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Educational Childcare for  
Young Children since 1982



## OCTOBER 2018

### Director's Note:

Cooler weather is finally upon us and the students will begin celebrating the beauty of autumn. Engaging children's senses makes for richer learning experiences, and the fall provides many opportunities to do so. A walk outside can be used to learn new nature vocabulary and concepts, to find out about how the physical world acts around us, to learn about taking care of the earth, or to gather materials for art/sensory activities. Using collected materials back in the classroom is an opportunity for sensory exploration, language development, as well as fine motor operations. Reading stories about fall, pumpkins and leaves, singing songs and using finger plays and movement are all wonderful, engaging ways to extend the children's learning. And not much beats carving a pumpkin for sensory engagement!



Our **Fall Meet and Greet** will be on **October 13<sup>th</sup>** out on the Fullerton Lawn from 10:00 – 11:00. Whether you stop by for a few minutes, or stay the full hour doesn't matter – this informal event is meant to be a time for our community to come together for fun and music, and provide a relaxed time for socializing and making connections with fellow parents while the kids play. The Parent Association has provided snacks and some exciting musical entertainment by parents. Hope we see you there!

Thanks to all were able to attend

parents' night last month. It was the largest turnout we've ever had for that event! I would like to correct some information I gave about using Tadpoles as a means of two-way communication between parents and teachers. Parents CAN send messages through Tadpoles to the teachers. However, the app has some pre-set parameters which limit when parent messages can be entered. If you attempt to enter information on Tadpoles and are "locked out," you can still contact your child's teacher at their MMO email or call the office for more immediate communication. Thank you to the parents who pointed out this feature to us. Visit the following link for more information <http://help.tadpoles.com/customer/en/portal/articles/1927239-using-the-parent-app>.

Mid-October, families will receive an Ages and Stages Questionnaire to complete. This easy-to-use screening tool will assist our teachers in providing the most developmentally appropriate curriculum for our students, and helps to identify areas of development which may need further evaluation. Please return your completed questionnaire to your child's teacher or to the office.

And finally, just a reminder that MMO will be closed for Staff Development on **Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**. We will open on **Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30, as usual. Happy October!



Missy Pentecost

# PRE-KINDERGARTEN



## Fireflies – Miss Tara

The Pre-K children have adjusted nicely to their new routines and are feeling right at home in their new classroom! September ended nicely with a short review unit on colors and shapes. We painted color wheels and went on a shape hunt in our classroom!

During the month of October we will begin looking at all of the changes that are taking place throughout the season of Fall. We will begin by learning all about apples. The children will have a chance to taste them, learn about an apple tree's life cycle, count the seeds and paint pictures of them! We will discuss the changes in the weather and look at how the leaves are changing. Our STEM focus this month will be taking a close look at pumpkins and how they grow. We will take a look inside and get to use our senses by looking, touching, smelling and maybe even tasting pumpkins (the seeds!).

As Halloween approaches, the class will learn some interesting facts about some of our nocturnal friends like bats and owls. Our math lessons this month will include sizes and positioning, an introduction to numbers 1 through 10 and simple patterns.

Our Science and math activities will all be centered on Fall, leaves, apples and pumpkins. Please feel free to collect some leaves and pinecones for our Science Center.

We hope you all can come to the Fall Meet and Greet **on Saturday, October 13th**. It's a great way to meet other MMO families and have some fun!



## Butterflies – Mr. Gary

As we begin our second month of school, we are happy to say that the children are adjusting quite well to our routines and to their new friends. The children are continuing to practice and follow our rules and they are always excited to participate in whatever is planned for the day! I am amazed at how eager they are to learn!

October is a very busy month for us! We will begin discussing the fall season and observing all the changes this time of year brings. The children are slowly learning to take care of their own needs, to clean up after themselves, and to be responsible for the proper use of materials in our classrooms. With each day that passes, we expect to see more and more independence!

In addition to learning out our classmates we will begin discussions on the new season of fall and exploring nature and life around our community. During the moth of October we will also begin learning about our senses. We will use our sense of sight and touch to discover more about the world around us. These are just a few of the many wonderful things our children will be discovering this month.





## Spotlight on Aftercare



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.

## Upcoming dates



- **10/8:** Closed for Staff Development
- **10/13:** Fall "Meet & Greet" 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- **10/31:** Halloween  
\*please no costumes at school\*
- **11/05-11/30:** Parent/Teacher Conferences  
\*please be on the lookout for information on scheduling your conference(s) later this month \*
- **11/21:** Early closing at 2:30 p.m.
- **11/22-11/23:** Closed for Thanksgiving



## Aftercare Enrichment:

It is amazing how fast the month of September flew by! We sang, read many books, and started our Enrichment Instructors. We transitioned into our Aftercare classes and activities by learning two transition songs and quickly learned our new Aftercare routines. We participated in Back to School matching activities, created apple graphs, and began to learn about and grow Social Emotionally.

Now that we are in the month of October and have settled into Aftercare we are going to jump right in with Aftercare Fun! We will focus on Social Emotional Development (continued), the season and theme of Autumn, Harvest, and focus on the Process of the activities and projects rather than its final outcome. We are going to be singing many songs, creating wreaths using the materials of autumn, making a Harvest on our Aftercare walls, and begin to practice tracing, ripping, and cutting.

Like always we will have our Aftercare Instructors Ms. Tess, Mr. Jim, Ms. Mimi, Ms. Susan, Mr. Gary, and Ms. Deidre. If Aftercare interests you please sign your child up in the MMO office!

- Alex Latona

# 3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS



## Dragonflies - Miss Melissa

The month of September was an exciting month. The children had such a great time getting to know more about one another and our classroom routines! In addition, we explored colors, shapes, and all things apple!!

During the month of October we will be exploring and pumpkins, leaves, and lot of fall fun! We will be participating in some exciting fall activities, which will allow the children to show off their creativity. Welcome October!!



## Bumblebees - Miss Christina

Is the first month of school already over?! Our Bumblebee class has accomplished so much in that little time. We have been getting to know each other and meeting new friends and teachers, as well as learning new class routines. We also began weekly show and tell, and the class is already so excited to stand proudly in front of their friends and talk about their items.

Although we already know our primary colors, we did two fun science experiments to further explore them. The first one was using milk and food coloring, and we were amazed as we saw the colors "dance" around each other in the milk. Our second experiment had us working on our fine motor skills by using pipettes to squirt colored vinegar into a tray of baking soda. The chemical reaction created a slew of new colors and we loved watching the eruptions.

As September came to an end, we moved on to learning all about apples. We learned the parts of an apple, looked at a Weekly Reader about apples, and even had an apple taste test to see which type we liked best. Our first STEM focus of the year had us working on balancing apples, just like the book Ten Apples On Top.

During the month of October, we will

continue to work on our classroom routines, such as washing hands and clean up time, as well as circle time. During circle time, we will be discussing fall, leaves, and scarecrows. As Halloween approaches, we will learn all about pumpkins as we fully examine them- inside and out! We will also have our first classroom vote as we decide what type of face we should carve on our class pumpkin.

While working on all of those things during the day, our main goal for this upcoming month is to have the children walk into the classroom independently and quickly become engaged in an activity. A quick drop off not only helps your child begin their day, but by walking in independently, it helps the children develop their trust with their peers and the teachers in the classroom, as well as build on their confidence.

Be sure to check your Tadpoles every Tuesday if your child comes to school two days a week or every Friday if your child comes 3-5 days a week, so you can see a detailed look at what we worked on. You'll read about what art projects we created, books we've read, and even what songs we sang!



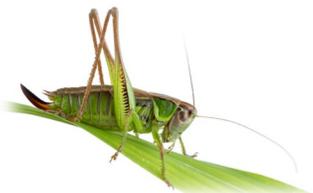
# INFANTS & TODDLERS

## Crickets & Grasshoppers Miss Claude & Miss Margaret

Happy October Crickets/Grasshoppers Families! We are very proud of the progress each of your children has made in strengthening their trust in not only their caregivers but also their peers. Young children learn to form lasting relationships from others with whom they feel safe and secure. At this age, the development of social/emotional skills is very important as it helps the child build self-awareness and confidence.



The theme for this month is the outdoors. Throughout the month, we will talk about the different things we find outside such as grass, trees, birds, the sun and the moon. We will build our activities and interactions around these ideas and focus strongly on fostering language development. We will be engaged in a number of sensory activities and ask that you be aware that someday your child may come home a little messy.



## SAVE THE DATE

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Fall Meet and  
Greet will be on  
the MMO lawn,  
**Saturday,  
October 13<sup>th</sup>**

- 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- All are welcome to attend!

It's a great way to  
meet other MMO  
families and staff!  
We hope to see  
you there!



# Infants & Toddlers

## Ladybugs

Miss Joelle & Miss Ileana

Believe it or not, September is over already. The children are transitioning into their new environment so well; very different from three weeks ago! Our class currently gets divided for outside time and eventually we will all go outside/to the gym together. As of now our walkers go to the playground/gym and non-walkers go for strolls around the block. Last month we did a lot of sensory work. We painted with our hands, feet and paintbrushes! Thank you for your family photos, the children love looking/holding them. It was a pleasure to get a chance to talk to most of the parents at back to school night.

Our October monthly theme is textures. We will do many hands on activities like dissect a pumpkin, examine different textured objects while also exploring the new season of Fall; by touching leaves and pine cones on our nature walks. We will extend our focus on transitioning into group care. Like most months we will be getting very messy with all these textured activities, so please dress your child in clothes that can get dirty!



## STAFF DIRECTORY:

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**Butterflies: Gary Jacob**  
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**Fireflies: Tara Nesta**  
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# Parents corner:

Happy Fall! It was so great to see so many of you at Parent Night, and special thanks to those who signed up to assist with the Parents Association events or volunteered to become a class parent.

October is a busy month so stay tuned for more information about our first restaurant night and Art Fundraiser (perfect for holiday gifts because what family member doesn't love a mug by your very own Picasso). Also, be sure to swing by the Fall Meet and Greet on Saturday, October 13 -- it's a great way to meet other parents, sip some cider, and let the kids burn off some energy as they rock out to our very own MMO Parents Who Rock band.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out via email, at [mmoprogramspa@gmail.com](mailto:mmoprogramspa@gmail.com)

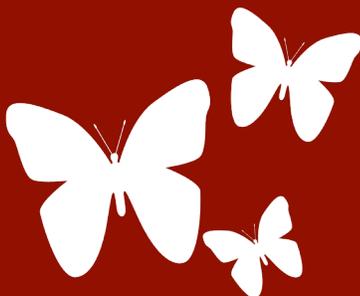
Hope to see you on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

Shelby Moser,  
PA President

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



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