



## Bumblebee Class

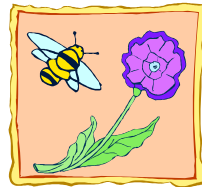


The children have been preparing for their Spring Program and are eager to offer you their talents. They are so cute, singing and doing the related movements and dances! We hope you will be able to attend and that you will appreciate the children's efforts.



We strongly encourage you to permit your child the opportunity to continue the progress he/she has been making this year, by attending our summer program. The children who do not attend during the summer weeks generally

lose 50%-60% of what they learned and have to spend time in the fall reviewing the work they had previously learned.



The summer weeks permit the children to work in an air conditioned environment, with their familiar friends and teachers. Additionally, we have water play each week and very special activities to delight the children. All the work in Montessori continues, at the child's own pace. Please check in the office for the summer calendar to see the great events we have scheduled!

Since our theme for our program was related to the United States, we have taken the opportunity to learn more about our country. We are fortunate to have a great deal of material to help to introduce the states, the flags and major land and water forms. We are also learning about the history of our country.



As we learn a song for our class we learn about what the words mean and why the song was composed. The children learn each song as a poem, then learn the melody, and finally put the two together. The patriotic songs we have learned will come in handy for our annual Fourth of July celebration!

## The Ladybug class



During the month of June the class will be continuing its study of the United States of

America. The children have been practicing their songs and dances for their annual spring program. They are enjoying learning the meaning of the songs they are singing.

Our study has included the puzzle maps of North America, and of the United

States. We have been learning about our National Flag and that each of the states have their own flag, including our own California.



Learning about our various states is especially interesting to the children as they mention that they have visited a particular state or have relatives who live in one of the other states.

The class will have a special project in preparation for Father's Day this month. The children are going to enjoy some special books that feature the importance of their fathers.

In preparation for Flag Day we will be making flags of our states and of countries of interest to the children.



## Summer Reminders



As the warmer months approach, we are sure to have hot, sunny days. We have been fortunate to have had a mild spring but need to prepare for what is coming.

We do not put **sunscreen** on the children at school. You are welcome to put sunscreen on your children before school. Please do not send sun lotion or sunscreen in your child's lunch box or bedding.

**Sunglasses** We do not allow children to wear sunglasses at school to protect them from eye injuries or eye infections. You are very welcome to send a soft hat, cap or visor to protect your child's eyes and face. We ask that you write your child's name on the hat or cap.

**Footwear** The children play actively and need their little feet and toes protected. Only closed-toe shoes and sandals are appropriate. Shoes without a

back or back strap are not safe for play. For our water play days, during July and August, the children need a real water play shoe — not flip-flops. There are very inexpensive water booties at all of the discount stores. Again—mark your child's name on both shoes with an indelible marker. Any towels, clothing (swim suits, etc.), need to be marked so we match them to their owners.



## The Dragonfly class

The children have been working very ambitiously on a great variety of activities within the classroom. The children have a special project this month, in addition to their regular work.

Each of the children has selected two states of the United States and will prepare a simple presentation about the states they chose. They will then present their 'research' to their classmates. We have been discussing the various flags, history, special products, etc., unique to the states. We have talked about the fact that each state has a special bird, flower, saying, and unique history.

We are especially honored to be able to use the collection of beautiful state flags, donated to the class by Julia Chang.



The children chose their spring program to feature the music and dance of the United States. This work has been great fun for the children. Each song has been studied to learn about the historical significance it holds. The children have chosen their parts, their music and are eager to perform.

We will be learning about Flag Day, celebrated on June 14th. The children love to make flags and spend a good deal of time with the flag materials of the various nations. They enjoy matching cards, books, drawing and analyzing the special features of the different flags.

We welcome the first day of summer on June 21st., and look forward to all the fun and excitement of the summer weeks.

Our silk worms have emerged from their cocoons and we have three moths! We are very grateful to Sydney Hildebrand for donating the silkworms, eggs and Mulberry leaves so that we can study metamorphosis. Perhaps it will lead to a cottage silk industry!

Father's Day and the first day of summer will be topics of discussion and opportunities for special art activities.

We look forward to our commencement and spring programs on June 18th and to seeing all our families.



## The Butterfly Class



As with the rest of the school, the Butterfly Class is busy with preparations for our Spring Program. It is an enjoyable process and a delight for us to see the progress of the children. Their enthusiasm and willingness to perform and participate is very impressive.

This time of the year is one of a mixture of happiness and sadness. We are honored to have been a part of the children's lives but will miss the ones that will be going on to the next level.

It is especially rewarding for us to see the children who, last fall, entered the Dragonfly Class and who are now ready to have their commencement program. We see their growth and their maturity and yet, still recall the time they spent with us in the Butterfly Class.

We see a transformation of a little, shy child into a confident, self-assured young person. We are humble and honored to have been a part of this process.

Our theme for the Spring Program has

lent itself wonderfully to our work in cultural studies. It has given a great impetus to our work with maps, flags, geography, history and music. It has given us good preparation for Flag Day, on June 14th and for our up-coming Independence Day celebration.

In learning about the flags we learn the parts of a flag and to identify the flags of the various nations and states. The children enjoy this work very much and readily mention seeing flags in their community.

We are learning about how the flag of the United States evolved over the years and changed to be the flag we call 'Old Glory'. The significance of the fifty stars and the red and white strips is also discussed so that the children have an appreciation of our flag.

Sydney Hildebrand has kindly shared her silkworms with us and we are nurturing our little moths. We have watched the process of the silkworm eggs transform into caterpillars, so small you can at first barely see them. But, as

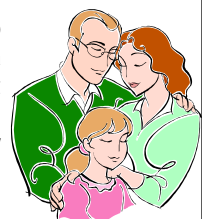


they consume vast amounts of their Mulberry leaves, they grow rapidly. They eat with such enthusiasm you can hear the

crunching! Now, we will have our new little eggs to start the process over again and see the miracle of complete metamorphosis.

The moth lays the eggs, the eggs change into very hungry caterpillars and then spin a cocoon of silk. After a time, the moth emerges and the cycle begins again. The moths do not eat or drink and merely mate and lay the eggs of the next generation.

We won't forget our fathers and plan to honor them with a special craft to present to them on June 18th, in time for Father's Day on June 20th.



VILLAGE MONTESSORI ACADEMY

23431 Golden Springs Drive  
Diamond Bar, California  
91765-2030

Phone: 909 860-4001  
FAX: 909 860-5076  
E-mail: sfoo@villagemontessori.net  
Www.villagemontessori.net

**“We’re building a better world,  
One Student at a Time.”**



### A Very Happy Father's Day

We wish to express our best wishes for a restful and enjoyable Father's Day, to all our fathers and grandfathers. Your importance to the children is beyond measure.

### Summer Montessori -

Village Montessori Academy continues our full Montessori program throughout the year. During the months of July and August, we add weekly special events that make the summer weeks exciting and enjoyable for all. Water play is offered every Friday and permits the children some old-fashioned fun and excitement.

Please refer to the calendars in the office to keep abreast of the fun! We have visits from Ronald MacDonald (restaurateur), Beatrix Potter (author/artist), a Magician, trips to Baskin Robbins, Chef's School, and of course, our Petting Zoo and Pony Rides!

The children are able to have a safe, relaxing summer with their familiar friends and teachers.

## Aiding concentration

### The Need For Concentration

One of the most important aspects of the directress' responsibilities is to provide an environment in which concentration is possible. To this end the directress takes great care in ensuring an orderly, complete environment. "Every thing has its place and everything is in its place."

Every movement, shown to the child by the directress, is done with care, a refinement of movement and gentleness. The directress' voice, movements and actions are all gentle and calm.

For a young child, the speed and agility we have in performing actions like tying shoes, opening containers, buttoning, etc., can look like 'slight of hands' or magic. It is so easy for us to do these tasks. For the young child, the directress slows the action down, isolates particular elements to show the child and offers the opportunity to repeat the activity as often as is necessary for the child to attain mastery.

### Driven to Distraction

Eliminating any unnecessary distractions from the environment is a great

help in providing an atmosphere conducive to concentration. This means we use a low voice in the classroom. We close doors very gently. We do not call across the room to one another. We carry and place objects gently. We act as the role models for the children.

Within the prepared environment of the classroom, we have noticed that there are many unnecessary elements, brought in by the children, that lead to distraction.

Shoes that light up, and offer a 'light-show', are great fun but a great distraction. You have to stomp on the floor to produce the best show, This is not helpful to a child trying to master things like mathematics, language arts, etc. The same can be said for shoes that play music, beep or squeak. The novelty is lost when it interferes with the child's opportunity to concentrate.

### Jewelry

Jewelry is lovely but, at school, necklaces and bracelets are often in the child's mouth, can catch on play equipment, and are real distractions. They are lovely to wear at home and to special events.

If you choose to send your child to school with jewelry, the directress will remove it and place it in an envelope and keep it safe in the office for you until the end of the day.

**Watches** are a great gift to offer a child who has really learned to tell time. In Montessori, we know the child is ready to tell time when he is able to work successfully with the Board of Powers (the bead chains for squaring and cubing the numbers from one to ten.) When the child can do the five chain, and can count by five's, he is ready for learning to tell time.

Offering a watch to the child when he's attained a sophisticated skill, like telling time, is a great way to acknowledge his newly acquired proficiency. Prior to this, the watch with all its gadgets and cartoon characters, is an unnecessary distraction.

We ask for your understanding and your support to maintain an environment in which all of the children are able to concentrate, to work and to learn in peace. It is for the good of all of the children that we ask this.