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Young Children since 1982



DECEMBER 2018

Upcoming dates

DECEMBER 2018:

- **12/01-12/14:** Human Needs Food Pantry Drive
- **12/13:** Firefly Class Party 1:45 p.m.
- **12/13:** Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- **12/21:** Early closing at 2:30 p.m.
 - Butterfly class party at 11:00 a.m.
 - Dragonfly class party at 11:30 a.m.
 - Bumblebee class party at 11:30 a.m.
 - Ladybug, Cricket/Grasshopper pajama day
- **12/24-01/01:** Closed for Holiday Break

JANUARY 2019:

- **01/02:** All programs re-open
- **01/04:** Priority registration begins for the 2019-2020 school year
- **01/09:** Program Overview for the 2019-2020 school year 7:30 p.m.
- **01/18:** Priority registration period ends
- **01/21:** Closed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Director's Note:

December is always an exciting month, as holidays are celebrated, the spirit of giving is in the air, and wintry weather is here in earnest! An important component of our curriculum is outside play in the fresh air. With this in mind, please send your children to school with appropriate gear for the weather – hats, mittens/gloves, coats, and boots if necessary – labeled with your child's name.

'Tis the season for inclement weather, so please be reminded of our weather closure policy: If Montclair Public Schools have a delayed opening, MMO will open at 9:30; If MPS are closed, MMO Programs will be closed. Closure/delay information can be found by 6:30 a.m. on the outgoing phone message, on the MMO website under the "Snow Closure Update" tab, or on MMO's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. You should also receive a text/email message via Tadpoles.

As we find ourselves fully immersed in cold and flu season, I would also ask all families to re-familiarize themselves with our illness policies in the family handbook. We understand that it is inconvenient to miss work when your child is ill. However, MMO is a group care environment, and our responsibility must be to protect the health of all children and staff. If your child is ill, please keep him/her home to prevent the spread of illness as much as possible. Thanks to all who have provided proof of their child's flu vaccination. Remember that NJ law requires all children between 6- and 60-months old who are in child care to receive the current year's flu vaccine by December 31st. Children cannot attend in January until proof of vaccination is provided. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Looking ahead to the 2019-2020 school year (wow!), Priority Registration will be from **January 4th** to **January 18th**. We will be hosting a Program Overview on **January 9th** at **7:30 p.m.** for both returning and new families. This is a great opportunity to learn about the program that comes next for your child.

And finally, I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season and a wonderful new year!

Missy Pentecost

PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Fireflies – Ms. Tara



Throughout the month of November, the Firefly class loved learning about friendship and the similarities and differences in all of our unique families. We had fun playing games like “Roll a Rainbow Turkey” and loved sharing our family photos. The class also enjoyed filling up a “Kindness Jar” with good deeds.

The Pre-K class will begin the month of December by looking at the seasonal changes that are occurring outside. This will lead to a unit on kindness and how all of our different families celebrate the winter holidays. The children will be introduced to some traditions that many of us have throughout the holidays. For example, we will learn about the meaning of **Kwanzaa**, light a Menorah and play with dreidels for **Hanukkah**, and touch upon the traditions of **Christmas** and the importance of giving. The children will learn songs and have fun doing many arts and craft activities.

The science and math center will be busy

as always. The children will work on some candy cane themed science experiments and play holiday games such as dreidel. We will incorporate math and counting activities to go along with our holiday themes, concentrating on numbers 1 through 20.

The Firefly class will have a holiday celebration with a “Class Cookie Decorating Party.” Parents of the Firefly’s are all invited to join us for decorating cookies and singing songs. It will be on **Thursday, December 13th at 1:45 pm.**

We look forward to finishing the year 2018 with your children and celebrating the holidays together!



Butterflies – Mr. Gary



We are moving right along into winter, last month we did a lot of exciting themes. We discussed topics such as harvest time, focusing on how farmers grow food for us to eat. We also talked in great detail about Thanksgiving of course. We discussed what food we eat on this holiday, what we are all thankful for, and had our own thanksgiving feast at school.

December is a month that we in the Butterfly classroom happily look forward to. In this busy month, we enjoy talking about all of the holidays that our little ones celebrate. We talk about families, friends, love giving and sharing. We are lucky to have families from a variety of different cultures/religions who celebrate different holidays. It is so wonderful for us to be able to share our holiday traditions and to learn and appreciate our likenesses and differences. It is also nice for us to talk to the children about giving to other families who do not have as much as we do. Our themes for the month of December are Gingerbread, Snow, Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

In addition to discussing and working on celebrations our class will also be continuing our everyday practices of letter recognition, writing our letters, proper grip of pencils and scissors, etc. We will continue to challenge our students by having them engage in academic games to help better suite them for their future schooling.



Spotlight on Aftercare

French through Music with Mr. Jim



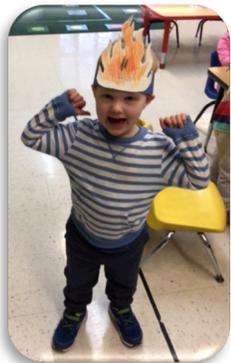
Mr. Jim of *Language Rhythm* brings the joy of the French language and music each session. Each class Jim plays one of many instruments (saxophone, clarinet, flute, and guitar to name a few!) while also singing along in French. Mr. Jim reads books and helps the children understand and comprehend the French language by describing what the book is saying by using already known words and phrases. Mr. Jim creates lessons for the children to learn their names, the alphabet, colors, shapes, animals and more. Mr. Jim teaches both Pre-K classes as well as alternates the three-year-old classes each Tuesday. Mr. Jim is bringing a new language to young children and building new vocabulary each session.



Aftercare Enrichment:



During the month of November Aftercare focused on the process of our activity and project rather than what the finished product looked like. We cut, drew, ripped, glued, touched bubble wrap, and discovered sensory bottles. We enhanced our fine motor skills by using all of the muscles in our hands and fingers to learn how to hold and cut using scissors. We did it! We explored in the bean, rice, and sand tables daily, read new books, and participated in our first Aftercare glow stick dance party.



December has quickly arrived and Aftercare is going to partake in many projects and activities that reflect the various cultures and holidays throughout the month of December and around the world. We will be focusing on Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. We are going to create our tissue paper collage ornaments, learn songs about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, and make a

Kinara and Hanukkah Headbands! We will be creating “playdoh dreidels” and “playdoh trees” and even spin real dreidels. I will even bring in a menorah that has come from Israel and we can discuss the importance of it all together.

Aftercare’s focus will be on working on fine motor skills as well as sensory experiences all while diving into the different holidays and cultures celebrated throughout the world. We will be discussing kindness, respect, gratitude, and giving. All of these themes relate to one another and are the main focus of each special holiday.

We will continue to have classes such as Music and Movement with Ms. Tess, French through Music Immersion with Mr. Jim, Drama with Mr. Gary, Art with Ms. Mimi, Art around the World with Ms. Susan, and Little Rockers with Ms. Deidre. If any of these instructors seem interesting to you please sign your child up in the MMO office.

- Alex Latona



3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS



Dragonflies - Miss Melissa

The month of November provided us with some great opportunities to explore some fun themes such as owls, our families, what it means to be thankful, and turkeys! The children did a fun and special project where they decorated a turkey feather with their families! The children loved showing off their feathers and talking about how they made them and who they made them with. We then used the feathers to decorate our class turkey!

In December, we look forward to exploring some exciting holiday themes! We will talk about winter, holidays and why they are a special time, and snowmen. Our STEM focus for December will be making snow and creating our own snowflakes to decorate our classroom with! Also Save The Date! On **Friday the 21st** we will be having our annual holiday party at **11:30 a.m.** ALL are invited to attend, details to follow shortly.



Bumblebees - Miss Christina



We began November by learning all about owls! We learned the words nocturnal and camouflage and had fun pretending to be owls. We also discussed our families and used scissors for the first time to cut out houses and graphed the number of family members that live with us. We ended the month by creating our very own piece to our classroom puzzle. It is a great addition to our space, and we invite you to come to our class to check it out!

During the month of December, we will be talking all about the holidays and why they are an important time. For Hanukkah, we will be creating menorahs and playing with dreidels. For Christmas, we will be painting with gift bows and work on our fine motor skills by wrapping and unwrapping "presents." We will also have a holiday show-and-tell to see all the different ways we celebrate.

Save the date! On **Friday, December 21st** we will be having our annual holiday party at **11:30 a.m.** All are invited to attend, details to follow shortly. On behalf of my staff, we want to wish you all a very merry holiday season and happy new year!



INFANTS & TODDLERS



Crickets & Grasshoppers Miss Claude & Miss Margaret

Oh baby, it's definitely getting cold outside! With the influx of cooler temperatures, Crickets and Grasshoppers, will turn their focus to all things "Winter" during the month of December. Both programs are showing genuine interest and excitement for dramatic play and reading. With that in mind, we continue to follow their cues in the development of our lesson plans. A few books we will read this month are: Touch and Feel Winter, Winter A Pop-Up Book and Curious George Curious about Winter.



Both programs will explore what happens during the season of Winter by participating in activities, such as: creating wintery scenes, painting with colorful ice cubes, bubble paint art and snow painting. During circle time, and small group play, the children will talk about what we wear to go outside when it is cold. The caregivers will help introduce this concept by inviting the children to dress their baby dolls and stuffed animals in hats and coats as if they were going outside.



Ladybugs Miss Joelle & Miss Ileana

During the month of November, we were introduced to the concept of inside/outside. We went on nature walks to explore what we see outside, like leaves, trees, the sun and the sky. We took pinecones back to school, examined them and then painted with them. We did many sensory art projects like Indian corn footprints and turkey hand and foot prints. We read Goodnight, New York City by Adam Gamble and painted moons, suns and stars. We crawled in and out of boxes and tunnels, while working on waiting for our turn.

With November behind us our over-arching developmental task for December will be focusing on identifying seasonal concepts. We will be talking about the holidays and how they are special to us. We will make hand print menorahs and play with dreidels for Hanukkah, and sing carols while playing with jingle bells for Christmas. Save the date: **Friday December 21st**, we will be ending 2018 with a Ladybugs Pajama party! On behalf of the ladybugs staff, we want to wish you a merry holiday season and a safe and happy new year!



Parents corner:

Happy December, all! As everyone begins to celebrate the holidays and prepares for long, travel-filled days I wanted to take a moment and thank you for helping to make our MMO Community such a warm and caring place to raise our kids.

Our Food Drive is off to an incredible start -- the boxes are overflowing thanks to your generosity. We will be delivering the food to Toni's Kitchen and the Human Needs Food Pantry on December 15, so there is still time to donate!

We will be hosting the annual Winter Staff Appreciation Luncheon on **Thursday, December 13**. An email with the link to participate was sent out earlier this month, but please feel free to reach out if you'd still like to help -- the more the merrier as we thank our teachers for all they do for our children each and every day.

And finally, thanks to those who participated in our Square1 Art fundraiser. The items will be in before we break for the holidays, and will be left with your child's teacher for easy pick up.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy holiday season.

All the best,
Shelby Ebert
PA President

MMO

Programs

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with your child's teacher)



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