hope to have some beautiful flowers and some tasty vegetables!

The children will work on special Mother’s Day Projects, and of course we will be continuing our alphabet study. This month’s letters are T, U, V, W, X and Y. We will count and match leaves on **T**ulips, paint **V**iolets in a **V**ase, and maybe even erupt a **V**olcano. The month will end with making a **W**ater **X**ylophone for the class to enjoy and we will learn some cool **Y**oga poses.



Using our new listening center



We mixed our birdseed for our bird feeders

Butterflies – Mr. Gary

It’s hard to believe that our school year is almost at an end! The month of April was spent learning about Spring. Earth Day and recycling and observing our caterpillars, turn into butterflies. The months of May and June will be devoted to continuing with spring and getting ready for the end of the school year, so that we can provide the children with closure.

The curriculum for these last two months will revolve around finishing our unit on growing, and enhancing our memory and recall skills by revisiting much of what we have learned and done this school year. This will be a great time to see what resonated with each student, what were their most liked activities and maybe even find some topics to explore deeper.



3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS



Dragonflies – Miss Megan



Spring has finally arrived! We have been exploring a lot of fun themes last month. We had some fun with animals in April with our zoo and farm themes. We painted lion manes using forks, we used marbles to create striped zebras, made magnificent horses and sheep, muddy pigs and colorful parrots that are flying around our classroom!

We also talked about Earth Day and what it means to take care of our planet. We discussed different things we can do to help take care of the Earth! We learned that we can turn off the lights when we leave a room and turn off the water while we are brushing our teeth! We also learned that we can take old things and make them into something new!

In May we will explore some exciting themes like flowers, gardening, and caterpillars and butterflies! The weather is getting warmer and that means we get closer to nature! We will be talking about different flowers and plants that we may see growing outside. We will also be contributing to our school garden, so we will explore gardening and how we can help our flowers grow! We had an exciting delivery to our classroom as well! Our caterpillars have arrived! We will be observing them as they grow and change into butterflies!



Bumblebees – Miss Christina



We were super busy during the month of April! We began the month learning classic nursery rhymes, and even acted some of them out. We jumped over candlesticks like Jack be nimble, and did a cool Humpty Dumpty egg drop experiment, testing out different items to see if we could prevent him from breaking.

From there we moved onto learning all about the season of spring. We discussed the different changes that occur in the world around us, including how flowers bloom, trees start growing leaves, animals wake up from their hibernation, and the clothes that we wear change. To celebrate spring and Earth Day, we planted our own green bean plants and made an up-cycled art project using egg cartons.

Next was the “Week Of The Young Child”. We had fun themes for each day. From Music Monday, where we made our own instruments, to Artsy Thursday where we created masterpieces. Be sure to stop by our classroom hallway to see in detail what we did each day!

Finally, we ended the month we discussed caterpillars and butterflies. We pretended to be caterpillars and went through the life cycle, from egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis, finally emerging into beautiful butterflies! We created our very own hungry caterpillars using balloons instead of paint brushes, and using symmetry, created colorful butterflies. The best part about this theme? We received live caterpillars that we are observing and taking care of daily as we wait for them to morph into butterflies, before we release them into our garden!

During the month of May, we will learn all about zoo animals and have a special yoga class. We will also be discussing our moms, and will work on a very special project while also creating keepsakes. We will also learn about ladybugs and why some of spots and some don't, bees and why they are so important for the world around us, and finally, we will talk about community workers and why they are so important for the world around us.

The Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families.

Our week long celebration of our youngest learners included:

Music Monday:

Through music, children develop math, language, and literacy skills – All while having fun and being active! To celebrate Music Monday, students had dance parties, played freeze dance, made instruments and even got a chance to strum an electric guitar with Mr. Edwin!



Tasty Tuesday:

This fun, food-themed day was about more than just cheese and crackers. Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more. For Tasty Tuesday we were able to show our students how it can be fun, healthy and delicious all at the same time!



Work Together

Wednesday: When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Without even realizing it, the children are working together every day! From table toys, to group projects, to creating lists, we are always a team, helping each other out. "What's going to work? Teamwork?"



Artsy Thursday:

Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands.



Family Friday: Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC and MMO Programs applaud family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers.

Spotlight on Aftercare



Art with Miss Mimi

Miss Mimi's goal is to get students as excited about exploring art as she was as a child! Mimi brings a focus to the children through a fun-interactive approach and the children are encouraged to use their imagination and fine motor skills to create a variety of original artwork pieces.



April has come and gone so quickly, yet Aftercare has been as busy and active as ever! Aftercare themes for April included various books such as It Looked Like Spilt Milk, The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, and The Carrot Seed. We created our very own pigs using various shapes to construct it using our own creativity. We imagined what spilled milk would look like while learning about symmetry. We continued the story of the big bad wolf and used felt story creations to visually learn and see the lesson! For The Carrot Seed the children colored, cut, and created their very own carrots planted in the dirt. They are so creative and imaginative. To top off the month aftercare planted their very own carrot seeds, which they brought home to share. It will be exciting to watch the carrots grow!

The month of May will bring the themes of Rainbows, Bugs, Caterpillar, Butterflies, Ladybugs and Bumblebees, and picnics as well as the beginning of summer. The children will create play-dough bug fossils, dotted rainbows, sing a ladybug song, and learn about teamwork as well as what to bring along on a picnic. We will also have various Aftercare Staff members incorporate their talents and create various activities for the children. The Aftercare walls are going to be filled with exploding learning and colorful creations.

Aftercare Enrichment will continue to have French with Mr. Jim, Music and Movement with Ms. Tess, Art with Ms. Mimi, Art through Nature with Ms. Susan, Mr. Gary, Ms. Megan, and Ms. Alex. If any of these projects, activities, or classes seem exciting and you would like your child to participate please notify the MMO Office.

**- Alex Latona,
Lead Aftercare Teacher**

INFANTS & TODDLERS

Grasshoppers – Miss Claude

In April we talked about animals, those that live on a farm, the ocean and at the zoo. We discussed their varying sizes, some are big and some are small. We also talked about the difference between other big and small objects, read many books and made fun art projects.

We got our new caterpillars and are watching them as they grow.

Throughout the month of May we will talk about colors, fruits and vegetables while reading lots of stories and doing some fun activities.



Ladybugs – Miss Joelle

April was a very noisy month. We focused on making sounds through play. We turned our classroom into a rock band! We played the drums, strung the strings of a guitar, tapped textured sticks together and played with a piano. The children really love making and listening to music. We also took crayons and rolled them across a big piece of paper. Listening to the sounds they made, we then began to tap them on the table and draw in circular motions to make the sound of wind.

As we proceed to the month of May, we will be learning and understanding more about ourselves. We will be identifying our feelings and describing things about "us." We will read books like My Body and My Many Colored Days. Songs we will sing are "Head Shoulders Knees and Toes" and "Where is Thumpkin?" Something we will also be including is practicing on buttoning/zippering up and down our jackets and snapping/unlocking locks.

Starting this month our ladybugs will be working on our school garden. As we all know children learn through play and play can be messy. Just a reminder, please dress your child to get messy. We will be digging in the dirt to plant flowers and vegetables.



INFANTS & TODDLERS



Caterpillars

Miss Margaret & Miss Melissa

The month of April has just flown by! We have been spending our time creating and moving! Our caterpillars are growing very independent and are accomplishing so much. As we welcome the month of May, we are hoping to spend even more time outdoors exploring! That being said, our caterpillars will be invited to get dirty and plant flowers, investigate the lifecycle of the butterfly, and experience the feel of grass beneath their bare feet. We look forward to an exciting month.



Summer Camp 2018

MMO Summer Camp is open to currently registered students and all children ages 3 to 6. Camp offers fun, hands-on learning through a combination of physical and creative academic activities. Students enjoy safe science explorations, STEM, drama, arts and crafts and organized large-motor games to name a few! MMO Camp is big enough to keep our students engaged at all levels while offering the safety and security of an intimate early childhood center.

If you are interested in our Summer Camp Program (space is limited), please come to the office or email us at info@mmoprograms.org.



Parents Association:

Our Spring Fling was a huge success. Thank you to Fitzgerald's 1928 for hosting, Bareburger for sponsoring, all of our in-kind donors and to all that attended the event or participated in the raffles. Congratulations to all of our lucky winners!

The total raised from the Spring Fling was \$2,300. That brings the total funds raised for the school year to just over \$5,100. Thanks to all who have contributed to our fundraisers this year.

Our last fundraiser of the year will be held on **Wednesday, May 16** at Bareburger in Montclair. Flyers will be distributed shortly; bring the flyer to Bareburger on the 16th and 15% of the purchase will be donated to MMO.

Also, be on the lookout for info about the year-end Teacher's Appreciation Lunch, which will be held on **Friday, June 8**. More details to come on how you can help out to thank our hardworking teachers and staff for all they do for our kids.

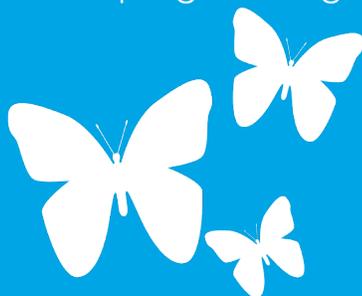
As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us via email, mmoparentsassociation@gmail.com.

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

MMO Preschool Programs

40 South Fullerton Ave.
Montclair, New Jersey,
07042

mmoprograms.org



Contact Us:

Phone: 973-744-6521

E-mail: info@mmoprograms.org

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

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



MANY THANKS!

MMO Spring Fling 2018

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated!

Thanks to our hosts:



Thanks to our sponsor:



Thank you to our donors:

5 Wits	Fascino	Music Together	SteveDeLuca's Townhouse
absolute zero	Fizzics	My Gym	Stress Factory
Amazing Escape Room	Fleet Feet	NJ Acupuncture Wellness	Suffed Burger
Anderson Flowers	Fuzzy Lemon	NY Giants	Suzyque's
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Athletic genius	Guy Harvey	Parlor Salon	The Corner
Bond's Tavern	Hardbodyz Fitness	Picaboo Photo	The Little Gym
Boone Studio	Itsy Bitsy Dental	Pigtails and Crewcuts	The Office
Caspar Babypants	Jumpnasium	Pinot's Palette	The Spot
Chipotle	Jungle Gym Jam	Playa Bowl	TS Ma
Christmas Tree Shops	Just Kidding Around	Portraits by Michael Stahl	Turtleback Zoo
Corefire Fitness	Kiddie Soccer	Pure Energy Hair Studio	Verona Wine Cellar
Craig Brady Jewelers	L3 Academy	Preschool of Rock	Villalobos
Crayola Experience	Laboratorio	Red Bull NY Soccer	Vineyard Vines
Crazy Mocha	Laurel and Sage	Rudresh Mahanthappa	Walter Bauman Jewelers
Cyclebar	Little Nest Photography	Ruthie's BBQ	Watching Booksellers
Delaware River Tubing	Lure Lash	Sarah Lyon Photo	Waxing the City
Dolce Marie	Manhattan by Sail	School of Rock	WeWood
East Side Mags	Montclair Art Museum	Skill Success	Wheel of Fortune
Easy Canvas Prints	Montclair Film	Slow Burn Fitness	Wilshire Grand Hotel
Elements Massage	Morristown PAC	Sony Pictures	Wooden Spoon
Essex Junction	Moxie Beauty Bar	So. Orange PAC	Woodhouse Day Spa
Everyday Order	Museum of Natural History	STEM Learning	Yoga Mechanics

Let's dine one more time!

ORGANIC
Bareburger

Help support



Wednesday, May 16th

All day at Bareburger

480 Bloomfield Ave, Montclair, NJ

Present this flyer when you dine in / take out / or have an order delivered on 5-16-18 and 15% of the proceeds from your purchase will be donated to
MMO Programs

Come have a handcrafted, organic, delicious meal,
all for a great cause!

MMO