



MAY/JUNE 2024

PARENT CONNECTION

'END OF SCHOOL YEAR' ISSUE

From Ms. Jeanette's Desk



Why should you Teach Independence with your Child?

In the Montessori classroom, students are not viewed as a group. Instead, each child is viewed as an individual with unique learning needs. This view of students makes independence an important factor in Montessori education. The teacher looks at each student as an individual and plans accordingly.

Reasons Independence matters:

- When children are allowed to do tasks on their own, they build confidence in their abilities. It boosts their self-esteem and makes them believe in themselves.
- They develop life skills. They learn to be responsible, make decisions, solve problems and become self-sufficient.
- Motivation and internal drive: Montessori classrooms encourage children to set their own goals and choose their activities. This fosters intrinsic motivation, where the child is driven by the joy of learning itself.
- It fosters decision making. It allows children to use critical thinking to make decisions and to take responsibility for their choices.
- It encourages responsibility. The students learn how their actions affect others and to be a contributing member of the classroom or the family.
- It empowers children to take initiative, be creative and build an adaptability to face challenges in life.
- Finally, it prepares them for adulthood. They learn valuable skills to help them in higher education and in their careers as a productive member of society.

How do we do that in the classroom?

We create a positive, free-flowing learning environment, emphasizing practical life activities, and fostering a sense of responsibility for the environment and world around them. This cultivates capable and confident students.

As **parents**, you can play a crucial role in supporting the development of independence and self-confidence in your child. There are several things you can do to assist your child's growth at home as well:

- **Encourage Decision-Making:** You should allow your child to make decisions at an age-appropriate level, such as choosing their clothes or choosing activities they will pursue. This fosters a sense of responsibility and autonomy, which nurtures their decision-making abilities.

- **Promote Problem-Solving:** Encourage your child to solve problems on their own. Rather than immediately intervening, guide them through the problem-solving process to boost their confidence and help them develop problem solving skills.
- **Offer Opportunities for Independence:** Whenever possible, give your child opportunities to practice independence, such as preparing their own snacks or tidying up their play area. Be patient and supportive as they develop their skills, as it is through practice that their self-confidence will develop.

As parents we want to prepare our children to be as successful as possible and to always be there for them. Sometimes that means stepping back, allowing them to struggle a bit. Although that may sound counterintuitive the results of being able to accomplish something on their own can be so rewarding especially for your child but also for you. To hear the words "I did it myself" can be the best words you can ever hear.

"The Greatest Gifts We Can Give Our Children Are the Roots of Responsibility and The Wings of Independence." ---Dr. Maria Montessori

Ms. Jeanette



Office Notes

❖ SPRING WEATHER NEWS

Since spring weather brings lots of sunny days, we would like to remind everyone of sunscreen. Please make sure to send your child to school with sunscreen already applied. Thank you in advance for your help.

❖ BEE SEASON

Please let the office know if your child is allergic to bee stings.



❖ SAVE THE DATE

The **Year-End School Picnic** will be held on Friday, June 7th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. (There is

NO school on this day.) Information will go home at a later date.

❖ 2023 – 2024 YEARBOOK

We are pleased to offer a school Yearbook filled with wonderful pictures of your child and classmates. This book highlights special moments in our year at Bloomfield Maples Montessori. Order forms have gone home. Don't miss the opportunity to order now.

Every Summer Has a Story –

Ms. Diane, Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Dayla

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Go to our website at

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

Stay connected!

PRE-K AND K 1 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Cheryl, Directress



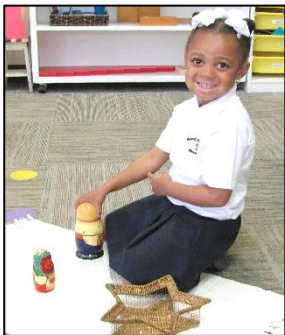
With the last couple of months of school upon us, we hope that the weather slowly improves and temperature increases so that we can all enjoy being outside together. Watching the children now compared to when we started the school year has been such a joy.

The children really enjoyed Mr. Guys visit. He brought instruments from Africa and Asia and the children were able to try them and dance around to the music they produced. Such a fun in house visitor!



Sensorial has become more interesting since we have been working with many extensions, which means using one or more of the sensorial materials together. Some of the works can become two person works; the children love to work with their friends.

In **math** the children have been progressing with complex numbers and doing the math operations if they are at this level. The younger children all seem to be mastering their recognition of numbers and working on placing the correct number of objects with the number. As the month and season changes the work in this area changes so they are always interesting. Always practice counting and recognizing numbers in the real world with your child. Clocks and money have also been introduced.



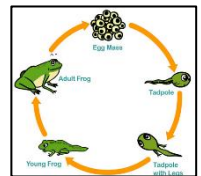
In **language** some of the children are writing sentences and sounding out the words. The spelling is not always correct but the fact they are trying to hear the sounds is such a confidence builder. The younger children are exposed to beginning, ending and middle sounds on

a regular basis in many different ways. This can take time and as I tell the children it is not a race, once they get them and remember them, they can move to the next level. This happens at all different ages and only when the child is ready. A lot of development has to take place to get the child ready. For example, a child needs to be able to dress themselves and use the bathroom independently before we can expect them to read fluently. Please make sure there are plenty of books available for summer reading. It's so important to read to your child daily. Cut down on the electronics and read books.



The children love the **practical life** area working with pouring, tonging, and many other different hand manipulatives. We introduced sewing and it was amazing to see how many of the children found this to be so relaxing. They just loved it! We will continue sewing until the end of the year.

In **science** we have planted the hyacinth bulbs outdoors that grew indoors. We hope to see them blooming next spring. We have also planted some seeds; it will be fun to watch them sprout. We have also been talking about the life cycle of animals. They especially enjoyed the frogs. We will also watch the lifecycle of the butterfly during the next couple of months. In geography we will continue with continents and showing the children where they are on the map.



We talked about recycling on Earth Day and used re-cycled items to make a craft of their choice. They really enjoyed using their imagination.





The children are busy practicing their songs for the school concert. Students are being asked to wear a plain colored T-shirt of their choice (no collars or motifs) and their blue school trousers.

On Friday May 17th we will have our Pre-K1 tea party where the children are invited to dress in their special clothing with hats if they wish. Sandwiches and scones will be served with diluted tea or lemonade. This is to celebrate our year with the children.



We have 4 children who celebrate their birthdays in the summer and I have sent out notes with the date that we want to celebrate them in May. Ice creams or popsicles would be much appreciated for their treats. Thank you. 😊



We wish all our kindergartners a great 1st grade and all the children moving on a great time at their new schools. We look forward to seeing all the rest of the children in September 2024.



Best Regards,

Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Sandra and Ms. Renad



AM Daycare

Wow! Can you believe the end of the school year is almost here? When one door closes another one opens. We want to thank each child for all the warmth and memories that we have shared this school year during our time in morning care. It has been a pleasure being with each and every one of you. Please be mindful that we will start going outside if weather permitting, please dress your child accordingly so they are not chilly. We wish everyone the best and hope to see you next fall!

Think Warm Thoughts...

Ms. Sana and Ms. Ashley



PRE K AND K 2 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Jeanette, Directress



Winter has finally said farewell and we can enjoy the sunshine and new growth around us. It's always exciting to see how the Earth comes to life. The students finally can consistently get outside...Run children run...work off that energy that has been pent up.

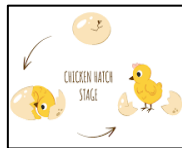
This is also the time to prepare to say goodbye to our kindergarteners. This year we were unfortunate to not have any kindergarteners in our class but we wish the kindergarteners in other classes a fond farewell. They are a special group of children that have shown great academic success and are role models of leadership.

We look forward to an enjoyable Spring Concert. All the children have worked very hard practicing and are excited to show you, their songs.

Science is alive in our classroom. We are very excited to have life cycles in progress in our classroom. We currently have butterfly larvae that are growing quickly and soon will spin a chrysalis. Along with that we have 5 chicken eggs incubating with the anticipation of baby chicks.



The children thoroughly enjoy the process and the excitement of the first pip, and the cracking open of the egg. They will learn the care of the animals, what the body parts are and their development. With Earth Day in April, we talked about how we are the visitors to the Earth and how we need to care for our animal and plant sisters and brothers.



In **Geography** we like to round out the year by learning about the United States. The children will learn the names of the states and their locations along with regions, climates and some topography. We will identify the parts of the

United States Flag and many others of the world. We will finally focus on Michigan and then will identify our home towns along with our home addresses.

In **Practical Life** we continue to have fun bed making, proper hand washing and table scrubbing, sweeping and caring for our environment. We are learning to organize our school work and be neat with all our belongings.



In **Sensorial** we will be using different materials to make some extensions of our sensorial materials. The children will be using a listening center to hear stories.



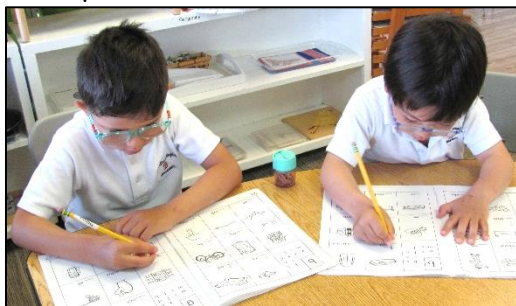
In **Math** we are working with all the students to strengthen their skills, playing memory games and being a banker. We are practicing math facts, math terminology of greater than and lesser than, counting backwards and skip counting. We have been practicing our telephone numbers so the children have an emergency number learned.

We are very proud of all the **readers** we have in our class. The students have worked so hard and enjoy reading and hearing stories. A few minutes of daily practice at home is the best way for the mechanics of reading to get easier for your child. The enjoyment of reading comes from listening to a great story. Please read regularly to your child.



We continue to have daily practice in **Writing**. It can be letter or number formation practice or proper sentence writing. We are learning to check and correct our own mistakes before showing the teacher. Many are using the "Writing Without Tears" program to practice proper formations. The older children are practicing creating their own sentences. Some of the children are learning parts of speech and the difference between a question and a statement.

Many will be journal writing and story writing.



We will be very sad but will fondly miss the students that move on to new schools. Please remember no matter what school they go to there will be an adjustment period to new expectations and routines. Although they did not finish the Montessori Journey, we know that they are very prepared at the level they are leaving us. We wish you the best.



Have a wonderful summer,

Ms. Jeanette, Ms. Sherry, Ms. Ashley, Ms. Valerie



PM Daycare

We have enjoyed all the children this year in After School Care. The nice weather has permitted us to spend more time outdoors playing games and taking nature walks on the playground. Send jackets if needed and no sandals on playground equipment.

After snack the boys and girls enjoy playing with puzzles, woodblocks, Legos and Hexabits. We do love playing musical chairs. It is one of their favorites. We love creating fun crafts and continuing our tradition of Friday movie and popcorn.

Summer Means Happy Times and Good Sunshine -
Ms. Miranda, Ms. SeYoung and Ms. Shehmina



PRE K AND K 3 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Beth, Directress

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the school year! This year has really flown by! **We have had a wonderful year together.** The children have grown so much both academically and socially. It seems like yesterday that the new students were entering the classroom nervous and scared and not sure what to expect. Now they are confident and happy to come to school. The returning students were such wonderful role models to the younger students and helped them transition into the classroom. It is sad that the school year is coming to an end.



We are sad to say goodbye to our kindergarteners, Elizabeth and Leo. It has been a pleasure to work with you. You are prepared for first grade and to start your next educational journey. We will really miss you, but we know you will be very successful in everything you do. There are a group of eager children just waiting to fill your shoes and become kindergartners next year.



The children are enjoying learning and practicing the songs for the Spring Concert. We are so proud of them. We can't wait to be able to perform for everyone. It's very exciting for them to perform for their families. It is a great experience for them to be able to perform on stage and in front of their loved ones. **During the concert, when your children are on stage, please do not call to them.** It is very confusing for them to hear their name being called out and

they lose focus on the purpose for being up there which is to sing the songs.

We are having a problem with pieces to works and recess toys missing. If your child brings home any items in their backpack that belong to the school please return them. Children love to "borrow" new and exciting objects from the works. We would really appreciate it if you could return anything that happens to make its way into your house.

The **Science Fair** was a huge success. The children presented their projects beautifully and we all learned a lot from them.



In **Language**, the children continue to progress at their own pace through the language materials. We have many readers who are at many different levels of reading. We have some who are just starting to read and some who are at the higher level of our reading series. The older children have started journal writing. We have many new readers and many who are very close to reading. Whenever your child reads to you, please be their biggest cheerleader. Enjoy the story with them and realize how hard they are working to become a reader. For the last time this year, 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.

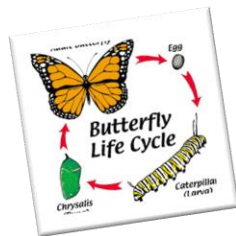


In **Math** we have been learning about clocks and how to tell time on analog clocks. We have started learning about money. The children will be learning the value of money as well as sorting, matching, and

identifying coins and currency. We will soon move to our unit on fractions. We are practicing counting by 10's, 5's, and are introducing counting by 2's.



In **Science** we will be very busy. We have begun our unit on Botany. The children planted marigold seeds and are taking care of their plants. They are really enjoying watching their plants grow. We have started our unit on butterflies. We are watching our caterpillar larvae eat and grow bigger. We are waiting, with great anticipation, for them to spin their chrysalises and emerge as butterflies. We will finish the year learning about insects and spiders.



We have **many** summer birthdays. If your child has a summer birthday be on the lookout for a note inviting your child to celebrate their birthday in the month of May. We will be assigning each child a different date so that we don't have more than one birthday celebration at a time. If you choose to send in a treat, please make sure that it is nut free and individually wrapped. With the warm weather approaching popsicles are a fun treat for the children to enjoy.



With the crazy Michigan weather, please make sure to check the weather each morning and dress your child accordingly. We seem to be experiencing cold weather one day and hot weather the next. Feel free to dress your child in layers and they can take off the outer layers if it is a warm day. If it is a really warm day please send your child in short sleeves. We do take our water bottles out to the playground on warm day to keep the children hydrated.

It is very hard to write this newsletter as it signifies the end to our school year. We have truly enjoyed spending time and working with all of your wonderful children. Thank you for allowing them to be a part of our lives. We hope everyone has a happy and safe summer. We look forward to seeing our returning students in the fall and hearing all about their summer adventures!



Have a great summer,

Ms. Beth, Ms. Julia, and Ms. Maysoon





**TODDLER CLASSROOM
NEWS**
Ms. Michelle, Directress

Actor Robin Williams once quoted "Spring is nature's way of saying, let's have a party!"

The weather has its moments, but all in all it's been warm enough outside to enjoy the fresh air, and sunshine!

Practical Life: In the toddler room we are having fun washing toys, rocks, tables and chairs, sorting assorted objects, learning to pour water without spilling, peeling fruits and lots of arts and crafts. In the self-care area, the children are learning to put on their own jackets and shoes along with blowing their noses, sneezing into the elbow and washing their own face and hands after eating. By practicing this, we are helping the child to feel a sense of accomplishment, this builds self-confidence by completing a task on their own.



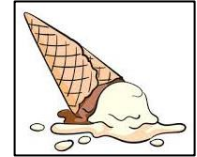
Language: We have been working on our beginning sounds and articulation in speech. Along with reading and working on "Opposites" we are also working on our writing skills, practicing proper pencil grasp. We are tracing and forming proper strokes such as horizontal, vertical and diagonal. We also are practicing writing skills on the easel or sensorially with the rice tray. The children have been learning about the different kinds of birds and insects using books, flashcards and posters. We have had a lot of fun using wild Audubon stuffed birds that play that specific bird call when squeezed.



Sensorial: The children had fun blending paint colors by taking two primary colors to create a secondary color. We also are working with geometric solids using three dimensional materials along with



flash cards. The favored shape seems to be the "cone" because it looks like an upside-down ice cream cone! We will also continue working with visual discrimination, creating patterns and working with more complex puzzle work.



Math: As we continue counting as a group using the calendar, the children have gotten very good at counting past 20. We also have been learning about the different days and seasons along with the weather. We are also using flashcards and books to instill number recognition along with one-to-one correspondence which is assigning one number to each object once.



During these last months of the school year, we will be learning the life cycle of the butterfly. We have adopted 5 caterpillars and will be watching them closely as they display the four stages of development. Once they change into beautiful butterflies, we will release them outside!



Our social/emotional goals we are striving to reach in our classroom by the end of the year are self-regulation, cooperation, self-evaluation, ability to lead & follow, development of social perspectives, self-direction, confidence and enthusiasm for learning! It has been a joy watching each child grow and express their unique individuality!! Thank you to all the parents who have supplied us wonderful snack



"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished" -Lao Tzu

With Love, Ms. Michelle, Ms. Sana, Ms. Miranda

**Hard to
say
Goodbye**

It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Ms. Elizabeth at the end of this school year. She has been a part of the Bloomfield Maples Montessori family for the last 23 years. At long last she has decided to retire and spend her next chapter in Charlevoix. We have loved her smile, her laugh and her sense of humor. She has been a perfect team with Ms. Diane for so long it will be hard not to see her in the office. Take a moment to come in and wish Elizabeth a fond farewell

With Love,
BMMC Family



To our Kindergarteners/ Non-Returning
Students:

“Though our paths may diverge,
the memories we made will
always connect us.”



Sunsets are proof
that endings can be
beautiful. Here's to a
bright summer break!

