



Parent Connection

January & February 2024

Winter Issue



From Ms. Jeanette's Desk:

Welcome back everyone. We hope you had a **Holiday Season** full of memories that will stay with you for a lifetime.



We hope you enjoyed the **Holiday Program**. The children work so hard toward that end

and they love to see their parents in the audience. For some of our younger ones it can be a bit daunting but we are proud of them that they bravely go onto the stage.

Also, we would like to express a tremendous thank you to those who volunteered to bring in a coat for our **Annual Coat Drive**. This started when my daughter was student teaching in the Kalamazoo area and found so many children who did not even own a coat or mittens. She would put plastic bags on their hands and go to Salvation Army and Goodwill to get what she could for them. She asked if our school could help. Our parents jumped to help and this drive has been going strong for over 20 years. We have since moved to another location to help out a school of underprivileged students and continue to help out so many families in need.



After the Holidays..

Please be aware that the Holidays can be somewhat overwhelming for our age children. There are often many people around, some not as familiar, an

expectation to behave a certain way, food that they don't eat on a regular basis and even holiday clothes that are uncomfortable.

Parents say that during the holidays they have relaxed their rules allowing the children to stay up late, eat differently, watch more electronics and of course get a multitude of gifts. However, the children seem more ungrateful. After the holidays, kids will absolutely **regress emotionally**. They will act younger than their age and whine, cry, throw tantrums, act needy, moody and generally have a meltdown. They are more difficult not listening, or being more whiny or disrespectful. Actually, in reality, they are somewhat overwhelmed and are reacting that way because they don't know how to regulate their emotions. Before becoming frustrated with their behavior, it's really important to take your child at their word. Step into their world for a minute and walk around in it. Really SEE how things might be perceived from their perspective. Then say out loud what your child is thinking, feeling, doing and saying **WITHOUT** judgement, teaching or fixing. This does not mean that you agree or condone their behavior. It simply means that you **understand**, and this part is so important to getting kids to open up to your guidance. Once kids feel heard and understood - they will start to listen to what you have to say. Now you have something to work with, and you can start talking about better ways to handle their thoughts.



Getting back into a routine is so important. This is something children crave. It makes them feel secure seeing a classroom that is the same as when they left with the same students and familiar materials. The rules and expectations are the same. In the classroom we always review what our expectations in all areas are about. Consequently, the children quickly

return to their pre-Holiday demeanor. It also is something parents need also. Having a routine and a regular schedule allows everyone to know what to expect which lessens anxiety.

We look forward to a great next semester with these amazing individuals. They love to share all their happenings over the holidays and get back into the pleasure of learning.

We Wish Everyone a Fulfilling 2024 -Ms. Jeanette



OFFICE NOTES

Car Tag with Child's Name

Please continue to display your car tag with your **child's name at drop off and pick up**. The color coded signs help the staff quickly recognize which class the student is in.

Flu Season



Simple steps can help prevent the flu. Help your child practice good hygiene like **washing hands, covering coughs, and sneezing into their sleeve** to prevent the spread of the flu. Please keep your child/children home if they are not feeling well. Keep in mind, a fever is telling you that the body is fighting an infection. A child should stay home with a temperature of 100 degrees or above. **Please, do not send your child to school until 24 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medications.** In addition, please inform the school if your child will be absent.

Valentine's Day Celebration and Personal Care Drive

The students will celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 14th. We will also be conducting a personal care product drive for local families. We are asking each student to bring in a personal care item. Information will be sent home soon.

Students Spare Clothes Box

Please continue to replace clothing that has been taken from the clothing box. Many boxes are empty!!!



Hearing Screening

Oakland County Health Division will be conducting hearing screening for 4 year olds (by September 1st) and kindergarten students on Monday, January 22nd Tuesday, January 23rd.

Enrollment for Fall 2024-2025

Registration will begin for our current students and their sibling's the week of January 16th. Look for the 'Green' Enrollment Folder with the Application and Tuition Schedule for Fall 2024-2025 School Year coming home this week. Open enrollment will begin February 6th for new families.

*When it Snows, you have Two Choices:
Shovel or make Snow Angels - -
Ms. Diane and Ms. Elizabeth*





PREK AND K 1 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Cheryl, Directress



Hoping you all had a happy peaceful holiday and are all prepared for 2024. Holiday times are wonderful to spend family time but we all thrive on routine so January is a great time to begin all our New Year routines. During January we will begin talking about peace and what the children find peaceful in their lives. We will work together on a peaceful project. We will discuss Martin Luther King's life and what he was famous for.

The children did amazing in their Holiday Performance at the Farmington Library. They worked so hard practicing and enjoyed all the songs that they were singing. They should be so proud of themselves. Thank you for taking time out of your day to support them. We look forward to their next performance in May at the Spring Concert.

There has been a job swap in our classroom and we now have Ms. Renad in our room as an assistant with Ms. Sandra. Ms. Ashley will be a floating staff member in the school and will substitute in each classroom when needed. She will continue to be in morning daycare.

In **Math** the children will continue where they left off in December, the older children with their math operations and the younger ones learning to recognize



numbers and count the correct number of objects. The children are exposed to numbers daily whether it be recognizing the date on the calendar or counting the number of children in class. In

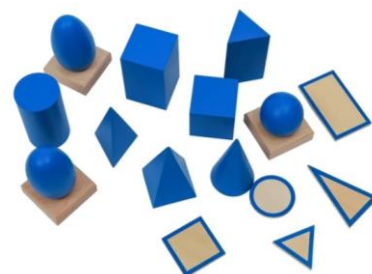
addition to this we will be learning to tell the time. We will begin with the o'clock so please practice this with your child at home just by pointing out the time and talking about what time you get in the car for school etc. Measurement will be introduced as well as Fractions. This will be presented in a fun way to the children. Discuss how many pieces you are cutting your next pizza or pie

into. Children learn much easier if it is in a course of their day and daily conversation rather than having to sit and study. Encourage your child to look out for numbers in the everyday world.

In **Language**, the children who are already reading continue to practice and improve. The next group of children are working on beginning sounds, ending sounds and word building. Please remember to work with lower case if you are doing work at home and the phonetic sounds. The children can get confused when working with the language shelf works as we teach totally lower case and phonetic until they become confident. Then the uppercase and letter names are introduced and usually this is a natural transition as they begin to read the upper case letters at the beginning of their sentences and write their own sentences. Playing sound games like I spy helps children to understand the whole sound concept in readiness for reading.

In **Practical Life**, more water works will be introduced and we will continue with cooking projects and food preparation. A child loves playing in the kitchen sink with some soapy water and some plastic plates and cups to wash. Try it at home.

In **Sensorial**, more geometric solids will be introduced. The process of making hexagons from triangles will be shown. They are already enjoying the binomial and trinomial cubes a lot.



The children will be introduced to the compliment box, they will be writing/drawing compliments to each other, this could be by thanking them for helping

them or just complimenting them on something they have or did. You will probably see little notes coming home in their backpack from their friends. Teachers will help the children who are not yet writing. Ask your child if they have sent anyone a compliment. We will re-read a book about filling each other's invisible' bucket, by saying nice things or only things we would like to hear ourselves. The children seem to relate to this and it sounds a little better saying to someone, "please stop dipping in my bucket" rather than, "stop being mean" and they understand.

In **Geography** we will continue introducing the remaining continents. If you want to talk to the children about a certain continent we would love you to come in and bring in some artifacts to show the class. The children are very excited to see their parents come into school. If you ever want to stop by and read a book to the class, just let me know and we can make you a surprise reader.



In **Science** we will be introducing experiments in readiness for our Science Fair. The children

really enjoy watching and taking part in this. Look out for the Science Fair packets. It's fun to talk with your child and find a project that they will find interesting. I'm hoping we will get some snow soon, so we can begin our studies on how snow is formed and looking at snowflakes.

It is very important that you provide your child with warm outdoor clothing including snow pants and

WATERPROOF MITTENS to wear at school each day. It doesn't have to be snowing. Please let your child wear their boots to school. We go outside everyday if the temperature is above 20°F. The first thing the children do when they go out in the snow is get their hands wet. Knitted gloves in the snow freeze their little hands and this is very miserable for them. Also please let them practice getting on their outdoor clothes by themselves. We teach them to put on their snow pants first, and then their jackets, hat, boots and gloves last. Allowing a little extra time when you are getting ready to go out will help your child become more independent and this will increase their confidence.

Remember that **Show and Tell** is on Thursday. If your child wants to take part, the item has to be something that is not a toy. We look forward to seeing souvenirs from trips, photographs or items the child has made. Favorite books or nature items that they have found and are interested in are great options. Please prep your child about the item and send in a note to help your child 'tell' about the item if you would like. Show and Tell is a confidence building exercise.

The children are enjoying watching the **hyacinth bulbs** grow. We have not had 100% success rate with them this year but that is nature and science. We will all enjoy the ones that flower and enjoy the beautiful aroma that hyacinths have. This is a big reminder to us (fingers crossed) that spring is just round the corner. Let us all continue to bloom and grow as the hyacinths have.



*Wishing Everyone a Very Happy and Healthy 2024 -
Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Sandra and Ms. Renad*





PREK AND K 2 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Jeanette, Directress



Happy New Year to everyone. We hope you had a great holiday break with family and friends. With a world so often filled with unrest, it is with the deepest gratitude to see the incredible generosity that was given by our parents during our **Coat Drive**. Not only were the coats beautiful, so many collected matching hats and gloves. The children were so grateful and now warm...thanks to you.

Our classroom did an amazing singing performance during our **Holiday Program**. They sang with such pride and brought huge smiles to the teachers. You can tell how proud they were with their work.

We look forward to '**Take a Parent To Work Day**'. This is where the parents of children going into kindergarten have an opportunity to spend some time in the classroom seeing and participating in what the students do each day.



We want to make 2024 a year of compassion, kindness, responsibility, and purpose. Our goal is to challenge ourselves each day, to try our hardest, and be proud of our accomplishments. With **Martin Luther King Peace Day** coming soon we will focus on the importance of peace in the world and in the classroom through peace studies. Our classroom will be filled with peace related activities in math, sensorial, and language. We will learn conflict resolution with the peace rock. And then continue into February with expressions of kindness to our classmates.

In the **Practical life** area we are bringing in smaller manipulatives, sorting work, and classification. The children perfect small hand/eye coordination, build concentration and enjoy calming exercises. Water will be introduced later in the month with pouring and spooning activities. This is much more involved and allows for a higher level of concentration and coordination.



We would like to give a special thank you to **Ms. McCarty (Shaun's Mom)** for her wonderful presentation on **Diwali**. The students enjoyed decorating diyas, getting hennas designs and hearing about the holiday and its traditions and eating the cultural food.



In the **Sensorial** area we are continuing to focus on the five senses with auditory, visual, olfactory, gustatory and tactile activities. In **Math**, the students will learn more about place value, operations, and continuing number recognition along with math terms. We will begin the introduction of currency. We will identify the coins and their values and work toward the use of a pretend store. This should be a lot of fun for the students and give practice in having proper amounts and giving change.



In **Writing** we continue to practice all forms of writing. This includes in the sand, dry erase boards, and on paper. Formation is critical when working with the students along with proper pencil hold. The students must also write their name regularly. We look forward to writing some compliments to our friends and some beginning sentence writing. At home give plenty of opportunities for coloring, cutting and writing of all kinds.



In **Science** we will begin our unit on birds. We will learn about how birds survive the cold, parts of the bird and to make bird feeders. Along with that we will do cold weather experiments while learning about the weather and weather cycle. We also plan to learn about Botany while planting a small plant and learning about its needs while it grows.

In **Geography** the students will learn about the continent of Europe and Asia. We will get a general idea of the landforms, major countries and their culture and animals of the area.

Art continues to be open ended but a very necessary aspect of the classroom. Control of the pencil, creativity, color mixing, shape identification and notice of detail are a few points learned.

Notes:

- A big thank you to the students for bringing us a wonderful singing program.
- Thank you for being such wonderful generous parents.

*We look forward to lots of fun learning together =
Ms. Jeanette, Ms. Shannon, Ms. Sherry and Ms. Valerie*



AM Daycare



Happy New Year!

We are so happy to be back at school with our morning care friends. Many of our friends arrive very early in the morning. Please feel free to send breakfast in with them. Please label which snack is their breakfast so that they don't accidentally eat their mid-morning or afternoon snack.

Please inform the morning day care teachers if your child has any important papers in their backpack that need to be handed into the office. The children love to walk down to the office and hand deliver their papers to the mail bin.

Morning day care ends at 8:45 a.m. At this time, the children go to their classrooms. If you are running late, and arrive after 8:45 a.m. please bring your child to the front door. There won't be anyone in the day care room, and there won't be a teacher to let your child in after 8:45 a.m.

Cheers to a Fabulous 2024! -Ms. Sana and Ms. Ashley





PREK AND K 3 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Beth, Directress



Happy New Year! We wish you the Best of Health and Happiness in 2024. We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday break and are well rested. We would like to give a big round of applause to the children for their wonderful performance at our **Holiday Program**. They all sang and danced so well and tried their best. We are so proud of them!! With the holidays behind us we are excited to get back into our school routines. Children love routines so with a little work they will fall right back into their school routine and continue their **Montessori Journey**. The classroom is buzzing with the children working. They are each progressing at their own pace, and are taking great pride in their work.

With the start of a New Year, we have been discussing New Year's Resolutions, and will be learning the Months of the Year. We have many January and February birthdays to celebrate. Please remember if you send in a **birthday treat** to make sure that it is **peanut and tree nut free** which also means that it can't be made in a facility that manufactures other foods with peanuts and tree nuts. We love to celebrate birthdays, but also want to make sure that everyone in the class will be safe with any snack that is brought in.

This winter weather has been very unpredictable so far. Please remember that we go outside daily as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or higher. Even if there isn't snow on the ground we have the children wear all of their snow gear for warmth. The playground will get muddy when the snow melts so please be prepared for muddy snow pants to come home to be laundered.

Thank you to Mrs. Shah and her mother (Gianna's Mom and Grandmother) for coming into our class and giving a lovely presentation teaching about Diwali and a special dance. We all enjoyed the wonderful craft you brought. We had a great time! If any parents would like to come into the classroom to give a cultural presentation to the children please let us know.



Peace Week (Jan 15 - 19) we will talk about the meaning of Peace and people who have contributed to world peace. We will set up a **Peace Corner** in the classroom and bring in objects that are tactile and visually calming.



In February with **Valentine's Day** upon us we will learn to be "**bucket fillers**" and the compliment box will be introduced in the classroom. We will teach the children what a compliment is, and how a little kindness can make people feel happy and brighten their day. The children truly enjoy writing compliments to one another, and receiving compliments.



In **Practical Life** we will be introducing water works. The children will practice pouring with water and transition into spooning and tonging with water. Please keep the spare clothes box filled. With the introduction of water there will be some spills and wet clothes. If your child comes home with clothes from their spare clothes box in their backpack please remember to send in replacement clothes the next day. This also applies to socks as they sometimes get wet inside the boots at recess and your child will change into their dry socks when we come inside.

In the **Sensorial Area**, we continue to work with the Trays of the **Geometric Cabinet** and will be introducing the rest of the **Geometric Solids**. We will then move on to the **Boxes of Constructive Triangles** which are the indirect preparation for plane geometry.



In **Language**, the children continue to progress at their own pace through the language materials. Many parents are asking when their child will begin reading. The children are all progressing through the beginning reading stages. Being able to read words is the last piece of the puzzle. Please be patient and let your child progress through the stages when they are ready. Each child will begin reading words when they are developmentally ready to begin reading words. Just a reminder - please use the phonetic sounds rather than the letter names at home as this is how your child is learning at school. We will be sending home sight word lists with the students who are ready for them. Sight words need to be memorized since they cannot be phonetically sounded out. Please make flash cards and help your child memorize



the sight words at home, this really helps them as they progress through the **Primary Phonics Series**. We will be introducing rhyming words to all the students and have fun with rhyming words on circle. 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** the children continue to progress at their own pace through the Montessori math curriculum. We continue to practice rote counting on circle with all of the children. We practice counting by 10's and will be introducing counting by 5's, counting by 2's and counting backward.



In **Geography** we continue to learn about **Planet Earth**. We have learned about the layers in the Earth as well as landforms and will move into learning countries in the continents.

In **Science** we are learning about vertebrates and invertebrates. We will learn about the animal kingdom. We will learn the classifications of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will soon move into classroom science experiments.

A few friendly reminders:



- Please make sure that your child has warm boots, waterproof mittens, a hat that fits, snow pants and a warm winter coat for outdoor play.
- Please make sure you send in 1 washcloth daily for a placemat in your child's lunchbox.
- Thank you for sending in such wonderful and healthy snacks and lunches for your children.



*Looking Forward to a Happy and Healthy New Year -
Ms. Beth, Ms. Julia, and Ms. Maysoon*





Children have to be educated, but they also have to be left to educate themselves. This was quoted by Ernest Dimnet and he could not have said it better. Welcome back to the wonderful world of our toddler room after your well-deserved holiday!

In **Practical Life**, we will be continually adding new and more challenging materials to our shelves. This is to keep the children engaged and to also help master the fine motor and hand-eye coordination skills. We will be stirring, cutting, cooking along with washing tables, sweeping the floors and watering plants. These are lifelong skills your child needs to promote independence, concentration and sense of responsibility.

In **Math**, we are working with One-to-one correspondence. By helping the children grasp the concept that each object or number represents one unit, they begin understanding the meaning behind numbers. Every day during our circle time, we will be talking about the month, day and year, along with discussing the weather. We also will be counting each day as a group while doing the calendar. As we approach the end of each month, the children will count out loud for a whole 30 days and more!

Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat



In **Language** we will be working on beginning sounds of our letters along with learning to recognize our first and last names. We love to inspire the children to explore lowercase letters because uppercase letters are mainly used at the beginning of sentences. We will be supporting language development by doing rhyming exercises, storytelling, songs and having fun with tongue twisters! We will be reading a lot and out loud, working on comprehension skills. Comprehension basically is visualization and understanding of the book we read. It is also called interactive read aloud which encourages the children to participate and recall events in the story. This will also help grow their language and verbal skills.

In our **Sensorial** area of the toddler room, we will be extending the dinosaur theme by utilizing our sensory table and "digging" through the sand for dinosaur bones. We will introduce more complex manipulative 3-D puzzles along with exploring sound cylinders. Sound is a sense that develops listening skills. Listening is a building block for language development.



With the colder months ahead of us, going outside is a hit or miss. We will be providing some music and movement activities along with large motor exercises along with free play. Please make sure all of your child's outerwear including boots and gloves are labeled with their name or initials.

A huge thank you for all the wonderful snacks provided by the parents for the children.

Our greatest national resource is the minds of our children ~Walt Disney

*Staying Warm with Warm Regards -
Ms. Michelle, Ms. Sana and Ms. Miranda*





PM Daycare



Hello Families and welcome to PM daycare! We have been enjoying our crafts, and outside time together. As the temperature drops, we ask that you dress your child accordingly as maximum warmth is our goal when preparing the children to go outside.

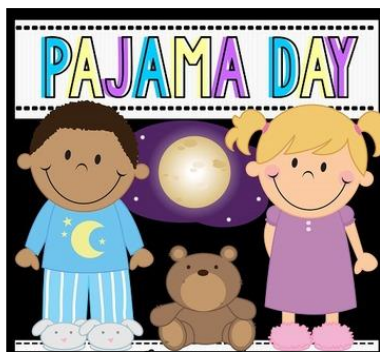
After our outside time we come in and eat our snack while talking about our day. We enjoy our themed crafts, coloring challenges, building blocks, legos and puzzles! On Friday we gather around and watch a movie while eating popcorn - a great way for us all to unwind after a long week!

The Color of Springtime is in the Flowers, the Color of Winter is in the Imagination - Ms. Miranda, Ms. SeYoung, and Ms. Shehmina



Pre-K & Kg Classrooms Pajama Day

Wednesday, January, 10th



Toddler Classroom Pajama Day

Tuesday, January 9th
& Wednesday, January 10th

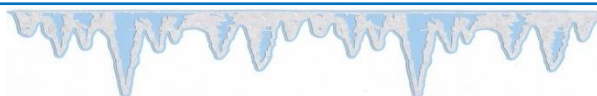
Brrrrr... it's cold outside!

Please remember to send the proper winter clothing with your child, as we will be going outside, weather permitting, everyday for recess. Check list for your child before leaving for school.

Do you have?

☐ Coat ☐ Hat ☐ Mittens (waterproof) ☐ Snow pants ☐ Boots

Keep in mind, your child's 'winter clothing' will come home wet and needs to be dried and sent back to school the next day.



Go to our website at:

www.bloomfieldmaplesmontessori.com and read the bi-monthly newsletter in full color, check-out upcoming events, learn what is new in the school, play the YouTube video tour of the school, etc...

Stay connected!

