



MARCH 2019

We are happy to have so many MMO students returning next September!

2019-2020 Registration is moving right along. If your child is returning next year you should have received an emailed enrollment agreement by now – please reach out to the office if you have not.

In honor of Dr Seuss' March 2nd birthday, Read Across America will be observed this year on Friday March 1st. From Monday February 25th – Friday March 1st, MMO will focus on a different Dr. Seuss book each day and invite students and teachers alike to dress according to each day's theme. See the schedule posted here in the newsletter and around school.

In keeping with our focus on literacy this month, we are excited to announce that we will be partnering with Watchung Booksellers for this year's Book Fair! It will run from **March 18 – 22**. Not only are we pleased to be able to support a local business, but the timing of our sale ties into the Montclair Literary Festival occurring **March 20st – 24th** at First Congregational Church and other venues around town.

As we get closer to spring and move away from winter weather (we hope!), the temperatures become somewhat less predictable. Be sure to send in appropriate outdoor gear and/or layers so that we can get the children outdoors as often as possible.

Happy March!

Missy Pentecost
 MMO Preschool Programs
 Interim Executive Director

Upcoming dates

- ❖ 2/25-3/1: Read Across America week.
- ❖ 3/2: Dr. Seuss' birthday
- ❖ 3/12: Tacoria Fundraiser
- ❖ 3/18-3/22: Watchung Booksellers' Book Fair in the Guild Room
- ❖ 3/20-3/24: Montclair Literary Festival
- ❖ 4/4: Parent University
- ❖ 4/19: CLOSED for Good Friday
- ❖ 4/22: CLOSED Easter Monday
- ❖ 4/30-5/1: School Pictures)



PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Fireflies – Ms. Tara

The Pre-k class has been very busy these past few weeks. The children learned about the water cycle and experimented to see how much water a cloud could hold. We had fun celebrating Valentines day and the 100th day of school! We learned fun facts about penguins and did an amazing job painting them. To finish off the month of February, the class went on a pretend trip in a Hot Air Balloon for the letter H!

The month of March will continue with our alphabet study. We will concentrate on the letters I, J, K, L, and M. We will create a new **i**nvention, play a math game with **J**ellybeans, try to fly a paper **k**ite, walk on a real **L**abyrinth and play **m**usical instruments together. As always, we will practice our handwriting and brainstorm lists of words.

Now that we have passed the 100th day of school, the children have been really excited to

focus on something new. We will be slowly learning some new sight words to add to our word wall. So far we have learned the word **the**. We look forward to adding words such as **“is”** and **“and.”** You will be surprised at what good “readers” we are becoming!

In the science center, the children will be discussing light and **rainbows** for **St. Patrick’s Day**. We will even do a wind experiment when we talk about kites!

In the afternoons, the children will celebrate the birthday of one of our favorite authors, Dr. Seuss! The class will read his books and have some fun with rhyming. Imagine ***The Thinks We Could Think*** with a little help from our friends! We may even come up with a poem of our own!



Butterflies – Mr. Gary



The children in the Butterflies classroom have enjoyed another busy month! We had fun celebrating Valentine’s Day and those we love. As well as learning all about the importance of Dental Health!!

As we move into the month of March we will be shifting our focus to St. Patrick’s Day and catching those sneaky Leprechauns! We will be encouraging the children to use both their imagination and problem solving skills to design traps that will catch the Leprechauns so we can get their gold!

We also will be doing a unit on Dr. Seuss, in honor of his birthday! Some learning activities we will be doing (hopefully with time permitting in between learning and practicing our letters) are making real Green Eggs and Ham, and graphing who likes them and who doesn’t! Creating Wockets in our pockets, learning to identify rhyming words, and of course, celebrating Wacky Wednesday!

In March we also will be celebrating the First Day of spring (Hallelujah!), Share Day and National Plant a Flower Day! It looks like it will be another busy but exciting month!

HIP HIP HOORAY FOR 100 DAYS!!!

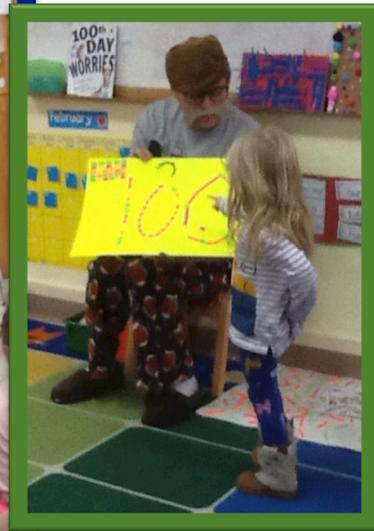
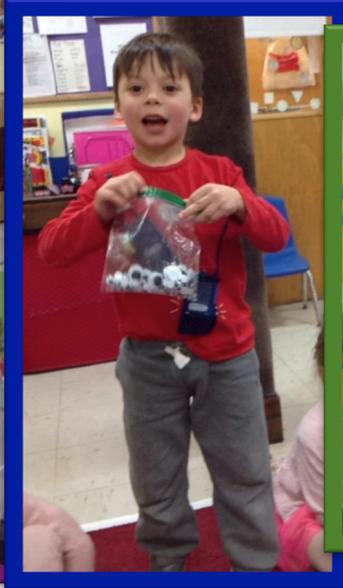
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100!!!!

Our Pre-K students in both the Firefly and Butterfly programs have been counting since the first day of school. They celebrated 100 days of school on Monday, February 11 by doing many different STEM activities to help mark the occasion. Miss. Tara's class took 100 steps to see how far they could go, made necklaces with 100 fruit-loops and every student brought in 100 things they counted at home for show-and-tell.

Our students even got to talk to some 100 year-old visitors!



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3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS

Dragonflies - Miss Melissa

The month of February went by so quickly! During the month we had such fun exploring the topics of Groundhog Day, Friendship, Valentine's Day, and Dental health. For Groundhog Day, we talked about predictions and shadows. As we got closer to the light our shadows grew! We also talked about what it means to be a good friend; this led us to Valentine's Day. The children had a wonderful time making heart collages and friendship puppets! Of course, after all the delicious Valentine's Day sweets, we talked about how to keep our teeth healthy and clean! We created alligator chompers and learned to floss using Legos and string.

During the month of March we will explore themes such as Dr. Seuss, St Patrick's Day, and weather. We will be exploring the wonderful stories written by Dr. Seuss and create fun art and engage in some very cool activities, like rhyming and puzzles! Our STEM focus this month will be creating and blending rainbow colors.



Bumblebees - Miss Christina

February may be the shortest month, but we definitely were busier than ever! We began the month learning all about our 5 senses. We smelled different items, created texture collages, and listened to different sounds. The best part? We got to transform into chefs and baked homemade cornbread. It was delicious! From there, we learned all about keeping our teeth healthy and strong. We pretended to floss teeth using duplo blocks, twine, and playdoh as plaque. We even had a special visit from a real dentist! They taught us that drinking milk and eating fruits and vegetables will keep our teeth strong.

We ended the month celebrating Dr. Seuss week school wide. It was so much fun dressing up and participating in the fun activities! March will be just as busy in the bumblebee class. We will begin the month learning all about weather and wind. We will create paper airplanes and have feather blowing races. We then will move on to learn about St. Patrick's Day, where we will create rainbow necklaces, and go on a shamrock seek and find around the classroom. Spring is a time that many baby animals are born, and we will spend some time learning all about them and pretending to be them. Finally, we will end the month by learning about things that go. We will paint with cars, do races, and maybe even make a choo-choo train in our classroom!



Spotlight on Aftercare

Drama with Mr. Gary

Drama class is a time for children to express themselves in ways they usually cannot do in any other setting. They can escape to magical places and use their imagination to explore new worlds otherwise out of their everyday experiences. Gary is a child at heart and is very theatrical by nature. Growing up he always had this talent for becoming characters and taking on their personalities. He was always exposed to theatre, whether it was performing in his high school plays and then in college or simply playing with his nieces, nephew and later on his daughter. In drama Gary tries to allow the children to become a part of a story. He reads the class a story and then, depending on how long he can interact with the children, has them make scenery, props and costumes. This all leads to a culminating final performance of the story. The children love to play different roles and just be silly. He has had the opportunity to be teaching drama at MMO for the past 4 years but has always added this ability with his students for as long as he has been a member of the MMO staff.



Aftercare Enrichment:

During the month of February we concentrated on shapes, colors and patterns. We celebrated Valentine's Day with a Scavenger hunt, art projects, and themed stamps. Dr. Seuss week was a fun filled week in which we focused on all of the lessons that Dr. Seuss created for us with our very own Aftercare styled twist.

In the month of March we will be focusing on learning about our Families, and everything that consists of making us so unique. We will touch upon St. Patrick's Day with a themed Scavenger hunt, many sensory themed activities, and a few fun STEM inspired projects. Rounding out March Aftercare will focus on Community Helpers. The children will delve into all of the people that make up our communities and help make our world so great. Gardeners, Doctors, Firefighters, and Chefs are just a few of the professions that we will be learning about.

The week of March 4th-8th is Family Week in Aftercare. Please join us any day and come celebrate all of the traditions and ways that we make up a family. Please come read a favorite book, sing a fun tune, or even partake in a Science experiment or other activity. This will really teach the children hands on experiences for what we are learning in our Aftercare classes!

As always Aftercare will consist of Music and Movement with Ms. Tess, French with Mr. Jim, Art with Ms. Mimi, Art around the World with Ms. Susan, and Drama with Mr. Gary. If you are interested in having your child stay for Aftercare please notify the office. See you in Aftercare!

- Alex Latona,
Lead Aftercare Teacher

INFANTS & TODDLERS



Crickets & Grasshoppers Miss Margaret & Miss Claude



Winter is almost over, and we are looking forward to spring!

During the month of February, we talked about space, the stars, the moon and when they can be seen in the sky; the color of the sun and how it feels on our skin. We also talked about the planets, astronauts and how they travel to space. We made a space collage and moon sand.

Our theme for the month of March is things that go. We will learn about things that go on land, air and water. We will do fun activities for a special week celebrating Dr. Seuss, along with crafts to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Easter.



Ladybugs - Miss Joelle & Miss Ileana



We were on the go in February! Our monthly theme of transportation was a big hit. We turned our classroom into a big road. We used blue tape to make the lines of the street and the children helped by sticking the tape to the floor. We then showed the children that cars and trucks drive on the road. We learned that airplanes are different from cars because they fly high in the sky. We turned a cardboard box into a fire truck and a school bus. We sang "Wheels on the Bus" while driving the school bus. We made a train by lining up blocks and sitting in them. We also talked about how trains only go on tracks and say "Choo-choo" as they go by.

We honored Dr. Seuss by reading some of his books like Put me in the Zoo, The Nose Book, Hop on Pop, and Mr. Brown Can Moo Can You?

In March, our main theme will be "The Sky." Our over-arching developmental task will be exploring sky concepts. As the warm weather approaches, we will be spending more time outdoors and talking about what we may see in the sky. We will make clouds, butterflies and talk about the changing weather like sun, rain and thunderstorms. We will make a handprint rainbow and listen to bird sounds. Some songs we will sing are "Rain Rain Go Away," "Mr. Sun" and "It's Raining Its Pouring."



SMILE!!



National Children's Dental Health is a month long national health observance (in February) to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and many others. Parents and children are encouraged to brush their teeth for two minutes, two times per day, every day.

Our older four classes were able to get a special visit from our neighbors at Montclair Pediatric Dental Care, including the Tooth Fairy and Flossie on Thursday, February 21.



Thank you for visiting

— MONTCLAIR —
Pediatric Dental
— CARE —

Tyra J. Manso, D.D.S.

Spotlight on Professional Development



MMO staff members broke into small groups and collaborated on how to teach the same material different ways on our staff training day, Tuesday, February 19th.



SUCCEED2GETHER'S
Montclair
LITERARY
FESTIVAL
MARCH 20-24, 2019

The Montclair Literary Festival promotes reading for all, bringing writers and readers together to celebrate the town's literary scene and support the work of local non-profit Succeed2gether, to close the education achievement gap.

There will be a full day of FREE children's activities at the Montclair Public Library, the Montclair Art Museum, and several events held at The First Congregational Church of Montclair (40 S. Fullerton Ave.).

We are quite proud to have some MMO alumni parents participating in the festival!

Parents Association:

It may not feel like it, but with the arrival of March so comes spring! This month has so many wonderful events in store for our community and I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the building.

On **March 12th** we will hold our second restaurant night at Tacoria, our local, family-friendly Mexican kitchen. Bring the whole family for tacos, burritos, quesadillas, and more, all in support of MMO Programs. From 3pm-10pm, MMO will receive 10% of the proceeds of all sales, excluding deliveries.

For the first time, MMO will partner up with Watchung Book Sellers for our annual book fair. The book fair will run from **Monday, March 18 through Friday, March 22**, and will feature books for children of all ages. We are so excited to team up with this independent, local book store that so many of our families know and love. To kick off our book fair, on **Saturday, March 16** at 10am, please join us for a special pajama story time and hot cocoa with our very own Miss Jan.

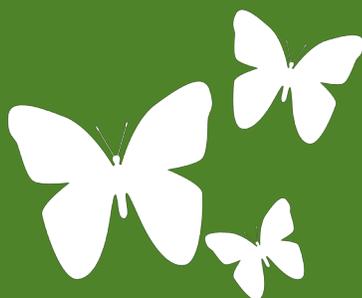
Lastly, I'd like to invite you, the parents, to partake in the first installment of our Parent University; a program that brings in experts to address many timely, important topics around parenting. Our first conversation will take place on **April 4**, from 7-8:30pm, and will feature Yael Lipton, a public health expert and educator focusing on Gender and Sexual Identity in children.

Shelby Ebert-Moser
President

MMO Preschool Programs

40 South Fullerton Ave.
Montclair, New Jersey, 07042

mmoprograms.org



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Phone: 973-744-6521

E-mail: info@mmoprograms.org

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

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



Join us



Help support



Tuesday, March 12

From 3pm – 10pm

367 Bloomfield Ave
Montclair, NJ

Celebrate Taco Tuesday and support our school! On March 12, from 3pm-10pm, 10% of the proceeds from your purchase (dine-in or pick up only) will be donated to MMO Programs.

<https://tacoria.com/locations/#montclair>