

PARENT CONNECTION

"Spring" Issue - 2024



From the desk of Ms. Jeanette... March is "National Reading Month"

This is a celebration that encourages reading for all ages and promotes reading as a key feature for learning in all areas of development. A question often asked by parents is when is my child going to learn to read? Preparation is key to success in early reading. If you know our teachers, we tout the benefit of reading every single day. But let's break down the science of how important it REALLY is.

- **Reading to your child at a very young age (infancy) improves cognitive development:** Cognitive development is the emergence of the ability to think and understand. It refers to how a person perceives and thinks about his or her world through areas such as information processing, intelligence, reasoning, language development, attention span, and memory. As teachers, as we read to your child, in a matter of seconds thousands of cells in the students' growing brains respond. Some brain cells are 'turned on,' triggered by this particular experience. Many existing connections among brain cells are strengthened. At the same time, new brain cells are formed, adding a bit more definition and complexity to the intricate circuitry that will remain largely in place for the rest of these children's lives. Therefore, the more a child is read to, the larger their vocabularies will grow and the more they will know and understand about the world and their place in it, assisting their cognitive development and perception.

- **Improved Language Skills:** Reading daily to young children, starting in infancy, can help with language acquisition, communication skills, social skills, and literacy skills. This is because reading to your children in the earliest months stimulates the part of the brain that allows them to understand the meaning of language.

- **Prepare for Academic Success:** Numerous studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well when they reach their period of formal education. According to a study completed by the University of Michigan, there are five early reading skills that are essential for development.
They are:
 - **Phonemic awareness** - Being able to hear, identify, and play with individual sounds in spoken words.
 - **Phonics** - Being able to connect the letters of written language with the sounds of spoken language.
 - **Vocabulary** - The words kids need to know to communicate effectively.
 - **Reading comprehension** - Being able to understand and get meaning from what has been read.
 - **Fluency (oral reading)** - Being able to read text accurately and quickly.



While children will encounter these literacy skills and language development once they reach school and beyond, you can help jumpstart their reading success by reading to them during infancy and their early toddler years. While they won't be able to practice fluency or phonics at that stage, they will get an earlier introduction to phonetic awareness, vocabulary and reading comprehension, all of which will set them up for success as they grow and interact with the world around them.

- **Developing a special bond with your child:** It goes without saying that reading to your young child on a regular basis can help you forge a stronger relationship with them. When it comes to children, one of the most important things you can do to positively influence their development is spend time with them. Reading to your children provides a great opportunity to set up a regular, shared event where you can look forward to spending time together. With shared reading, your child will trust and expect that you will be there for them. The importance of trust to small children cannot be overstated. With babies specifically, although they may not be able to understand what you're saying when you read to them, reading aloud provides a level of invaluable nurturing and reassurance.
- **Increased concentration and discipline:** As teachers when we start group book sharing in class, we can tell within the first few minutes a child that has been read to and one who has not. Children who have been regularly read to are engaged, focused and comprehending. Children who have not rarely look at the book, are easily distracted and don't engage. Introducing regular reading time into your child's schedule benefits outside of creating shared time together: increased discipline and concentration. Very young children rarely sit still for long, and it's oftentimes difficult to get them to focus. But when you introduce regular reading to your children, you may start to observe a change in behavior. Toddlers may initially squirm and become distracted during story time, but eventually they'll learn to stay put for the duration of the book.

We have often suggested to parents to spend as little as 15 minutes each day for everyone (parents included) to spend time reading. TV's, I Pads and phones are turned off and everyone spends time with a book. For those who are too young to read, they can look at picture books (one of the steps in the reading process) or be read to. Various styles of books can be popular, not just a story book. Look at expository books or perhaps a comic book. You will be surprised at how after a week your children will look forward to the time. And you also benefit from a relaxing activity. Also put a crate of books in the car during errands. Bring a book into the store while you are grocery shopping. There are so many opportunities for children to read.

With March as NATIONAL READING MONTH make reading a priority in your life.

According to Dr. Seuss, "The more you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more place you'll go!" Enjoy a good book.

~ Ms. Jeanette





From The Office ...



❖ Parent/Teacher Conferences

We will be conducting conferences on **Thursday, March 7th and Friday, March 8th**. There will be **no regular school** and no AM/PM daycare on these days.

❖ Office Notes/Payments

Please hand important papers to a staff member. Please check your child's backpack daily for messages that have been sent home.

❖ Children's Belongings

It is very important that you label your child's belongings including the lunchbox, backpack, shoes, coats, mittens, hats, sweaters and anything else that your child brings into the school. Please ask a staff member to check our "Lost and Found" box if your child is missing any of his/her belongings.

❖ Change of Clothes

Please remember to keep your child's spare box of clothing filled and replace when needed. If clothes go home soiled, they need to be replaced the very NEXT DAY.

❖ Summer Camp Program

We will be offering a 5 or 3 Day Summer Camp Program for our currently enrolled families with children 18 months to 6 years of age. The program will start the week of June 10th and run through July 26th. Please stop in the office for more information.

❖ Green Health Forms

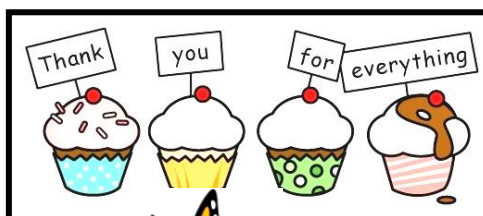
The State of Michigan requires each student to have a yearly physical form, signed by a physician, and kept on file at his/her school. If your child will be getting his/her yearly check-up now or during the summer, please get a green health form from the BMMC office.

❖ Outdoor Recess

Please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play. Please keep in mind, cotton gloves and snow pants become very wet and dirty when the snow begins to thaw. Please check them daily. Also, please continue to wear boots during the muddy spring weather.

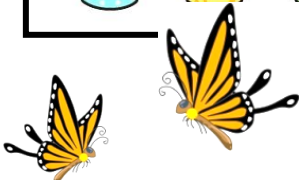
*The First Blooms Of Spring Always
Make My Heart Sing ~
Ms. Diane and Ms. Elizabeth*

Welcome
Spring



Valentine's Week Personal Care Drive

Thank you to all the families that contributed to our Personal Care Drive. We collected and donated over 241 lbs. of personal care items to 'Open Door Outreach Center' in Waterford through your generous donations.



Toddler Classroom News *Ms. Michelle - Directress*



We are all anticipating the arrival of those delightful days when the sun shines that are brighter and the temperature to climb higher! The toddlers I'm sure are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to engage in outdoor adventures.

In **Language** we will be building our vocabulary along with working on beginning sound activities and alphabet letter puzzles. We will be having a blast in March by celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with lots of reading. One of the most important benefits of reading to kids is that it plays a large role in language and literacy development. Storytelling also offers children the opportunity to learn about feelings as

they sympathize with characters in a book.

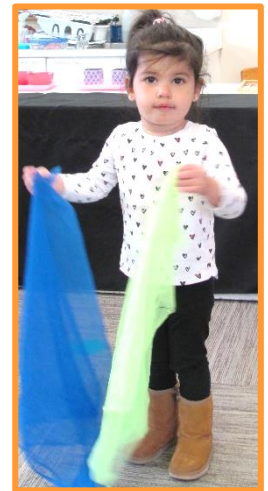
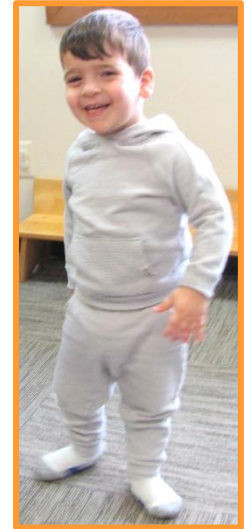
In **Practical Life** we will be staying busy cleaning fruits and vegetables (and also sampling some of our clean food!). Some of the other activities we are working on are more complicated, including threading very small tubes and beads, placing toothpicks into small holes, and folding napkins! These purposeful activities help develop motor control, independence and a sense of responsibility!

In **Sensorial** we will be diving into the fascinating world of colors. Activities such as light, lighter, lightest and dark, darker, darkest. We will be having fun by mixing colors and observing the amazing shades that emerge! Also included will be geometric solids, advanced shape work, complex puzzle work along with knobbed cylinders to help distinguish visual discrimination.

In **Math** we will be 'calendar counting' as a group and exploring the world of numbers with various activities, flashcards and puzzle work. We continually work on one to one correspondence to reinforce mathematical concepts.

In the coming months we will not only celebrate St. Patrick's Day, but also embark on our bird theme and explore the intricate world of insects.

A very big thank you to all the parents that provided snacks for our little ones! We look forward to what this spring is going to reveal and just like it is such a joy to see the first flowers pop out of the ground, it is a true joy watching the children bloom into their own unique and beautiful personalities!



Parenthood: the longest and shortest period of your life ~ Anonymous

*Keep Your Face Towards The Sunshine And Shadows Will Fall Behind You ~
Ms. Michelle, Ms. Sana and Ms. Miranda*

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Go to our website at...[bloomfieldmaplesmontessori.com](http://bloomfieldmaplesmontessori.com)  
and watch our new "Video Tour", read the  
newsletter, check-out upcoming events and  
calendar, learn what is new in the school, etc...

**Stay Connected!**





In the Toddler classroom, we have continued with our use of percussion instruments such as tambourines, rhythm sticks, and shakers. We are practicing steady beat through these instruments each week. We have also introduced scarves for more movement practice through music.

All PreK classes have started to work on instrument recognition as well. Students have had the chance to learn about instrument sounds and identify their differences. We have also learned about dynamics

such as *piano* (soft), *mezzo piano* (medium soft), *mezzo forte* (medium loud), *forte* (loud). We have incorporated playing those dynamics using different instruments.

Looking ahead, we have also started to prepare our Spring Concert songs. We are so excited for our concert program.

*Musically Yours ~  
Ms. Shelbi*



## Physical Education

I am excited to instruct your child every Thursday; showing them how to exercise and play sports, along with fitness being fun and healthy. To help the children become more flexible and to prevent injuries each class begins with stretching.

An inside favorite race with the children is the shuttle run. It is a competitive race where the children must run 30 feet and pick up one block, return the block to the start and then run and get the second block and return. In addition to our weekly program of sit-ups, push-ups, and numerous stretching exercises, we are working on the standing broad jump and the running jump. We will review how important proper nutrition is. The children enjoy naming their favorite fruits and vegetables.

Spring is on its way! We are very excited to begin outdoor activities again. Soccer and relay races are some of our favorite outdoor activities!!

*Staying Fit ~ Mr. Roby*



## Pre K and K 1 Classroom News Ms. Cheryl - Directress



The groundhog didn't see his shadow so that is good news for us all. Spring is just around the corner. We did have a feeling of spring in the middle of February when the children were able to go outside at recess with just a coat.

If we have to stay indoors for recess, the children have been playing board games and Bingo and building with Legos, which they love. We also do exercises and dancing with them so that they can use some of their boundless energy. The rule is the temperature has to "feel like 20°F". Please continue to send the children's snow pants and gloves etc. Even if there is no snow, they still need this clothing to keep them warm. Take the time to check the temperature in the morning with your children. Its best to be over dressed for outdoor play than under dressed. They can peel off layers.



We have been feeding the birds, enjoying the close-up view of the stunning male cardinals, a variety of woodpeckers and many other types of birds learning their names as we observe. We also have a clock in the classroom that plays different birdcalls on the hour and the children are enjoying recognizing the bird's calls.

We all enjoyed the experience of Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum bringing science to the classroom. It really was a fun morning.

The Science Fair is upon us and we have been talking about science and presenting some basic science experiments. The children are excited to talk about what they are doing for their project. Choosing an appropriate science project with your child is important. They need to be interested and then they are more likely to co-operate with you when they have to write on their board. It's always rewarding for them to handwrite themselves if they are able. This makes the experience fun and fulfilling for your child and for you rather than a stressful time. After the Science Fair we ask that the projects be left in school. The children will then present their own project to the class during the week following. This exercise helps to build their confidence, and they love being 'the teacher'. They especially enjoy asking if the rest of the children have any questions about their project and then answering them.

In **Geography**, we continue to learn about the continents, where they are on the map, what animals they would find living there, traditional costume, and any other interesting facts. This is a great opportunity for parents to come in and share any knowledge they have with the children or read a book to them about a particular country.

In **Sensorial** we will begin to use more than one material at a time on our rugs. When we do this, we call it a Sensorial Extension. The children enjoy using their imagination with the materials.

**Practical life** continues to be a very exciting area of the classroom as more and more water works are added. Some very interesting conversations take place between the little ones when they work in this area, along with a lot of learning taking place.



In **Math** we are working on time. Please take every opportunity to discuss the time you do things and pointing out the time on the clock. Talk about the time you need to leave to get somewhere, meal times, and bedtime. We have talked about the o'clock and most of the children are confident at recognizing this time. Some of children are recognizing the half hour and we have discussed the 5 minutes between each number on the clock. We cut an apple into pieces and discussed the fraction names. When you next eat pizza, talk about the number of slices and remind your child of the fraction name of a piece. We will be looking at money and the various coin values. Continue to always count with your child and point out numbers in the everyday world. We will also be measuring. We will be doing a cooking exercise where we have to weigh and measure the ingredients. The children love mixing and breaking eggs into the bowl and then of course eating the cooked product.

Please read to your child every day. This helps your child build up concentration, imagination, and vocabulary. Be a role model and show your child that you read books or have a family reading hour. Turn off the electronics. If your child brings home their reader, please be patient when they are sounding out the words. Let them work it out themselves.

We really enjoyed our Secret Reader, Mrs. Walker, who came into the classroom in February and read "The Rainbow Fish" to the children.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> we will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. The children may wear Dr. Seuss attire to school this day and bring one of their favorite books by this author.

We thank the older student parents for coming in to Bring Your Parent To Work. We really enjoyed having you. The children just loved showing you how their typical day goes. The young children did very well and quite enjoyed hanging out with their friends' parents too. They can enjoy this experience when they get older.



The compliment box has been introduced so if you see little notes coming home in the backpack from their classmates read them to your child and if they want to let them keep them in a memory box. Some children may want to do a compliment at home or draw a picture for their friends in class then 'mail' it at school. This is a great opportunity for writing practice.

*"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents"*  
 - Emilie Buchwald

*Nature Does Not Hurry And Yet Everything Is Accomplished ~  
 Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Sandra and Ms. Renad*





We are reviewing all the vocabulary with interactive language, songs, crafts, and games. Spanish Class is a lot of fun!!!

Please review the following vocabulary with your child:



**EL CUERPO (THE BODY):**

- |               |                 |                     |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| cabeza - head | boca - mouth    | nariz - nose        |
| brazo - arm   | dedos - fingers | pies - feet         |
| ojos - eyes   | orejas - ears   | pelo - hair         |
| mano - hand   | rodilla - knee  | hombros - shoulders |



**ACCESSORIES:**

- |                  |                   |                    |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sombrero - hat   | lentes - glasses  | bufanda - scarf    |
| Guantes - gloves | reloj - watch     | pulsera - bracelet |
| Anillo - ring    | arêtes - earrings | cinto - belt       |

The children enjoy playing bingo and 'guess who' games, using the different accessories they are learning.

**Songs:**

- La tia Monica
- Cabeza, Hombros
- rodillas y pies
- Los elefantes "
- La foca Ramona

*Feliz Primavera*  
*Happy Spring ~*  
*Senora Melba*





*Pre K and K 2 Classroom News  
Ms. Jeanette - Directress*



Soon we will be saying goodbye to a long winter in hopes of the wonders of Spring. We love watching the emergence of the first flowers, the return of many birds and their making of nests and of course the warmer weather. We enjoyed having Ann Arbor Hands on Museum come in with activities for the students to explore. Thank you again to our parent volunteers who took time out of your day to help the children have a fun experience and had fun themselves. We look forward to many discoveries together with our upcoming Science Fair and the all-school conferences. The children have worked hard and it will be nice to show parents all that they have accomplished.



In Practical life and Sensorial we continue to challenge ourselves with harder coordination exercises developing concentration. Many involve water. We are working with the children on Grace and Courtesy. This is done with proper table manners, the use of please and thank you, and encouraging students to help each other regularly. We will include sock matching, dish washing, bed making, food preparation and all that helps them to become a contributing member within the household. We also are working with the students on learning their names and addresses.

In Language and Writing we are constantly practicing reading skills and writing skills. Please allow your child to practice all forms of writing. It begins with scribbling and then controlled coloring. From there it moves toward

specific symbol writing. As the practice continues, they begin to make connections from sounds to the letter. This then contributes to reading.

In Math we have been working with currency. It is a hard concept to understand especially with the identification of the coin and its value. Practice at home will help. Give them opportunities to earn change and to buy small items at the store. This will teach math skills through counting proper amounts needed. We then will begin a unit on clocks. We will work with the hour, half hour, quarter hour and minute Please provide an analog clock to help your child understand the concept better. This especially teaches children time management by showing how long it takes to complete an activity.



In Geography and Science, we have been learning about Europe. The next continent will be Africa. We will learn about the countries, climate and animals. In Science we are enjoying physical science through experiments and are continuing our unit on Botany. We have been watching a seed sprout and then caring for our plant. We have been charting the weather and will be making a weather graph. We then will learn about reptiles with a focus on the ever-popular dinosaurs.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU:**

- To our wonderful parents who helped out at the Ann Arbor Hands-On event.
- To the parents who came for Take Your Parent To Work day.
- For the wonderful Valentine treats.
- To Mrs. Raytman, our "Library Mom", for the wonderful books.



*The Majestic Beauty Of Winter Will Soon Be Replaced By The Unfolding Of Spring ~  
Ms. Jeanette, Ms. Sherry, Ms. Valerie and Ms. Ashley*



## PreK and K 3 Classroom News

### Ms. Beth - Directress



It's been such a strange winter. It already feels like spring. We aren't foolish enough to believe that we won't have any more winter weather. Please keep sending your child's snow gear to school. Even if there is no snow on the ground the snow pants help to keep your child warm and dry. On the occasion that your child's pants or socks get wet, they will change into their extra set in their spare clothes box. If a wet pair of socks or pants come home, please remember to send in another pair the next day so that we can keep your child's spare clothes box filled. We do request that you keep sending your child to school in **boots** as the playground tends to get wet and muddy during the Spring months.



With Spring right around the corner, we will be looking for signs of Spring. We will be looking for the buds to come out on the trees, the flowers to start coming up, and the animals to start coming out of hibernation. We will learn about birds and how they lay their eggs. There are usually robins who nest on the playground so we will be paying close attention to the mother bird sitting on her nest, and the baby birds to start poking their heads out of the nest once they are old enough.

March is National Reading Month. In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, March is designated as National Reading Month. It is a month to motivate Americans of all ages to read every day. We will start having the children read a favorite book from home to the class. Anyone who is interested can bring in a book from home and read it to the class. This is a great experience for the reader as well as their classmates. If your student would like to read to the class, regardless of their age, please encourage them to do so. Have your child practice their book at home so they know it quite well, then bring it to school and read it to their peers. The children love having their classmates read to them, and it is a wonderful public speaking experience for the reader.

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we will have a Dr. Seuss day. Your child will be allowed to wear Dr. Seuss shirts, hats, pants, dresses, or whatever they have. They will also be able to bring a Dr. Seuss book from home. Please make sure the book has your child's name in it as we frequently have duplicate books brought in. As we read the books to the class we will learn about and have fun with rhyming.

We enjoyed having the parents of the kindergarten students and the students moving to kindergarten next year spend the morning with their child at school. The children enjoyed showing you what they work on at school.

We had a lot of fun on Valentine's Day! The children enjoyed handing out their treat bags and had a lot of fun with making crafts. We had wonderful treat bags with a lot of art activities instead of candy. There was a nice mixture of sweets along with art supplies and things to play with.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone for conferences on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.



As the **Science Fair** approaches, we will be conducting experiments in class. The children really enjoyed Super Science Day which was brought to us from the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum. It's a nice start to kick off our Science Fair. We are looking forward to our classroom experiments as well as watching the science projects that the participating children bring in. Young children love science, and watching the experiments is so much fun for them as well as a wonderful learning experience. The presentations from the science fair participants to the class will start the week of March 11<sup>th</sup>.

In **Language**, the children continue to progress at their own pace through the language materials. Please be patient with your child as they navigate their way into reading. Reading is one of the hardest things they will learn to do. Everyone develops at different paces. Please trust in the Montessori program you have brought them to. We have readers who are in the first series of our Mac and Tab readers. We have others who are word building and learning to read 3 letter words and we have others who are working on beginning sounds. For those children who are learning their sight words please keep practicing them at home. They are doing a great job with them. We have introduced the compliment box and the children are having a lot of fun with it. They love to write compliments to their friends, and absolutely love getting compliments from their friends. As I

always do, I continue to ask you to **please read daily to your child**. Story reading is a warm and cuddly time for you to spend with your child. It increases their concentration as well as language development, and gives them a purpose to learning sounds so that they become interested in reading. Even after your child is reading, please continue to read to them on a daily basis. It is so important to make that part of your daily routine.



In **Math** we will be learning about clocks and how to tell time on analog clocks. We will be learning about seconds, minutes, and hours. Then we will move to our unit on money. The children will be learning the value of money as well as sorting, matching, and identifying coins and currency.

In **Geography** we will continue learning about countries in the continents. The kindergarten students will be making their World Map.

In **Science** with Spring on the horizon we will learn about birds and begin our unit on Botany. We will continue our Botany unit through to the end of the year with the children learning about plants, and growing, and taking care of their own plants.

**A few friendly reminders:**

- Please do not send candy in your child's lunch.
- **Please make sure you send in a washcloth daily to use as a placemat for your child's lunch.**
- Thank you for sending in such wonderful and healthy snacks and lunches for your children.

*Bloom Where You Are Planted ~  
Ms. Beth, Ms. Julia and  
Ms. Maysoon*



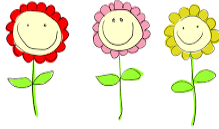
**Thank You For Understanding..**

Besides being physically healthy it is socially important for children to play outside, weather permitting, every day. We are also required by Michigan law to provide our students daily outdoor play (weather permitting).



Keep in mind our playground can get a little muddy with the melting of the snow, so thank you for understanding when your child's snowpants are sent home often to be cleaned.

**Using reading month calendar and reading tips – found in the 2024 folder**



## ~~~~~Questions To Ask Your Child After School~~~~~



What made you smile today?

Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?

Was there an example of unkindness? How did you respond?

What was the book about that your teacher read?

Did anyone do anything silly to make you laugh?

What did you do that was creative?

What is the most popular game at recess?

What was the best thing that happened today?

Did you help anyone today?

Did you tell anyone "thank you?"

Who did you sit with at lunch?

What made you laugh?

What was your least favorite part of the day?

Was anyone in your class gone today?

What is something you heard that surprised you?

Who did you play with today?

What is something that challenged you?

Did you like your lunch?

What questions did you ask at school today?

What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

What was the hardest rule to follow today?

Teach me something I don't know.

What made your teacher smile?

What made her frown?

What made you feel happy?

What made you feel loved?

Did you learn any new words today?

