



## Going forward in **January 2022** we will be learning about “**Snowmen**”.

Snowmen! Every child loves snowmen! To familiarize our children with this topic, we will study the stories of:

- Frosty the Snowman
- Harry the Snowman

Meanwhile, we will learn the following songs:

- I am a Little Snowman
- Frosty the Snowman

In “Harry the Snowman”, Harry ran away from his problems – he thought nobody had time for him and nobody cared about him! We will use this story to continue guiding our children on how to solve problems and regulate their emotions.



## Character Education – Compassion



Compassion is the feeling of wanting to help someone who is sick, hungry, in trouble, etc. It is one of the core values our school holds dear. The pandemic has taught us a good lesson that as human beings we are all interrelated and inter-dependent. We ought to be compassionate, help each other, and treat each other with kindness, so as to make this world a more pleasant place to live.

## Cultural Occasions

In January, we will explore/celebrate the following cultural occasions:

1. **New Year’s Day:** Saturday January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022
2. **Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022
3. **Vietnamese & Chinese New Year:** Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Please note that our school will be closed for all the above occasions.

## Birthday

In January 2022, we will celebrate the birthday of:

**Ai-An Truong**, who is turning 5 on Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup>! Our Montessori way of celebration will take place in school on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Activities/Events in January 2022

1. Gardening: Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>
2. Cooking Project: Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>
3. Share & Tell: Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>
4. Field Trip: Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>
5. Chinese/Vietnamese New Year Celebration: Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>





## Looking back in December, our children enjoyed learning about “Bears”.



While our little ones liked all kinds of bears – polar bear, grizzly bear, black bear, or panda bear, we tend to like panda bear the most! Perhaps it is because they are the cutest. 😊 We found out that bears, like human beings, are omnivores, in that we all eat not only meat, but also plants. Our children were especially amazed about bears’ hibernation during which they sleep through the winter without eating, drinking, or even going to the bathroom! 😊

### Socio-Emotional Development/Character Education– Words Are Not for Hurting

Socio-Emotional Development is an essential part of our curriculum. This month we focused on these areas:

- Words are not for hurting, we need to be sensitive to other people’s feelings
- Taking turns
- Playing gently with friends
- What to do when I am upset?

### Birthdays

In December we celebrated two children’s birthdays:

1. Emma Pham who turned 4 on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, although the celebration took place on Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. Vincent Nguyen who turned 3 on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

We always love birthday parties! Thanks to both families for the delicious cakes, fruit, and food!



### Activities/Events in December 2021

December is a such a productive month despite the holidays!



1. **Gardening:** thanks to Alessio’s family for providing us with a bunch of vegetable seeds. We planted them in our garden and are glad to see that the fava beans and Chinese cabbages are thriving!
2. **Cooking project:** on Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>, thanks to Emma’s family for providing all the ingredients for pizza, our children had tons of fun making and eating the delicious pizzas they made themselves!
3. **Share and Tell:** on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, each of our children brought to school a bear-related item to share with the class (we had a bear puzzle, stuffed animals, and a bear picture). It was heartening to hear our children talking about their respective sharing items with such affection!
4. **Christmas Celebration:** on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> our children made their own reindeers with great excitement, then we had a dance party to

celebrate Christmas!



5. **Parent-Teacher Conference:** we had our first Parent-Teacher Conference for academic year 2021/2022 on the afternoon of Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. We were so glad to meet each of our families and talk about their respective child's progress in detail!

6. **Animal Petting:** since this month we were studying about animals, Ms. Sierra invited Tiffany's family (Tiffany left our program in summer 2021) to visit our school on Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, bringing with them 3 rabbits (Happy, Pompom, and UPS), 1 tortoise (Bingo), and a blue-tailed goldfish! We were all so happy to see Tiffany and her mom and spent some time with them! It was also gratifying to see our children giggling and laughing, as they put their little hands on the cute animals, except the fish! 😊



7. **New Year's Potluck Party:** on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, our large GOJMIS Family gathered at the Fowler Creek Park to celebrate the New Year 2022. It was a wonderful reunion and a grand feast for all! We were heartened to see our past and current families mingling together, with our little ones laughing and exclaiming with excitement and joy as they played together in the park! We wish each and every family within our large GOJMIS Community a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Happy New Year of 2022!



## Montessori Wisdom

### Teaching of the Child

"But if for the physical life it is necessary to have the child exposed to the verifying forces of nature, it is also necessary for his psychical life to place the soul of the child in contact with creation, in order that he may lay up for himself treasure from the directly educating forces of living nature. The method for arriving at this end is to set the child at agricultural labour, guiding him to the cultivation of plants and animals, and so to the intelligent contemplation of nature."

-Maria Montessori, The Montessori Method, p. 123

### Montessori Quote & Manifestations

"In fact, we may say that in many cases intelligence is rendered useless by lack of practice, and this practice is almost always sense education."

-Mari Montessori, The Montessori Method, p 221





## Announcements

1. Hurray! Our school has been received a Community Engagement Mini Grant of \$2,500 by the County of Santa Clara's Division of Equity and Social Justice (DESJ), aimed for community-led activities that empower vulnerable marginalized community and address the concerning rise of hate incidents and acts in Santa Clara County and build a hate-free community for all. This is in line with our ongoing "Peace Education". In the next few months, we will carry out projects that promote Peace, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.



## 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 December:

1) For snacks/food/fruits:

*Emma Pham (food, fruit, goodie bags), Vincent (food & goodie bags)*

2) For bringing animals for our children to pet: *Tiffany Lu*

3) For Christmas cards & gift cards:

Our staff members and Ms. Susy Dorn are all grateful for the beautiful Christmas cards and the generous gift cards from our families!

## Reminders

1. January 2022 tuition is due by **Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**. To avoid any late payment fees, please make the payment before this date. An invoice will be sent to you soon.

