



Going forward in **December** our children will be learning about “**Bears**”.

The bear is a very cute mammal. For the little ones, it is one of their favorite animals! Almost every child has a teddy bear to cuddle with, they all like the stories about Winnie the Pooh and Corduroy, and everybody loves to watch panda bears at the zoo! There are so many interesting facts about bears that fascinate children and even adults. In particular we will explore:

1. Kinds of bears (Polar, Grizzly, Black, and Panda Bears)
2. Anatomy of a bear
3. A bear’s diet
4. The Hibernation of bears



Character Education – Words are Not for Hurting

Children are all pure and innocent. As such, they tend to speak whatever is on their mind. Sometimes, they might say something that hurts others without being aware of it. It is very important to guide them in their choice of words from a young age so that they can speak in a way that is sensitive to other people’s feelings.

Cultural Occasion

In December, we will learn about and celebrate:

Christmas: Saturday, December 25th (School closed from 12/20 to 12/24)

New Year: Saturday January 1st, 2022



Activities/Events in December

1. Gardening: Friday, December 3rd & Thursday, December 16th
2. Cooking project: Friday, December 10th
3. Share and Tell: Monday, November 13th
4. Field Trip: Friday, December 31st (to celebrate the New Year)
5. Walk around the neighborhood: Thursday, December 2nd, and December 16th
6. Christmas party: Friday, December 17th
7. Parent Teacher Conference: Friday December 17th, school closes at 12 noon

Looking back in November, our children had so much fun exploring “Pumpkins”!



We are amazed to find out that pumpkins are not just orange, but they can be green or even white! Our children were so excited when Ms. Sierra cut a pumpkin open, then they touched and learned about the various parts of a pumpkin. What was even better, we cooked the pumpkin and seeds, and got to enjoy both the sweet pulps and fried seeds! It was a bit challenging for our little ones to crack open the seeds with their teeth. Nonetheless, they kept trying and had a lot of fun in doing so! 😊



We are so grateful for our families' support! Our children worked with their families in decorating a pumpkin and brought it to school for "Share and Tell". Every family did such a wonderful job, and we were amazed with the creativity and artistry demonstrated in our final display of pumpkins!

Character Education – Gratitude

In November, our children learned about a key ingredient of staying happy – being thankful and grateful for what we have. It was heartening to hear them list everybody in their families, Ms. Sierra, Ms. Katherine, as well as each and every student in our program! We are so appreciative for our children and our families!

Activities/Events in November:

On Friday, November 12th, blending pumpkins and sticky rice, we made some delicious pancakes. We loved hearing our children say: "More pancakes, please!" 😊

On Monday, November 15th, every one of our children brought to school a pumpkin which he/she had decorated together with his/her family. It was a feast for our eyes!

On Tuesday, November 23rd, our children and staff enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner together. Among all the traditional Thanksgiving food, our children enjoyed the pumpkin pie the most! 😊

On Wednesday, November 24th, our large GOJMIS Community (including existing and past families, as well as friends of our families) had such a fabulous day together! First, we went to play at Monopoly in the Park in downtown San Jose. Stomping on the rocket launch pads, our children had a blast seeing rockets soaring into the air! They also had a great deal of fun playing balls, frisbees, hula-hoops, and bubbles. Coincidentally, it was the day after Khang Nguyen's 2nd birthday. Singing the Happy Birthday song both in English and Chinese, we were so glad to celebrate his big day together on the beautiful lawn just in front of Children's Discovery Museum!



After all the fun in the park, we moved on to Plaza de Cesar Chavez, where we found our Christmas Tree in the Park and took turns to decorate it. Prior to the trip, our children had made beautiful ornaments in school. Everybody was so excited to put their ornaments on the tree! We felt so proud to be part of the team that made Christmas Tree in the Park so beautiful and inviting!



Montessori Wisdom

Teaching of the Child

“The desire of the child to attain an end which he knows, leads him to correct himself. It is not a teacher who makes him notice his mistake and show him how to correct it, but it is a complex work of the child’s own intelligence which leads to such a result.”

-Mari Montessori, Absorbent Mind, p. 222

Montessori Quote & Manifestations

“It is no longer the visual image of the letter, but the tactile sensation, which guides the hand of the child in these movements, which thus become fixed in the muscular memory.”

-Mari Montessori, The Montessori Method, p. 204



Announcements

1. From November 29th on, we will start to use the amazing curricular materials from “Let’s Play in Spanish”.
2. We have made some changes to our weekly schedule, in that we will move Friday’s Spanish lesson to Wednesday, please see our updated schedule on our website: www.gardenofjoymontessori.org/schedule



Gratitude

1. While we appreciate and cherish the support from all our families, we would like to especially thank the families of the following students in the months of November:

- 1) For snacks/food/fruit/seeds:

Ai-An Truong (for snacks), Alessio LaVallo (for fruit, bubbles and seeds of various organic vegetables), Annie Nguyen (snacks), Emma Pham (food)

Reminders

1. December 2021 tuition is due by **Monday, December 6th**. To avoid any late payment fees, please make the payment before this date. An invoice will be sent to you soon.

