



MONTESSORI ACADEMY BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Last Month Highlights
 Field Trip: NASA a Human Adventure

Upcoming
 School Photo Session
 Chinese New Year
 Valentine's Day

Dear Parents,

We are excited to welcome several new students to the MABIS family over the past month. Our Casa and Elementary students have enjoyed the field trip to NASA A Human Adventure Exhibit

Chinese New Year Assembly. We will be celebrating Chinese New Year with an assembly in our new gymnasium on February 12th. We would like to invite family members to join our assembly

that morning from around 8:30-10 a.m.

In the assembly, Toddler parents will be invited to the stage to sing "Gongxi Gongxi" with your child. One parent will accompany each student. Please refer to this link for the song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AP3KgMQ5VSY>). Please practice with your child at home.

Some students will require special attire for their performance (we have already communicated this individually). All other students are invited to come dressed in Chinese New Year outfit. They are welcome to



ELEMENTARY

January has been quite a Buzz!! We had two new students join us: Lucy, a new student, and Chanya join us almost daily from Casa Green. This month we took off with our space exploration. The students were able to discover how the Space Race began, and how scientist and astronauts got to the moon. The elementary students also got a taste of what space "ice cream" would be like, thanks to Tatsuru's dad for bringing in the samples! We ended the month with a tour of the NASA exhibit. The students came back with more questions to research and have begun developing their space models.



CASA GREEN

Casa Green was very busy this month learning about geology and NASA. The visit to NASA: A Human Adventure was a huge success with the children and they greatly enjoyed their day out with their classmates and learning about rockets and astronauts. Their favorite topic was talking about the various rockets, Ham the chimpanzee and looking at the astronaut space suits. Some of the children delved deeper and talked about stars, planets and the solar system as a whole. We would encourage you to further this topic at home. We talked about, touched and analyzed various types of rocks and gemstones. We made igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks from edible materials. We are currently waiting for our sugar crystals to form and can't wait to see how big they will grow. The children greatly enjoyed making their sand jars and were very proud of their jars.



CASA PURPLE

In the first month of 2015, Casa Purple celebrated three birthdays and welcomed a new child to the school! Happy birthday to Namrin, William, and Charoen! And welcome Namrin to our school! For our geology unit this month, we looked at beautiful rock samples, and made igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks out of food. We also talked about mining, the uses of rocks, and the tools needed to extract rocks from the earth. We talked about crystals, and birthstones, and in preparation for our field trip, we learned about NASA, space and astronauts. The children are also preparing for Chinese New Year next month!

wear this throughout the day or change out to regular school uniform.

We will communicate further information on parking closer to the event date.

Chinese New Year Bai Nian. On the actual day that Chinese New Year is celebrated, February 19th, we will hold a “Bai Nian” (New Year greeting) ceremony where children will pay respect to their elders with oranges in the garden area. Parents are welcome to give their children the traditional Red Packets (which typically includes some money) after receiving oranges.

School Photos. The annual school photo session will be on February 5-6th. Whole school photo and class photos will be taken on the 5th. Please arrive to school early. There is no make-up session for group photos if your child arrives late.

Elementary class photo will be at 8:15 a.m. Whole school photo will be at 8:35 a.m. Toddler and Casa class photos are from 8:45 a.m. onwards.

Individual student photos will be scheduled throughout the day on Thursday and Friday. Group photos will be taken in the new gymnasium.

Parents (in particular Toddler parents) are asked to leave campus immediately after drop off. Parents are asked to not observe or enter the gymnasium during the photo session (past experience has shown that your child will seek you out and will cry).

Family is welcomed to sign up for photo sessions with your child. Please see the attached schedule. Please send an email to montessoribkk@gmail.com to schedule a photo session. We can accommodate up to three families per time slot.

Swimming ECA. Please note that swimming test will take place on the **morning of Friday Feb 6** between 8:30-11 a.m. instead of on Monday Feb 2. All students who have signed up for swimming please bring swim suits and a towel for the swim test. Two coaches will conduct the test which will take only a few minutes per student. Students will return to class after a quick shower and change of clothes. Teacher assistants will be on standby to help children with the change of clothes.

TODDLER BLUE

We are off to a good start this term! They kids are excited to be back at school and all seem to have grown up and matured over the holiday break. The children easily got back into our class routines without much fuss remembering to use their walking feet, inside voice, gentle hands and to tidy up by themselves (most of the time). This month, we made flower sun catchers and butterflies for our class décor and enjoyed making and eating melon balls and yogurt parfaits. This term, we look forward to exploring the 5 Senses with your child. Welcome Eden, John, Irene, Aerin and Phop to Toddler Blue!



TODDLER YELLOW

I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received this January, it has really helped me to feel like a part of the community here at MABIS. In the Toddler Yellow class this month we focused on allowing our toddlers to feel reacquainted with their environment while getting used to having a new face in the room. We made sun catchers, beautifully finger painted butterflies and a collage of the body which we have hung in our class. We enjoyed making and eating delicious melon balls, yogurt granola parfait and cookies during our Tuesday cooking classes.

We are helping our toddlers to use gentle hands, walking feet and their inside voice while in the classroom and have seen some wonderful expressions of loving kindness toward others in response to these simple actions. This month we introduced our topic of the body and our five senses to our students, it would be a great help if you could also talk to them about this at home. We warmly welcome new students Millie, Kly, Jessica, Memie and Devin to our class this month.



Thursday Feb 5	Activity	Family 1	Family 2	Family 3	Venue	Photo Stations
15:00-15:15	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
15:15-15:30	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
15:30-15:45	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
15:45-16:00	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3

Friday Feb 6	Activity	Family 1	Family 2	Family 3	Venue	Photo Stations
12:00-12:15	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
12:15-12:30	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
12:30-12:45	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
12:45-13:00	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
13:00-13:15	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
13:15-13:30	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
13:30-13:45	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
13:45-14:00	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
14:00-14:15	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
14:15-14:30	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
14:30-14:45	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
14:45-15:00	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
15:00-15:15	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
15:15-15:30	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
15:30-15:45	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3
15:45-16:00	Family photo - 3 families				Dance Studio	3

Please be informed that we will likely have 2 swim days: Monday (for Toddler and 4+ year old students) and Wednesday (for 3-4 year old students). The schedule will be released after the swim test.

We must receive payment for the swim lessons before permitting your child to take the swim test.

Soccer ECA. Soccer will start on Friday Feb 13. Due to popular demand we are opening up Junior session #2 for first year Casa students.

The 3 sessions are:
 Junior 1: 2:30-3pm for ages 2-3 years
Junior 2: 3-3:30pm for ages 3-4 years
 Regular: 3-4pm for ages 4+ years

If you would like to sign up or change classes please contact the Finance Office by 4pm Tuesday Feb 3.

Organic Farming. We are excited to re-invigorate our Organic Farm after a hiatus due to the construction. All students will be involved in the production of the organic fertilizer, composting and planting of different kinds of vegetables from mid February onwards. We will be asking for fruit and vegetable scraps for our compost. Please look out for further communication later in the month.

Parent Observation – Elementary Class. We would like to invite parents who are interested in seeing the Elementary class in session to sign up for an observation. We welcome parents between 9:30-11 a.m. Monday – Friday from February 16th onwards. Each slot is 20 minutes. Please sign up at least 2 days in advance with Ms. Jennifer (jennifer@montessoribkk.com). You will be given some guidelines when observing. We appreciate you following these guidelines so that you don't disturb the children who are hard at work.

Parent Education. We will kick off Parent Education with New Parent Orientation on February 4th from 2-3pm. The next session will be "How to Teach Reading to Your Child" on February 11th from 3-4pm, "Reward & Motivation" on March 25th, and an "Open Q&A Session" with teachers from the different levels on April 29th.

Montessori Association of Parents (MAP). MAP will hold its next meeting Monday Feb 16, 2015 at 8:30am. All parents interested are invited to join. MAP has started to outline parent-initiated activities for this semester and would love your participation and input.

School Directory. One of MAP's projects is publishing a school-wide directory of student and parent contacts to facilitate communication between families in the school. We are seeking your consent to release your contact information to MAP. We will be sending you a form to fill out to authorize or refrain from authorizing the release of this information next week.

Staff Professional Day. Kindly note that February 20th is staff professional day. There is no school on that day. February 27th is a regular school day. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the change in schedule.

Unwell Children. There has been several reported cases of Influenza A at school. Please keep an eye out for symptoms of fever and the common flu (nasal discharge, coughing, body aches). Please keep children who are unwell at home until they have completely recovered and do not display any symptoms of the flu. Children who show these symptoms may be isolated and sent home. Influenza A is a virus that is disseminated through droplets of coughs and sneezes. The virus can survive only around 30 min. outside of a host body. Per the recommendation of health care professionals and Social Welfare Services, we are aerating and cleaning the classrooms daily (as we normally do). You could also have your child wear a face mask to school for self protection.