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Childcare for Young Children since 1982



## October 2019

### Director's Note

At long last, it truly feels like autumn has arrived! Young children are sensorial learners, and fall provides many opportunities for discovery through the senses with its many scents, sounds, smells, tastes and even the *feel* of crisp autumn air!

Thank you, parents, for a great beginning to our school year and a superb evening together for our September Parents' Night. We know that it's not easy to step out in the evening when you have young children whom you've missed being with all day. Our next event is for the entire family: our **Fall Meet 'n' Greet** will take place on the lawn in front of the building (on South Fullerton Avenue) from **10:00 to 11:00 on Saturday morning, October 12<sup>th</sup>**. Stop by for coffee or cider, a little music, and a quick visit with teachers and other parents. Also, we will be **closed the following Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**.

On Friday evening, September 27<sup>th</sup>, a "practice emergency alert" went out through our Tadpoles system. If you did not receive this practice alert, please call or email us so that we can be sure we have your correct information for notification. If you have already contacted us, there is no need to do so again.

As mentioned above, the early childhood years are years of exploration and discovery through one's senses. Children are learning all about the world around them through their play. As such, I'd like to emphasize a part of the 'Clothing' section of our Parent/Family Handbook: "Your child must be dressed in attire that will allow him/her to explore and play throughout the day, working with a number of messy materials. Please dress your child in practical clothing that allows for freedom of movement, is appropriate for the weather, and can get dirty/messy. Your child will be involved in a variety of activities including painting, outdoor play, sand and other sensory activities..." This includes children of all ages at MMO. One of the many ways we act on our philosophy of fostering "confident learning and self-esteem building" is to support the children in doing things for themselves as they are ready: messy business in the here and now nurtures confidence and independence down the road!

Have a great October!

*Jan Burgess*

Executive Director  
MMO Preschool Programs

### Upcoming Dates

- ❖ **10/12:** Fall Meet and Greet  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- ❖ **10/14:** Closed for Columbus Day
- ❖ **10/19:** Light the Night in Verona Park
- ❖ **10/22:** Ah Pizz restaurant fundraiser
- ❖ **11/4-11/29:** Parent Teacher conferences
- ❖ **11/8:** Closed Staff Development Day
- ❖ **11/27:** Early Closing at 2:30 p.m.
- ❖ **11/28 & 11/29:** Closed for Thanksgiving

# PRE- KINDGARTEN

## 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 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 12th**. It's a great way to meet other MMO families and have some fun!



## Butterflies: Mr. Gary

Our first month of school has gone great! 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 be 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 about our classmates, we will begin discussions on the new season of fall and exploring nature and life around our community. During 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.





## Aftercare Enrichment

It is amazing how fast the month of September flew by! And we have transitioned into October! We sang, played on the playground, read many books, and started our Enrichment Instructors. We transitioned into our Aftercare classes and activities by learning many transition songs and quickly learned our new Aftercare routines. We participated in Back to School matching activities, created apple graphs, settled into school, Aftercare Enrichment, and bonded with new friends and teachers.

Now that we are in October and have settled into Aftercare we are going to jump right in with Aftercare Fun! We will focus on Social-Emotional Development, the season and theme of Autumn, Harvest, and go on Scavenger hunts, Nature walks, and participate in lots of child-led art projects.

We are going to be singing many songs, (some old, some familiar), creating wreaths using the materials of autumn, making a Harvest on our Aftercare walls, and work our Fine motor skills with lots of playdough will continue to have our Aftercare Instructors Music and Movement with Ms. Tess, French through Music with Mr. Jim, Art with Ms. Mimi, Art Around the World with Ms. Susan, Drama with Mr. Gary, Storytime with Ms. Joyce and Yoga and Mindfulness.

Caitlin and I are excited to explore the month of October and dive into Aftercare Enrichment!

If Aftercare Enrichment excites you and you would like your child to participate, please speak with the MMO office to ensure there is a space for your child!

Alex Latona- Aftercare and Administrative Coordinator  
Caitlin Ferrero- Aftercare Lead Teacher

# 3 Year-Old Programs



## Dragonflies Miss Katie

It was such a pleasure to see so many families at Parents' Night! Thank you for coming out! As discussed, much of our learning will be emergent from the children. We will study, research, and discuss what wonderings the children have. Our first area of inquiry was "What is a Dragonfly?" We have sung songs, drawn, discussed, read books, acted out the life cycles, and completed a mural all about Dragonflies. Please check out our wall with our drawings and collected learnings about the insects.



So much has been happening in the Dragonflies! We are getting to know one another, building our community, and learning our routines. Our Morning Meeting routine always includes singing a hello song where we greet each person in class. We are stressing how important it is to look into each person's eyes, and to use each person's name when singing, "Hello, \_\_\_\_\_". We have reflected on how it feels to be greeted by all of the classmates, with attentive eyes, and smiling faces. Soon we will start practicing a handshake with each greeting.



We have also worked hard on the lining up routine. The children are grasping how much it helps the entire group to line up quickly, face forward, stay together, and move quickly yet safely. They are realizing that when we move together in a fast and safe way, we have even more time on the playground.

In the upcoming month, we are exploring pumpkins and gourds, and working on observational drawings. We are urging children to look closely, describe what they see, and choose how they will draw it. What shapes do you see? What colors will you use? What lines will you draw?



## 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 our weekly show and tell, and the class is already so excited about it. As September progressed, we reviewed our colors and shapes and enjoyed exploring apples. We learned the parts of an apple, tasted three kinds of apples, and even read a Weekly Reader, which taught us how apples grow.

During 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 spiders. As Halloween approaches, we will learn all about pumpkins as we fully examine them- inside and out! We vote as a class as we decide what type of face we should carve on our class pumpkins.

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.

# INFANTS & TODDLERS

## Crickets and Grasshoppers Miss Margaret



Happy October Crickets/Grasshoppers Families! We are very proud of the progress each child 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 several sensory activities and ask that you be aware that someday your child may come home a little messy.



## Ladybugs



## Miss Joelle and Miss Claude

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. This month we did a lot of sensory work. We painted with our hands, feet and paintbrushes! Thank you for the 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. Hope you all can make the Fall Meet and Greet: October 12th, 2019 from 10:00- 11:00 am.



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 dirty!

# Parent's Corner

OCTOBER 2019

It finally feels like fall and we are so excited for all of the October fun.

Be sure to join us on **October 12 at 10 a.m.** for our Fall Meet and Greet. Grab a cider donut and some coffee, and mix and mingle with fellow MMO families and teachers while rocking out to some kiddo-friendly tunes. We will also host our first restaurant night at **Ah Pizz** on **October 22nd** -- it's a great way to support our school and an excuse to let someone else worry about dinner! Stay tuned for details.

A big thank you to everyone for helping to fulfill our teacher wish lists -- the speed at which everyone participated is truly a testament to the strength of our school... so let's continue to step up!

The power of our community lies in our ability to come together to celebrate and support one another. Join one of MMO's Fireflies, Sam Waisanen and MMO Alum, Miles Horton, and their team, as they Light the Night in Verona Park on **Saturday, October 19**. Sam and Miles, both of whom were diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in 2018, are in remission but will continue treatment through 2021. Can't join but want to help Team Sam and Miles Go the Distance raise critical funds to ensure that all kiddos with blood cancer have a shot at a cure? You can donate here: <https://pages.ils.org/ltn/nj/Verona19/samandmilesgothedistance>



**Shelby Moser**

**Parent Association President**

Coming soon:

In mid-October you will receive this year's Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for your child's current age. This easy at-home screening tool may help reveal your child's strengths and/or identify areas of development that need further evaluation, as well as assist our teachers in providing developmentally appropriate curriculum for our students. Please complete and return it either to the MMO office or your child's teacher(s). Have fun completing this with your child!

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

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First Congregational Church  
[www.firstcongmontclair.org](http://www.firstcongmontclair.org)

