

Offering Exceptional
Educational Childcare for
Young Children since 1982

JANUARY 2019

Happy New Year and welcome back to MMO! We hope you all enjoyed your holiday time together.

January is registration time. For the 2019-2020 school year, Priority Registration for currently enrolled families begins **Friday January 4th** and ends **Friday January 18th**. Applications for your children will be available in their folders by the 4th. You may have questions about what your child's next year at MMO will look like. You are encouraged to speak to your current teacher or come to the office with any questions you may have. We hope to see you at the Program Overview on **January 9th at 7:30 p.m.** The Overview is a great opportunity to learn about the philosophy and direction of MMO Programs. Classroom teachers and assistants will be on hand to meet and share their curriculums while you tour their classrooms.

On **January 31st**, the MMO Parent Association will be hosting the 3rd Annual Kindergarten Roundtable. This informative session will provide personal accounts and information from parents currently attending the Montclair elementary schools. The event will take place in the Guild Room and is open to anyone interested.

We are also looking forward to our special guests this month! The older classes will have a visit from The Lizard Guy, and the younger groups will get to sing and dance along with Peas & Carrots.

On behalf of all MMO staff I would like to say a huge thank you to all who contributed to the December Teacher Appreciation Luncheon - the food was delicious! We are grateful to have such wonderful families at our school.

This month marks the end of my first full year as Director of MMO Programs. It's been a year of growth, both for myself and MMO Programs. I am thankful for the support received from all of you, from the FCC Advisory Committee, and from the wonderful and dedicated MMO staff. I look forward to all that 2019 will bring to our MMO community. Happy 2019!

Missy Pentecost
MMO Programs Executive Director

Upcoming dates

- ❖ 1/04: Priority registration begins for the 2019-2020 school year
- ❖ 1/09: Program Overview for 2019-2020 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ 1/18: Priority registration ends
- ❖ 1/21: Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ❖ 1/31: Kindergarten Roundtable
- ❖ 2/18: Closed for Presidents' Day
- ❖ 2/19: Closed for Staff Development



PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Fireflies – Ms. Tara



The Pre-k teachers want to welcome everyone back to school and wish you all a very Happy New Year! January will be a very busy month. Our main theme will be **Winter** and all of the fun things that go with it. We will talk about the seasonal changes to the weather, snow and snowmen. We will spend some time this month reading different versions of The Gingerbread Man and comparing them. The children will finally get to meet the class “mascot” **Gingerbread Fred!** He loves to visit your houses and spend some time with your families!

Our math and science area will be full of water and ice experiments. We will also begin looking at magnets.

The pre-k children will finally begin their alphabet study. We will take one or two letters per week and learn all about them throughout the rest of the year. The children will begin to recognize upper and lower case letters and their sounds. We will create lists of words that begin with each letter, practice handwriting and correct letter formation, and do some fun creative projects that coincide with the letters we are discussing. This month the children will focus on the first four letters: Aa, Bb, Cc and Dd.

Butterflies – Mr. Gary



A happy new year to you and your families! Welcome back to preschool I hope this is a great year for you all. Since we had a longer winter break, there is not a great deal of news to report since the last newsletter, but there are several things worth noting. While many of the adults are recalibrating to the quicker pace of regular routines following winter break, the preschoolers have returned with full steam and we are rallying to keep up with them. Extended breaks often bring with them growth spurts, physically as well as socially and emotionally, and with the New Year has come new and shifting friendships among the preschoolers. Children who formerly chose to play alone or maintain a safe distance from group play are now finding friends to join in play scenarios. Others who often needed the security of a particular friend are branching out to play with new children or follow their own interests independently.

I love the start of a new year with a clean slate, tidy classroom, new equipment and lots of enthusiasm and fresh ideas to implement. It’s also a really good time to take a few moments to reflect on the past year and think about areas and activities that were successful and those that may need to be changed.

We hope you all had a wonderful season filled with love and happiness. January snuck up on us! We are looking forward to a month full of exciting learning experiences. We will talk about penguins, Martin Luther King, continue discussions about winter, and explore the New Year and all the possibilities that lie ahead. Of course our children will continue to challenge themselves academically with letter recognition, writing letters and numbers, fine motor activities, etc.



Spotlight on Aftercare Enrichment



Little Rockers with Miss Deirdre

If you are not familiar with The Little Rockers Music Band, they combine informal music education with performance-based learning. Their music programs are designed to introduce children to the world of music using group participation, musical experiences, movement exercises, musical craft making and games!

If you are interested in having your child stay for the Little Rockers with Miss Deirdre, be sure to check our Aftercare Enrichment Schedule and contact our offices.

Aftercare Enrichment:

Welcome back and Happy 2019. The month of December's main concentration was learning about the many customs and traditions we celebrate throughout the holidays of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. We made Hanukkah headbands, learned to spin dreidels, made our own paper latkes, and read various Hanukkah books and sang our song "I've Been Lighting all the Candles," sung to the tune of "I've been working on the Railroad." We built our own Kinaras by coloring Popsicle sticks and gluing them to construction paper and sang a fun song about lighting the candles on the Kinara. To learn about the traditions of Christmas we played BINGO, memory match, collaged ornaments, and also sang songs and read various books. We pieced playdoh on pictures of trees and dreidels to improve our fine motor skills and talked about giving and the act of being thankful. Thank you to our families who came in and read various stories to Aftercare during our Enrichment hours. It was appreciated and we would love for you to come again!

Our focus of January is going to be *All About Winter*. We will be thinking outside the box with our winterized activities and themes.

We will be making clay snowmen, animals of the arctic inside a glacier, playing cold hot potato, and making playdoh animal tracks. One of the first activities we will be doing is a mitten match. On **Monday, January 7th** we will have Bring your own Mittens to Aftercare day. Each child will then get the chance to show the group their mittens and discuss why they are their favorite! We will then graph our results! More of our January fun includes singing and dancing to the "Snowkey Pokey" and have our first Aftercare "campfire."

Aftercare continues to extend the invitation to come read favorite stories, sing fun songs, and discuss traditions or customs that are important to your family between the hours of 3:00-5:00 daily. We will continue in the New Year with Music and Movement with Ms. Tess, French through Music with Mr. Jim, Art with Ms. Mimi, Art around the World with Ms. Susan, Little Rockers with Ms. Deidre, and Drama with Mr. Gary. If you are interested in having your child stay for Aftercare please sign up in the office! Thank you to all of our Aftercare supporters in 2018 and I look forward to having an even better 2019!

- Alex Latona,
Lead Aftercare Teacher

3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS

Dragonflies - Miss Melissa

The month of December went by so quickly! We talked about snowflakes, Hanukkah, and Christmas! The children also enjoyed making their own ornaments and candy canes using red and white paper.

Our holiday party was a big success! The children had so much fun making and decorating trees and playing pin the heart on the Grinch.

In January we will be focusing on some fun themes like snowmen, penguins, and polar bears, and other arctic animals! We will find out how polar bears stay warm and how penguins stay dry! We will also learn why some arctic animals are white. Our STEM focus for the month of January will be a fun experiment to see how blubber keeps polar bears warm in the icy water.

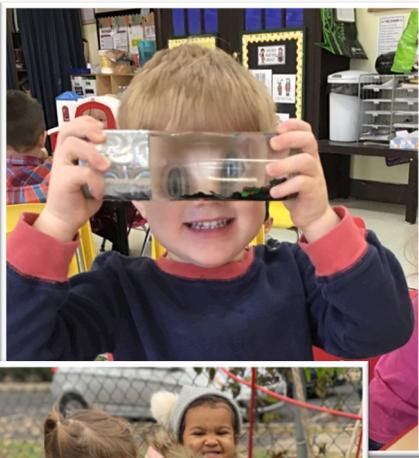


Bumblebees - Miss Christina

We had so much fun during December discussing family traditions, and came up with a list of some of the traditions we have in school, like show and tell and circle time, and traditions we may have with our families, such as reading stories before bed and special breakfasts. We even had a holiday themed show and tell and the children enjoyed looking at all the special items we use to celebrate Hanukkah or Christmas.

For Hanukkah, we learned how to play with dreidels and made our own menorahs. We learned a fun Hanukkah song to help us remember how many candles are lit, and even pretended to be dreidels. For Christmas, we painted with gift bows and sang carols with jingle bells.

This month, we will learn all about winter, snowmen, hibernation, and penguins. We will do awesome science experiments with these themes such as melting ice, hopefully feeling real snow, and testing out different items to see if they slide like penguins do. We will continue to work shapes and memory skills by playing a mitten matching game, and may even have a "snowball" fight!



INFANTS & TODDLERS



Crickets & Grasshoppers Miss Margaret & Miss Claude



Welcome back and Happy New Year everyone! We hope that you all had a warm and fun filled holiday break.

The month of December brought with it, an influx of frigid weather. With that in mind, we delved into the season of winter. At this stage, toddlers are all about doing things on their own and developing their own independence. The children were afforded the opportunity to practice putting on and taking off their own hats and coats as we discussed what is worn when we go outside in the cold.

Being that the children enjoyed last month's wintery theme, we decided to extend our focus of Winter into the month of January. Through fun and engaging activities they will explore animals that live in cooler climates, such as: polar bears and penguins.



Ladybugs Miss Joelle & Miss Ileana



Welcome back! We want to wish everyone a wonderful New Year filled with joy and health. December came and went in a blink of an eye. Our monthly theme was to identify seasonal concepts. So we made a hand print menorah, reindeer, foot print mistletoes and played with dreidels/jingle bells. Some songs we sang were "Chubby little Snowman", "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel" and "Christmas Carols." We even got the

opportunity to play with snow! (Inside of course). We introduced winter and will continue to discuss the seasonal change in January.



In January our monthly theme will be "Big and Little", with a continuation of Winter. We

will sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," and "Itsy, Bitsy Spider." Some books we will read are Big Little, How Big is a Pig? and Baby Animals. We will compare animals and their sizes, different objects and surfaces. Some of our projects will include comparing different animal sizes while reading, comparing trucks and cars while painting with them, stacking big and little boxes and painting/coloring with different size paint brushes and markers. Watch out for all of our projects in the hallway and in our classroom.



Parents corner:

Happy New Year! I hope that you had wonderful holiday celebrations, and that reentry has been as smooth as possible.

Thanks, once again, to this incredible community for your participation and support around our Holiday Food Drive, Winter Staff Appreciation Luncheon, and Square1 Art Fundraiser.

On **January 31st** we will be holding our annual Kindergarten Roundtable, for those parents whose children will be entering Kindergarten at one of the Montclair Public Schools. This is open to all parents, not just those with children at MMO, so please feel free to share far and wide. The evening will be held in the Guild Room from 7-8:30pm, and is a great way to hear from your peers about the selection process and what makes each school unique.

If you have any questions about this, or any other Parent Association sponsored events, or want to suggest something, feel free to email me at mmoprogramspa@gmail.com

All the best,
Shelby Moser

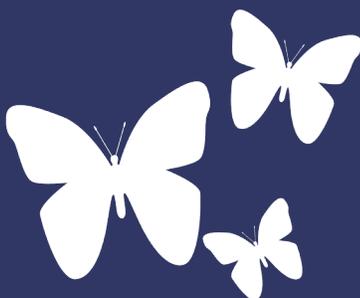
MMO

Programs

Preschool

40 South Fullerton Ave.
Montclair, New Jersey, 07042

Mmoprograms.org



Contact Us:

Phone: 973-744-6521

E-mail: info@mmoprograms.org

Follow & Like Us:

Facebook: MMO Programs

Instagram: mmoprograms

Twitter: @MMOPROGRAMS

Yelp: MMO Programs

Download:

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

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

