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Educational Childcare for
Young Children since 1982



SEPTEMBER 2018

Director's Note:

Welcome to MMO Programs! September is always an exciting month here, and I look forward to getting to know our new students and families, as well as welcoming back those who are returning. Whether your child(ren) ran into the classroom without any tears or had a very dramatic, tearful drop-off, the start of school is often difficult for parents. Rest assured, both approaches and everything in between are typical, and this transition period is usually harder for parents than it is for our children. Don't be surprised if even the child who has been at MMO since infancy is having difficulty – all change is stressful for very young children. Not to worry, though – given some time the children will settle in to their new environment and routines, each at their own pace.



Feel free to call in if you would like to check in on your child (973-744-6521). You can also reach your child's teacher directly by email (look for the directory in this newsletter), but for immediate communication, calling the office is the best way to connect.

Be sure to check the bulletin boards outside the classrooms and offices for updates on school and classroom happenings. The family handbook may have the answers to many of your questions, but if not, feel free to email or call the office.

For any questions regarding billing please contact Danielle Hoover at daniellehoover@mmoprograms.org. Direct any questions regarding health and immunization records to Jan Burgess at janburgess@mmoprograms.org.

We look forward to a wonderful year with you and your children!

P.S. Remember to label all of your child's belongings with his/her name!

Missy Pentecost

Executive Director

MMO Preschool Programs

Upcoming dates

- **9/10:** All school-only programs begin
- **9/13:** Parent coffee hour on the MMO lawn
- **9/26:** Parents' Night 7:30 p.m.
- **10/08:** Closed: Columbus Day/Staff Development
- **10/13:** Fall "Meet & Greet" 10:00-11:00 a.m.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Fireflies – Miss Tara

Welcome to your Pre-K year at MMO Programs! We hope you all had a fun and restful summer and are ready to start your new year in the Firefly classroom. We can't wait to get to know all of our new students and we have so many fun experiences waiting for them!

Throughout the month of September we will spend some time getting to know each other. The children will become familiar with their new classroom and all of our daily routines. We will discuss our favorite things, where we live, our similarities and our differences. We will take some walks around the building to visit some familiar faces and spend time outside just having fun and getting to know one another. Together we will create a list of classroom goals and discuss ways to accomplish them. In the math area the children will review colors and shapes. We will have fun sorting different colors and go on a shape hunt in our classroom. The children will create color wheels and experiment with mixing different colors in our science area.

Our main goal this month is to make sure everyone's transition into Pre-K goes smoothly. The children will become more and more independent as the year goes on and we look forward to all of the exciting changes that will take place! We look forward to meeting everyone at our Back To School Night on **September 26th**. We will discuss what goes on throughout your child's day and answer any questions you may have!



Butterflies – Mr. Gary

In September we will spend a lot of time getting to know the classroom, the rules and expectations for our room, as well as, getting to know one another. The main theme in the classroom will be "All About Me!"

We will also be concentrating on rules, procedures and transitions from one activity to another. Please talk with your child about using an inside voice in the classroom and being a good listener. This will help reinforce what we are practicing in the classroom. Throughout the next few weeks, we are going to engage in a lot of projects that will help us get to know each other better. We will talk about similarities, as well as our differences. Not only do we all look different, but we also have different interests.

Some examples of these projects will be buddy painting, where two children partner up and paint together on an easel, and creating a large classroom puzzle where each child creates a puzzle piece on their own but when we put all the different pieces together the children will discover how "we all fit together" as a class.

Along with all these activities for the children to learn about their class and classmates, our main objective for September is to make sure everyone eases into a new and exciting school year.



Aftercare Enrichment:

Welcome back to all of our families. I am very excited to kick off the school year with all of the exciting activities happening in Aftercare. This month we will be focusing on transitioning into our new school year, new Aftercare routines, and have lots of Aftercare fun! To help ease all of these new transitions we will be easing into Social-Emotional Development with learning about and understanding our feelings and why it is okay to feel a specific emotion. Children do not always know how to express how they feel on the inside so hopefully with the help of learning some new songs and participating in fun activities in Aftercare we can help boost our Social-Emotional Development!

We will be continuing to have our amazing Aftercare Instructors as follows:

Mr. Jim will be teaching us *French through music immersion*.

Ms. Tess will focus on *Creative Movement*.

Ms. Deirdre will be back to rock out with us and teach us all about *music*.

Ms. Mimi will help get our creative juices flowing with lots of fun and exciting *art* projects

Ms. Susan will be exploring *Art Around the World* with a creative splash

Mr. Gary will be bringing back *Drama* for a drama fun filled year!

Please be sure to check your email to see what is happening each month!

- Alex Latona

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3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS

Dragonflies - Miss Melissa



Another school year has begun! I hope everyone enjoyed the summer break. I can't wait to begin an exciting and fun-filled year of learning and exploration! The month of September will be dedicated to making new friends and re-connecting with old ones. The children will be busy exploring their new environment and learning new routines. We will discuss about classroom rules and how learning and fun can take place in a safe environment. I have so many exciting and fun activities planned and can't wait to get started! I am so thrilled to begin this adventure with your children and look forward to watching them and helping them grow!



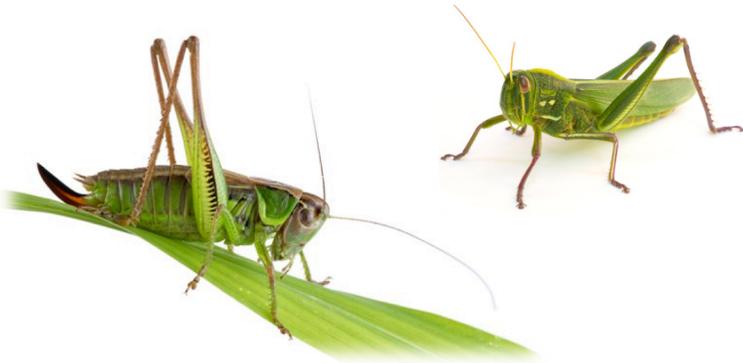
Bumblebees - Miss Christina

Welcome back! September is a very busy month for the Bumblebee classroom. I am very excited for the year ahead and all of the fun stuff we will be working on. We will be spending the first month getting to know each other and making new friends. We will begin learning our class routines, such as snack, circle time, clean up, and play time; as well as beginning show and tell on Tuesdays and Fridays. As the month progresses, we will work on our shapes, apples and mixing colors.

If at any time you have a question, please do not hesitate to ask!



INFANTS & TODDLERS



Crickets & Grasshoppers Miss Claude & Miss Margaret

Happy September Crickets and Grasshoppers families! It is the beginning of a brand new school year, and we are looking forward to making this year a successful and rewarding experience for you and your child. Your children will be introduced to some fun and exciting new discoveries. Our theme for this month will be "All about Me."

At this age, toddlers display a healthy curiosity for their environment and the role they play in it. While participating in various activities and projects, each child will be offered an opportunity to explore the different parts of our body, the five senses, and emotions.



Ladybugs Miss Joelle & Miss Illeanna

September is an exciting month in the Ladybugs' classroom. Getting to meet your wonderful infants and toddlers has been



extremely delightful! We will spend most of our time nurturing them, while also helping them transition into a more structured day.

The theme this month is "All about Me." Our focus will be introducing concepts about one's self, while enhancing skills and knowledge the children have already acquired about themselves. The activities this month will help our ladybug caregivers develop innovative and fun ways to help your children approach learning.

We kindly ask if you can send in a family picture(s). We will tie them into our theme and they will also help with their transition. They will be posted in the classroom where the children are able to touch them so please send in a copied picture that you won't need back.

Get ready for a year of fun, with a lot of creative and hands-on experiences!



Tips on the morning drop-off

Welcome, new families, and welcome back, returning families!

You may be noticing that there's a wide variety of temperaments when it comes to drop-off: some young children have a difficult time separating from parents while others barely notice their parent saying "goodbye." Fortunately, both styles—and everything in between—are typical.

Affirming our children's feelings is an important part of treating them with respect. But allowing them to succeed—to make it "over the hump" of adjustment—is an additional way to be supportive and respectful of their growing independence. Allowing them to build positive and trusting relationships with their teachers lays an important foundation for continued school (and interpersonal relationship) success in the future. So how do we say goodbye to the child who is struggling?

- ❖ Speak to your child as if s/he understands, because your child's receptive vocabulary and ability to understand far exceed her ability to express herself.
- ❖ During unhurried time at home, talk through what will happen at drop-off.
- ❖ Acknowledge to your child that you understand she will miss you, and admit honestly that you will miss her, too, but tell her why you're also excited for her to go to school: to play with different toys than you have at home, to get to play with friends her own age, to sing songs and hear stories and play outside.
- ❖ Create a special goodbye routine: "I'm going to hug you and kiss you and tell you that I love you, and then I'm going to go to work. Your teacher _____ is going to help you if you're feeling sad, and soon you'll be ready to play."
- ❖ During the give-and-take of your conversation, convey that you look forward to hearing about all the fun things she did at school.
- ❖ Remind her that you can't wait to come get her at the end of the day. And always affirm that "Moms (or dads or babysitters or grandparents...) *always come back.*"

The hardest step is the most important: *always say goodbye.* "Sneaking out" may be tempting, and might also temporarily ease *your* discomfort, but it can become more difficult to relax and engage in play for the child who is uncertain about when her parent will disappear.

Share your goodbye ritual in a confident manner—not rushed, not drawn out, and then take your leave. For the child who is dreading this moment, lingering *extends their pain.* Children sense our anxiety. It is so, so difficult to see our children feeling sad or scared (many of us at MMO are parents, too!), and when we don't know what to do, our children know it.

In addition to preparing your child for what will happen, prepare yourself as well. Admit to yourself that it's hard. Visualize what you will do, and create a plan for your own support: arrange with your partner/spouse/friend to be able to text or call after drop-off, when you might need a (virtual) shoulder to cry on -- or someone to share your joy ("It was better today!"). Conveying your assurance that you're confident your child can succeed, that your child is safe, and that you trust her teachers to take care of her and help her have a good time are critical to the smoothest transition possible. We are eager to support you in this step of your parenting journey.

Please don't hesitate to speak with your child's teacher or contact the office, if you need assistance with successful separation strategies.

F.Y.I

STAFF DIRECTORY:



Executive Director: Missy Pentecost
Missypentecost@mmoprograms.org

Assistant Director: Jan Burgess
Janburgess@mmoprograms.org

**Assistant Director and
Billing Coordinator:
Danielle Hoover**

Daniellehoover@mmoprograms.org

**Aftercare Enrichment
Coordinator: Alex Latona**
Alexlatona@mmoprograms.org



**Ladybug: Joelle Mondo &
Illeanna Contras**
Joellemondo@mmoprograms.org
Illeannacontras@mmoprograms.org



Crickets: Margaret Filsaima
Margaretfilsaima@mmoprograms.org



Grasshoppers: Claude Barthelemy
Claudebarthelemy@mmoprograms.org



Bumblebees: Christina Serra
Christinaserra@mmoprograms.org



Dragonflies: Melissa Rigtrup
Melissarigtrup@mmoprograms.org



Butterflies: Gary Jacob
Garyjacob@mmoprograms.org



Fireflies: Tara Nesta
Taranesta@mmoprograms.org



Image courtesy of Marco de Mel Pedersen

WHERE IS MY CHILD'S CLASSROOM?

- Ladybugs are in Classroom A off of the main entrance.
- Crickets are downstairs from the MMO Offices to the right in Classroom D1.
- Grasshoppers are downstairs from the MMO Offices to the right and down the hall in Classroom D2.
- Bumblebees are in Classroom B off of the main entrance
- Dragonflies are downstairs from the MMO Offices to the left, off of the gym in Classroom C.
- Butterflies and Fireflies can be accessed by either the Pre-K entrance near the playground (photographed below) or down the hallway outside Classroom D2. The Butterflies class is in Classroom E and Fireflies is in Classroom F.



Parent Association Corner:

Greetings all and on behalf of the MMO Parent Association, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families and a heartfelt welcome back to our returning ones!

My name is Shelby Moser, and in addition to being the mom to Bumblebee Crosby, I'm also the head of the PA. Our role within MMO Programs is to foster community among our families and aid our school as they strive to provide our children with excellent educational and life experiences. Over the course of the next few weeks you will receive a few emails from us noting important dates, as well as asking for parent participation and feedback.

And since we all know that the start of school can be rough for everyone involved, please be sure to grab a cup of coffee and a cookie on us, this **Thursday morning, September 13, beginning at 7:45am**. Assuming the weather holds out, I'll be stationed at the base of the South Fullerton stairs. In the event of rain, look for signs pointing you in right direction.

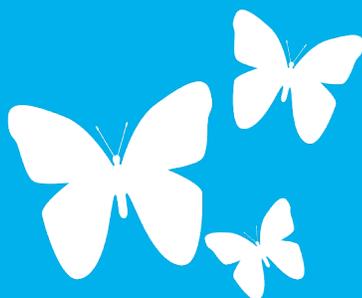
Looking forward to a phenomenal school year!

Shelby Moser
Parent Association 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



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



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