



Going forward in **February** we will be exploring “Shapes”.

Shapes are everywhere! Our children are fascinated about shapes. Montessori education attaches great importance to children’s sense training. Identifying a myriad of shapes will help to strengthen our children’s visual discrimination. To this end, our children will



- Observe and identify
- Touch and Trace
- Categorize and match
- Draw and paint
- And learn the names of various shapes. It is guaranteed to be tons of fun! 😊

Character Education – Inclusion & Diversity

We were blessed to have secured a mini grant from Santa Clara County’s Division of Equity and Social Justice in January. These community engagement Mini Grants are aimed for community members and groups 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. With this grant, we were able to purchase more educational materials to teach our young children the concepts of inclusion, diversity, equality, empathy, harmony, and peace. This month we will focus on inclusion and diversity. Our GOJMIS community is one that is diversified, and one that welcomes everybody regardless of their race, gender, skin color, etc.



Cultural Occasions

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

1. Chinese/Vietnamese New Year: Tuesday, February 1st
2. Groundhog Day: Wednesday, February 2nd
3. Valentine’s Day: Monday, February 14th
4. Lantern Festival (Yuan Xiao Jie): Tuesday, February 15th
5. President’s Day: Monday, February 21st (School is closed)



Activities/Events in February 2022

1. Lunar New Year Potluck Party, Friday, February 11th
2. Parade in the Neighborhood, Tuesday, February 15th
3. Share & Tell: Thursday, February 17th
4. Cooking Project: Friday, February 18th
5. Gardening: Fridays, February 4th and 25th



Looking back in January, our children had so much fun learning about “Snowmen”.

Our children loved both stories of Frosty the Snowman and Harry the Snowman! From the first story, we were so amazed to see Frosty become alive and were so sad when he melted in the Nursery! However, everybody was happy to see him back to life with Santa Claus’ magic! One of our children even drew a picture of Frosty with a beautiful heart and shared with the entire class!



At the beginning of the second story, we felt sorry for Harry as he ran away thinking nobody cared about him. We were so grateful that Santa Claus brought him to travel around the world and see that children loved to build snowmen with their families and that snowmen brought so much joy to people everywhere!



Socio-Emotional Development/Character Education– Compassion

Socio-Emotional Development is an essential part of our curriculum. This month we continued to teach our children with the following concepts:

- Taking turns
- Playing gently with friends
- Being compassionate to each other
- Treating each other with kindness

Birthday

On Friday, January 14th, we celebrated Ai An’s 5th birthday (her real birthday took place on Sunday 1/16). As always, our children enjoyed the birthday party tremendously. Thanks to the Truong family for the delicious cupcakes, fruit, snacks and the fun-filled cactus-shaped pinata! 😊

Activities/Events in January

Activities

1. **Cooking project:** on Friday January 14th, our children made adorable and delicious snowmen with strawberries, bananas, grapes and raisins! Yum yum!
2. **Share and Tell:** on Thursday, January 20th, each of our children brought to school a snowman to share with our class. We loved every single of them!





Cultural Events

1. **New Year Celebration:** on Monday January 3rd, we had a music and dance party to celebrate New Year 2022. Josiah played a couple of songs on the piano “Jingle Bells” and “Frosty the Snowman”, and our children loved those cheerful tunes!



2. **Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** On Thursday January 13th, we listened to the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and learned about his speech “I have a dream”. We also read two books “Our Skin” and “A Rainbow of Friends” to help our little ones to understand the concepts of “Diversity” and “Inclusion”.

Montessori Wisdom

Teaching of the Child

“In brief, the teacher’s principal duty in the school may be described as follows: she should explain the use of the material. She is the main connecting link between the material, that is, the objects, and the child. This is a simple, modest duty, and yet it is much more delicate than that found in the older schools, where the material simply helps the children to understand the mind of the teacher, who must pass on her own ideas to a child, who must in turn receive them.”

-Maria Montessori, The Discovery of the Child, p. 150

Montessori Quote & Manifestations

“Our schools are alive. To understand what the older ones are doing fills the little ones with enthusiasm. The older ones are happy to be able to teach what they know. There are no inferiority complexes, but everyone achieves a healthy normality through the mutual exchange of spiritual energy.”

-Mari Montessori, The Absorbent Mind, p. 228



Announcements

1. Hurray! Our school will be offering a **Kindergarten program** starting from academic year 2022/2023. It is in the best interest of our children to complete the 3-year cycle (3-6 years early childhood education) in a Montessori classroom. This article explains why:

<https://amshq.org/About-Montessori/Montessori-Articles/All-Articles/Montessori-Parent-Please-Stay>

2. Starting from February 2022, we will use **Kidkare app** for billing. Please bear with us as there might be some glitches at the initial stage. Please do let us know if you have any problems receiving the re-occurring invoices.

3. We would like everyone to be dressed up in their cultural attires for the Lunar New Year Potluck Party on Friday, February 11th for multicultural celebration. Students and Staff are again expected to dress up for the parade on





Tuesday, February 15th. We will use both opportunities to promote Peace Education, as part of our commitment to the community engagement initiative sponsored by Santa Clara County's Division of Equity and Social Justice.

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 food/fruit/snacks: *Ai-An Truong & Annie Nguyen*

Reminders

1. February 2022 tuition is due by **Monday, February 7th**. To avoid any late payment fees, please make the payment before this date. A re-occurring invoice will be sent to you by KidKare.com on the 28th day of every month.
2. Please always check all events on the Montessori Compass Calendar and mark your own, so that you can plan accordingly.
3. We apologize for the delay in sharing with you our 2022 Sign in/out Sheet on Google, please remember to do so at least on a weekly basis, if not daily.
4. Please remember to bring your child's Friday Folder back to school every Monday.

