



Offering Exceptional Educational
Childcare for Young Children
since 1982



MARCH 2020

All times of year are “a busy time of year” at MMO, and March is no exception. We are thrilled to be partnering again with local business Watchung Booksellers for this year’s book fair, and I cannot wait to read to your children again at this Saturday’s 10:00 a.m. ‘Pajama Storytime + Hot Cocoa!’ We had a great time kicking off last year’s book fair at this event, and I look forward to spending another Saturday morning in my pajamas with three of my favorite things: books, children and cocoa!

As you know, we are in the thick of enrollment for the 2020-21 school year right now. Most classes for next year are full with wait lists, and we’ve been very busy creating your individual agreements.

If you have a child returning next year, you should have received your enrollment agreement via email by the time you receive this newsletter. Please reach out to the MMO office if for some reason you have not received yours.

One of MMO’s greatest assets is our compassionate and knowledgeable staff. A large part of our February training day was led by former MMO Director Corrine Harney, M.Ed. Staff members

participated in various workshops throughout the day, and Corrine was impressed with our staff members’ engagement and insight.

We are curious to see whether March will come in like a lion and go out like a lamb...or vice versa? Either way, your children LOVE to be outside in all kinds of weather, and make some of their best discoveries there. Please be sure to send appropriate outdoor clothing during this unpredictable month, and thank you for including us in these incredible years of your children’s development!



Upcoming dates

❖ 3/2-3/6: Read Across America week.

✚ Monday: Wear red or blue in spirit of the classic “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish”

✚ Tuesday: Wear stripes and/or your favorite hat

✚ Wednesday: for Wacky Wednesday wear your clothes backwards, inside out or mismatched

✚ Thursday: Wear Green

✚ Friday: School-wide pajama day

❖ 3/7: Pajama Story time with Jan

❖ 3/7-3/17: Watchung Booksellers’ Book Fair in the Guild Room

❖ 4/10: CLOSED for Good Friday

❖ 4/13: CLOSED Easter Monday

Jan Burgess

Executive Director MMO Programs



Pre-Kindergarten

Fireflies

The Pre-k class has been very busy these past few weeks. We had fun learning about Groundhog's Day and President's Day. It was fun learning about what each child would like to do if he/she were President! The class celebrated the 100th Day of School and shared valentines for Valentines Day. We had a visit from the Dentist to teach us about dental health, and finished off the month with a pretend trip in a Hot Air Balloon for the letter H!

Throughout the first week of March, the children will participate in a school-wide celebration 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!

The class will also continue with their alphabet study. We will concentrate on the letters K, L, M, N, and O. We will try to fly a paper kite, walk on a real labrynth, play musical



instruments, take a look at the night sky, and make a list of our favorite ocean animals. 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!



Butterflies

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 Wednesday, February 12 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 a 100-year-old "distant" relative of Mr. Gary! Don't you see a little bit of a resemblance?



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3 Year-Old Programs



Dragonflies

Each week, the children count down the days until Friday... Show and Tell day! While this early childhood favorite is the norm in most classrooms for young children, I hope to highlight the lesser-known benefits of such a practice. For Show and Tell, children must plan. They must plan what to bring, and most importantly what to say. Each week, each child stands in front of the class, holds her item for the class to see, and must speak loudly enough so that everyone may hear her. She must demonstrate self-confidence, and describe why this item is important to her, and/or why she thought her classmates might find it interesting. We often hear about the function of the item, or the background story about it. Each audience member sits on his bottom, so that all may see, and practices respectful listening for the speaker. With such a rapt audience, the speaker is often encouraged to share more detail, thoughts, or feelings. Each child must wait for her turn, but must remain a respectful listener before and after her turn is over. With such fruitful sharing, Show and Tell can last a long time, but the Dragonflies stick with it until the last child shares! After practicing these skills for the whole year, Show and Tell is truly an amazing display of skills: what pro-social, respectful, and fair listening looks like! And how to communicate loudly, clearly, and with interesting detail to an entire class. While the Dragonfly families send in their children each week with a toy, they may not realize what fantastic public speaking skills are being developed! We love Show and Tell!



As our vehicle/construction study wraps up, we must pay attention to what the children are finding most interesting. Children have lately been fascinated with dinosaurs! We shall see what a dinosaur study will include for this group... so far they are interested in dinosaur names, the size and scale of the animals, and what they eat.

Spotlight on Professional Development

MMO staff members participated in a day of professional development on Tuesday, February 18th, which included learning about the importance of physical play and gross motor development in the preschool classroom.





Aftercare Enrichment:

The month of February was all about Hibernation, Valentine's Day and learning about our Shapes and Colors. The children made a Shape House out of Squares, Circles, Rectangles, and Triangles. We continued learning about our Shapes and Colors by having fun with Shape and Color hopscotch. Shape and Color Hopscotch is where the children have to recognize different Shapes and Colors while doing different actions to get to the correct Shape and Color being called out. Aftercare also sang songs about Circles, Squares, Rectangles, and Triangles to the tune of The Farmer in the Dell. To celebrate Valentine's Day Aftercare Enrichment went on a Valentine's Day Scavenger Hunt where they looked searched the school for different clues.

March has quickly arrived and Aftercare Enrichment is revisiting a theme we learned about in the Fall as well as exploring more about our family and friends, and our school-wide theme of Dr. Seuss! Aftercare Enrichment will be reading Dr. Seuss books like The Cat in the Hat, One Fish Two Fish, and Green Eggs and Ham. We will be singing a very silly song to the tune of BINGO while learning about all the different "hats" Dr. Seuss wore! We will be singing a song about Dr. Seuss that is very silly. To celebrate Green Eggs and Ham Day Aftercare is going to play Green Eggs and Ham Bingo and go on a Green Egg Race! They will be playing Green Eggs and Ham Bingo and having a Green Egg Race.

When we are learning about our Family and Friends, the children will be drawing a picture of their family on a strip of paper. We will then connect the strips and make a chain that will hang outside the Aftercare Office for everyone to see! The children will also be creating a Family Sticker House, where they will put a certain colored sticker as to who is in their family. Parents are invited the week of **March 23-April 3** to come speak with the Aftercare classes about the favorite traditions that make up their family. You are welcomed to sing a song, read a book, demonstrate a family activity that has gone down several generations. If visiting Aftercare and being part of our Family week interests you, please email Caitlin with a preferred date and she will get back to you with a time that works around the class's Aftercare instructors and schedule.

We will continue to have all of our classes such as Yoga with Mr. Lou, Music and Movement with Miss Tess, Art with Miss Mimi, French through Music Immersion with Mr. Jim, Everything Art with Miss Susan, and Drama with Mr. Gary.

Is Aftercare Enrichment appealing to you? Would you like your child to join in on the Aftercare fun?! Please contact the MMO Office to see if there is availability to sign up for even more learning and fun!

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

Toddler Programs



Bumblebees

February might be the shortest month, but that didn't stop the Bumblebees from learning so much! We began the month talking about friendship and working together to achieve a common goal. We enjoyed playing balloon tennis, creating artwork with a friend, and working on giant puzzles in small groups.

Next on our agenda was talking about Valentine's Day and things that we love. We made adorable hedgehogs and our version of love monsters from the book *Love Monster*. We found hearts around the room and graphed our results and had fun creating and passing out valentines for everyone in our class.

From there, we learned all about keeping our teeth healthy and strong. We pretended to floss teeth using duplo blocks, yarn, and play dough 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 learning all about our 5 senses! We smelled different items, created texture collages, and listened to different sounds. We even tasted a pretzel and a lemon and compared the flavors. It was very interesting!

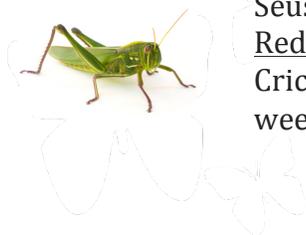
We will have just as much fun during the month of March in our class. We will be kicking off the month celebrating Dr. Seuss school-wide! Be on the lookout for details on how we will celebrate each day. We will also talk about St. Patrick's Day, where we will create rainbow necklaces and go on a shamrock seek and find around the classroom. We will also be learning all about weather and wind. We will create paper airplanes and have feather blowing races. We will end the month learning all about each other. We will see how tall we are, create an eye graph, and learn more about our favorite things. It will be so exciting!



Crickets & Grasshoppers



Friendship was in the air this past February. The children explored the concept of being a good friend by performing random acts of kindness. On any given day you could see a child helping another come to a stand after sitting on the rug. Or patting a friend's back to comfort them. These acts, and more, showed real growth and the level of empathy one builds upon while participating in group care. We're hoping to keep the happy times going during the month of March. Our theme this month will be the imaginative world of Dr. Seuss. Each child will be encouraged to engage in activities centered around some of Dr. Seuss's most popular books, such as *The Cat in the Hat*, *One Fish Two Fish Three Fish Four*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, and *Oh, The Places You'll Go*. Crickets and Grasshoppers are also invited to take part in Dr. Seuss week, taking place **March 2nd** through **March 6th**.



Infants & Toddlers



Ladybugs

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 black 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 sang "Wheels on the Bus" while driving the school bus play tent. 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.

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." We will also be honoring Dr. Seuss by dedicating a week of fun-filled activities, reading and silly dress-up clothes.



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 and Flossie on Friday, February 21st.



Thank you for visiting

— MONTCLAIR —
Pediatric Dental
— CARE —
Tyra J. Manso, D.D.S.

Parents Association:

Welcome to March!

It's a jam-packed month that will keep us busy as we roll into spring! This month brings about story-time, a book fair, and a restaurant night and I hope that you can join us for all three.

On **Saturday, March 7** we will kick-off our Watchung Booksellers book fair with a very special pajama story-time and hot-cocoa event with Jan. The morning will begin at **10 a.m.** in the Bumblebee classroom and should last an hour, at which point you will have the opportunity to peruse our amazing selection of books. ****bagels and coffee will be available too****

The book fair will run **until Tuesday, March 17th**, and will be open from **7:30 a.m. -6:30 p.m.** You can pay with check, credit card, or cash and MMO receives 20-25% of the total book fair sales.

We are in the process of planning an end of the month restaurant night with Tacoria, so stay tuned for further details.

Thank you so much for all that you do for our school.

Shelby Ebert-Moser
President

**Happy Birthday
Dr. Seuss!!**



**"Today was good.
Today was FUN.
TOMORROW is
ANOTHER ONE."
One Fish Two Fish Red
Fish Blue Fish
by Dr. Seuss**

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

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