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Educational Childcare for  
Young Children since 1982



## NOVEMBER 2018

### Director's Note:

The clocks have been turned back, the leaves are turning beautiful colors, and the air is crisp – we welcome autumn!

This month, parents, you will have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with teachers to discuss the developmental progress of your child(ren). Links to sign up for Parent-Teacher conferences should have been made available to you – if you have not received this information please contact [alexlatona@mmoprograms.org](mailto:alexlatona@mmoprograms.org) for assistance. Last month we distributed the Ages and Stages Screening tools for parents to complete. If you haven't returned your questionnaires, please do – the information you provide is essential for both you and the MMO teachers in understanding where each child is developmentally, and meeting his or her needs accordingly.

Thank you all for your generous participation in our first fundraiser of the year! The funds raised from Ah'Pizz night will go towards some fun programming scheduled for January – the 3s and 4s classes will get a visit from The Lizard Guy and his reptile friends, while the younger classes will have a fun music sing-along time with Peas & Carrots ... details to follow!

There are only a few short weeks until Thanksgiving, and I'm sure they will seem to fly by. I wish you and your families a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!



Missy Pentecost

### Upcoming dates

#### NOVEMBER:

- **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
- **11/26-12/14:** Human Needs Food Pantry Drive
- **12/21:** Early closing at 2:30
- **12/24-01/01:** Closed for Holiday Break



# PRE-KINDERGARTEN



## Fireflies – Miss Tara

October was such a fun month! The class went on fall nature walks and tasted different types of apples. We conducted a “Pumpkin Investigation” using real pumpkins. The children were able to utilize their senses to help them learn about this fall fruit. We weighed, measured and compared different pumpkins. We scooped out the inside and felt the gooey flesh.

Throughout the month of November, our focus will change to the meaning of friendship and of course our families! With Thanksgiving approaching, it is a great time of year to discuss the similarities and differences between all of our families. We will review the towns that we live in and make family trees. We will read books about relatives and illustrate our favorite family activities. We will even have a special show and tell on **Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**.

I am asking the children to each bring in a **family photograph** to share and display in the classroom. The children will discuss the first Thanksgiving and talk about all the wonderful things we have to be grateful for.

Math this month will include some graphing and measuring. We will make a class graph of our family members, and measure ingredients when baking banana bread. For science, we will finish up our fall observations, discuss sinking and floating, and design houses out of Lincoln logs. This will tie into our discussions of the Mayflower and how the pilgrims built their first houses.

Conferences will be happening throughout the month as well. Please keep an eye out for a sign-up! I look forward to meeting with you!



## Butterflies – Mr. Gary

At MMO Programs we are lucky to have families from a variety of cultures, and one of our goals is to foster tolerance and respect for all people. When children are born, they come to us without biases about other people regardless of their race, culture, gender or abilities. As parents and teachers, we need to take positive action if we want our children to be respectful of others. In butterflies, for the month of November, we are committed to helping children grow up to be respectful of other people, and aware of the rich diversity of their community and the world. Our class will focus on expressing and receiving gratitude for our positive actions and giving to others less fortunate. Thanksgiving is also a time that we can communicate respect for others. At Thanksgiving, we focus on families and being thankful for all the things we have.

In our classroom we will continue working on properly holding a pencil, using scissors, writing our letters, recognizing and writing our names, being respectful of our classroom and its many wonderful toys, and practicing academic skills through playtime and games. The children will be exposed to more stories of cultural significance being read to them and discussing the way the books make the children feel. In November, we would also like to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.



# 3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS

## Dragonflies - Miss Melissa



The month of October has come to a close and we had such fun welcoming fall! We went on several nature walks observing the changes in the leaves and collecting some along the way. Our STEM focus for October was pumpkins. We transformed ourselves into pumpkin detectives and had a pumpkin investigation! We thought like scientists and made predictions about how many lines were on the outside and how many seeds were inside. We also made note of pumpkin size and shape and had so much fun rolling our pumpkins to see if size and shape made a difference! In addition, we explored the insides of our pumpkins and conducted a sink or float experiment. Some of the results surprised us!



In the month of November, we will be learning about owls, talk about our families, what it means to be thankful, turkeys, and of course Thanksgiving! Be on the lookout for information regarding a special class project! Details to follow!



## Bumblebees - Miss Christina

The Bumblebee class explored the world around us during the month of October! We learned all about fall, made beautiful nature collages, and investigated pumpkins. As the month came to an end, we had fun discussing Halloween and our costumes, reading "spooky" books, and having Halloween themed dance parties.

During the month of November, we will learn about owls and what the word nocturnal means. We will practice our sorting skills by sorting different types of feathers. From there, we will move on to learning about families. We will discuss who is in our family and work on our first art project using scissors. Finally we will learn



about turkeys and Thanksgiving. We will do a fun science experiment to see how fast turkeys can fly and talk about what it means to be thankful. Be on the lookout for details regarding a very special homework assignment. We will be creating a class puzzle and each family will be contributing a piece. Details to follow soon!



# Infants & Toddlers

## Crickets & Grasshoppers Miss Claude & Miss Margaret



Our theme for the month of November is the fall season, where we will talk about the falling of the leaves and their change of color. As well as introduce fall colors such as yellow, orange, red, and brown.

We will talk about different types of families and learn more about our Cricket/Grasshopper families, as we approach Thanksgiving.



## Ladybugs Miss Joelle & Miss Ileana

Our older infants have settled into the Ladybugs class so quickly. They are exploring our environment with all their senses (as appropriate!). From crawling to walking, listening, smelling, tasting, and touching. We took advantage of the beautiful weather in October and sought to get outside as often as possible. All of our children, both walkers and non-walkers, have explored the playground now! With that being said, with the cooler weather approaching please send appropriate clothing (hats, gloves, jackets, proper shoes for outside ... etc.), all labeled with your child's name.

In November, our theme will be "Inside/Outside". We will focus on animals and objects that we find outside verses what we see inside. Some songs we will sing are "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," "Old Mac Donald Had a Farm" and "Hello Mr. Turkey." As the weather gets colder, we will talk about the change in temperature and our surroundings. During this month we will be having parent-teacher conferences. A sign up schedule will be sent home so you can pick a time that works best for you. Have a happy Gobble Gobble day from the Ladybugs!



# Spotlight on Aftercare



Miss Mimi teaches art on Wednesdays during Aftercare Enrichment. Miss Mimi's goal is to get students excited about exploring art and creating their own artwork just as she did as a child. Miss. Mimi brings a focus to the children through a fun-interactive approach and then the children are encouraged to use their imagination and fine motor skills to create a variety of original artwork. Whether Miss Mimi's class is concentrating on digging through dirt, painting and creating collages or a crowd favorite making lemonade, Miss Mimi wants the children to feel proud of their artwork and everything that they accomplish in her class. Miss Mimi's goal is to not only have the children learn something while in her class but for the children to understand that they can do anything that they put their minds and hearts to.

Miss Mimi began working as an assistant at MMO in the Caterpillar Program in July 2015 and has worked as an Assistant in Aftercare Enrichment and currently in the Crickets/Grasshoppers program.

She obtained her Associates Degree from Essex County College and is working on her Bachelors of Fine Arts from Rutgers University. Miss Mimi's class is loved by children of all ages.



## Aftercare Enrichment:

We have finally arrived in the month of November. This month in Aftercare we are focusing on process of the activity and what we are doing rather than the pretty finished product. Process activities allow children to experience their own independence as well as learn about their own creativity without a predetermined outcome. We will partake in sensory experiences such as creating our own books and the content inside and paint without the conventional use of paintbrushes.

As we near Thanksgiving we will be singing a song about A Silly Turkey and rip paper, work on gluing lots of items, and cutting all various types of materials. We will continue to sing our Transitional Songs and add to them by creating hand and body motions as we move around the school. Aftercare will continue to have Art around the World with Ms. Susan, French with Mr. Jim, Music and Movement with Ms. Tess, Art with Ms. Mimi, Drama with Mr. Gary and Little Rockers. If any of these activities interest you please call the office to check with aftercare availability!

- Alex Latona

# Parents corner:

Happy November! As we start to think about giving thanks, I wanted to take a moment and say a huge THANK YOU to all those families who came out to support MMO at our Ah' Pizz night out. Thanks to you, we raised over \$560 for MMO, blowing last year's total out of the water! Now it is our turn to feed others -- beginning Monday, November 26 through, Friday, December 14 we are going to begin our Human Needs Food Pantry collection. There will be some friendly competition to be revealed next week, so stay tuned.

And as you start to plan for your own gift giving, think of spreading joy with the artwork from your very own Picassos and O'Keefes. Our Square 1 Art Fundraiser is the perfect gift to give, and the best part is that MMO receives 20% of the proceeds! You'll receive more information in your individual folders, so please be sure to check often.

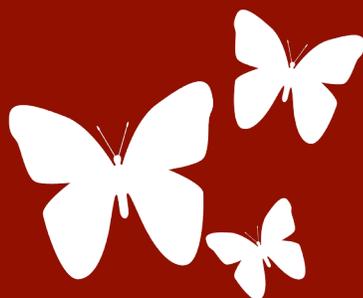
Thank you again for helping us build community -- we couldn't do it without you!

With Thanks,  
Shelby Moser,  
PA President

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### Download:

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



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