



BRONXVILLE MONTESSORI SCHOOL
BUILDING A LIFE-LONG LOVE OF LEARNING

School Quarterly Newsletter by Deborah Bobian

March 2024-June 2024

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Hello BMS Families and may I wish everyone a well awaited Happy Spring (this is technically spring according to our meteorologists), so we say hooray! Today, I present to you flowers symbolizing the beauty of nature, as we wish you all the love, peace and joy each day will bring.

I hope everyone is adjusting to Daylight Saving Time; losing that hour of sleep can be a shock to the system. However, the benefit is that we can now look forward to extra hours of sunlight which will help nourish the body. So we “*spring forward*” an hour of time to “*look forward*” to the wonders this season has in store. During this time of the year the teachers look forward to taking the children outdoors to explore the miracle of nature, which is observed through the first signs of spring, such as seeing early spring flowers, the budding of the trees, and the smell of the morning dew. The children get to run and play and feel the wind brush across their faces, watch

the grass grow and turn green again, go on nature walks and collect rocks or seed pods as they listen to the songs of the birds flying overhead. So as you prepare your child for school each morning, please dress them for the outdoors, talk about the bright yellow sun and everything pertaining to the season of spring. Sing a song to them about spring such as:

Spring Time (sung to “Did you Ever see a Lassie”?)

My-eyes can see it’s springtime, it’s spring time, it’s springtime.

My- eyes can see it’s springtime, the grass is so green!

The grass, the flowers, the sunshine and showers.

My-eyes can see it’s springtime and I am so glad.



Photo Day

On **Wednesday, March 20, 2024** we will have our annual Photo Day! All children will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with their classmates & teachers, individually, and with a sibling (Thursday/Friday children will attend).

***Please note - there are no make-up days (sorry).** More information to follow...



Let's talk about the transitional toddler class...

At Bronxville Montessori School, we have a very special class called the transitional toddler class (T-3). In some early childhood centers this class may be referred to as the two's program. This class consists of a mixed aged group of older toddlers (2.5 to 3.5) who may have *late birthdays* (turning two after December), those not potty trained and/or old enough to enter the 3 to 6 classroom environment. The question most often asked is, "What is the difference between the transitional toddler and traditional toddler environments (18 months to 36 months).

Comparison - Each classroom has the appropriate child-sized chairs, tables and shelves to meet the needs of these growing children. Additionally, each classroom has a 1:4 teacher/student ratio except the class sizes vary - transitional toddler 12 students with 3 teachers and the traditional toddler environment 8 students with 2 teachers.

The contrast between the two environments are primarily the materials. The transitional toddler classroom loosely mirrors the 3 to 6 classroom with the areas of discipline. In the toddler environments (18 to 36 months), the areas of focus are primarily on sensory-motor and language development, as the children learn to transition from parallel play to cooperative play. In the transitional toddler class

begins the introduction to the language, math, sensorial, science, geography and practical life areas as seen in the 3 to 6 primary environments. Please note that this does not mean that children in the 18 to 36 month old environment are not introduced to practical life activities, numbers 1 to 10 or letters and sounds, it means that the developmental milestones become different leading to more lessons on a pre-primary level. In the transitional toddler environment, you see an increase in independent skills developing, children choosing appropriate lessons on their own, and more enhanced fine motor skills. It is at this stage cooperative play is in the forefront as their desire and inner need to play with a friend is important. Overall, the transitional toddler class fosters the need to be called a “big girl and boy” for those having trouble toileting, so, when they master toileting, they feel so proud! The transitional toddler environment is a wonderful place to build up that toddler who may be extremely shy into that confident 3 *plus* year old who is now ready emotionally and socially to enter the 3 to 6 primary classroom. Overall benefits of this environment is that it helps that child, who needs the extra boost to feel confident, enter the 3 to 6 primary environment with pride and high self-esteem.

A graphic with a green and yellow sunburst background. The words "SPRING BREAK!" are written in large, bold, blue capital letters across the center.

SPRING BREAK!

Do you need ideas or activities to do with the child(ren) over the spring break?
Here are a few I would love to share with you and have fun:

1. **Neighborhood walks** - the weather is getting warmer (hopefully there won't be too much rain), so take a walk around the neighborhood, use your phone and take pictures (only use the pictures if needed to help your child remember what he/she saw). When you get home draw pictures of the neighborhood and write a story together.
2. **Practical life skills** - let your child(ren) zip or unzip, button or unbutton your jacket (this should be fun) as part of his/her care for self activities. Of course you want your child to do this on their own clothes (talk about reverse psychology), but it will make him/her feel like a big girl or boy when they say they, "I helped dress my mommy or daddy!"
3. **Have your child help with the dishes...** set the table for meals, fold laundry, make the bed, and do basic household chores (they do this in school).
4. **Have your child help prepare his/her breakfast or lunch** - let him/her pour their own milk, juice or water, and prepare their sandwich. Make it fun by using cookie cutters to cut their sandwich out in shapes (they will really want to eat that rabbit shaped-sunbutter sandwich).
5. **Create your own wrapping paper** -give your child large pieces of white construction paper, crayons and markers and allow him/her to design wrapping paper for the next holiday or upcoming birthday present. Won't they be proud to wrap the gift with their specially designed wrapping paper!
6. **Play school together** - parents always ask the question, "What did you do in school today?" and the answer is usually nothing, I played or I had a snack. Well if you really want to know what is done in school or why they brought home a follow up that 'you' don't understand, play school. Allow your child to be the teacher (he/she knows how to act and talk just like their teacher) and you be the student. Let him/her present the lesson and you

ask questions or attempt to do the lesson and watch them correct your work. This is a foolproof way to see what your child is learning and have fun together at the same time.

7. **Recycle** - create (if you haven't already) bins for recycling (paper, plastic and aluminum). This is a time to be creative, find boxes of the same size and decorate them and then label them (use your computer to create symbols for each container). Throughout the week let your child recycle items accordingly. When it's **Earth Day**, your child will be able to share what he or she does at home. Let this be a continuous project, **Earth Day** is not just one day a year but all year long (they are already recycling at school).
8. **Bake** - bake some bread or cookies together, this is a nice way to enhance math skills as you measure ingredients together. The best part is eating the final product! Take pictures of the process and create a timeline of events and allow your child to bring it to school for Show - N - Tell.
9. **Beading** - this is a project no household should overlook. Get some pasta noodles (ziti, penne), get some food coloring, different colors and let's do some dying. Place the pasta in different ziplock bags, then use different color food coloring in each bag. Close the bag, shake and watch the magic. Have paper plates covered with paper towels ready to pour each colored pasta on. Let it dry. Use old shoe laces, yarn, lanyard, or pipe cleaners and begin the fun creating bracelets or necklaces.
10. **Scavenger hunt** - create a list with pictures of items hidden around the house. Give clues and let the fun begin. Do this as a family activity and at the end count all the items each individual found and of course have a special treat ready for everyone to enjoy (great for an Easter egg hunt).
11. **Just sit and observe** - go to the park and sit and just watch what is going on around you and listen to the sounds of the day. This is a great way to build observation and listening skills.

Have a great spring break...



Dates to remember...

March:

Wednesday, March 20th PHOTO DAY

Monday March 25th - 29th SPRING RECESS (school closed)

April:

Monday, April 1st LAST DAY OF SPRING RECESS (school closed)

Wednesday, April 10th EID AL FITR (school closed)

Monday & Tuesday April 22nd & 23rd PASSOVER (school closed)

May:

Friday May 24th & Monday May 27th MEMORIAL DAY (school closed)

June:

Friday, June 7th LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (11:30 DISMISSAL)

Monday, June 17th SUMMER SESSION BEGINS (LET'S GO ON A DINOSAUR HUNT) DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!