



# Our World at Small World

February 2024 Volume 04 Issue 02



# Our World at Small World



February Newsletter

Volume 04 Issue 02



## Upcoming Events

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

Black History Celebration --  
In honor of Black History Month,  
Small World Montessori will be  
hosting a Food Tasting  
Celebration for all students to  
enjoy and explore Soul Food!

### FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST

Teacher Planning Day --  
Small World Montessori will  
be closed on Friday,  
March 1st. Regular school  
hours will resume on  
Monday, March 4th.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH

Spring Open House --  
Curious as to what your  
child has been learning?  
Sign up by scanning the  
QR code at the Front Desk!

## What did we do this month? Step into our world at Small World!

Dear Parent(s),

From January 15th to February 15th, our students and staff at Montessori School of Miami Gardens started off the spring semester strong with new lessons and new goals to accomplish in 2024! Across our campus, students participated in many festivities, including Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lunar New Year, and Valentine's Day. Our Administration and Staff would like to express our gratitude for the contributions from our parent community. Because of you, our first few celebrations of the New Year were a huge success!

It is our aim to provide parents with a monthly newsletter highlighting all the activities that happened during the previous month. In this month's letter, we have also included a featured article "**How Families Can Foster a Love of Reading in Their Children**" from the American Montessori Society.





CLICK ON ICONS BELOW  
to follow the classroom fun...



Small World Montessori  
School of Miami Gardens



@montessorischoolofmiamigardens

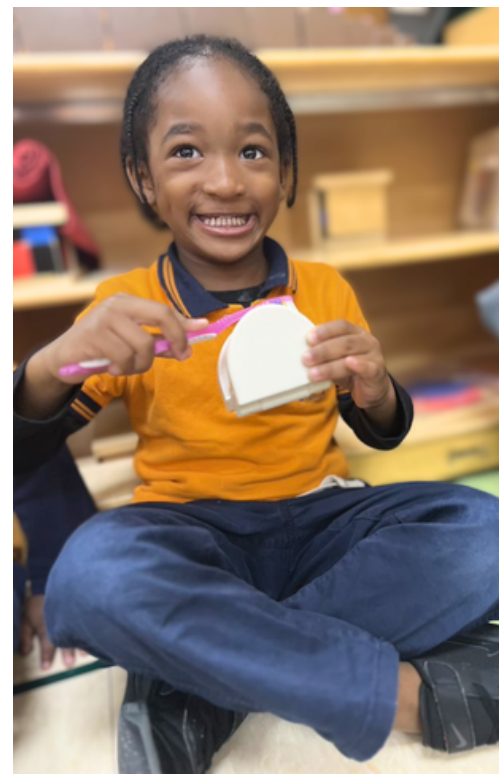


Small World Montessori TV



SWM Miami Gardens

# February Highlights



# What did we do this month? Step into our world at Small World!



## Martin Luther King Jr. Day

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 15th, students at Montessori School of Miami Gardens immersed in an educational journey, learning about the life and legacy of the civil rights leader. They learned about the profound impact of Martin Luther King Jr. and his vision for equality and justice. Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.'s teachings, students channeled their creativity into art projects that reflected unity and hope.



## Fun Facts! Did you know?

- 1 Martin Luther King Jr. loved to skate! He would often go roller skating to be active and have fun.
- 2 Martin Luther King Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his efforts for a more peaceful and fairer world for everyone.
- 3 Martin Luther King Jr. loved to read books and going to school. He did so well that he went to college when he was just 15 years old!





# What did we do this month? Step into our world at Small World!

## Lunar New Year Celebration

On Wednesday, February 7th, Montessori School of Miami Gardens embraced the vibrant traditions of Lunar New Year with a joyous celebration. Students dressed in vibrant festive attire and showcased their creativity while engaging in arts and crafts activities. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the Food Tasting, where students savored the flavors of Asian cuisine. We want to express our gratitude to all of the parents for their support and contributions to the success of our annual Lunar New Year Celebration.

## ? Trivia Time!

What do you know? Test your knowledge and check your answers at the bottom of page 11.

- 1 Which animal is associated with Lunar New Year 2024?  
A) Rabbit  
B) Dragon  
C) Tiger
- 2 Which color is considered lucky during Lunar New Year?  
A) Green  
B) Blue  
C) Red
- 3 Why do people give and receive red envelopes during Lunar New Year?  
A) For good luck and prosperity  
B) For writing secret messages  
C) For sharing delicious recipes





# What did we do this month? Step into our world at Small World!

## Valentine's Day Celebration

On Wednesday, February 14th, Montessori School of Miami Gardens came together in festive, vibrant attire for a heartwarming Valentine's Day celebration. The day unfolded with the students making delicious snacks, decorating bags with stickers, and sharing treats and heartfelt cards with all of their classmates. We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of the families who contributed to the success of this year's Valentine's Day celebration, including our dedicated parent volunteers who transformed the classrooms into enchanting environments, ensuring that our students arrived to school with excitement and anticipation.





# Valentine's Day Celebration Highlights





Featured Article:

# How Families Can Foster a Love of Reading in Their Children

by V. Kulikow

Habits are actions or practices identically repeated at predictable times. They can be as simple as washing your hands before meals or as complex as a holiday celebration. The routines become not just part of us but they become us. A love of reading can be instilled in a child from infancy and become part of their lives as well, becoming as natural as any other routine.

Love of reading is fostered at home by creating a language-rich environment for children. Before setting up this environment though, parents and parents-to-be must have an honest conversation with themselves and each other about their own relationship to reading, whether for pleasure or for learning. As a parent or caregiver, you are your child's first role model. You are the one they will emulate. Being truthful to yourself and your partner about your relationship to reading will help you choose ways to make a language-rich home for your child that works for you.



## The Importance of Shared Reading

The first step in becoming a reader is learning oral language. We instinctively talk to our babies for a good reason: to teach them one of our primary means of communication. Grandparents and other relatives telling stories around the holiday table is an example of not only the spoken word, but also of the structure of a good story. Through storytelling experiences, children absorb the fundamentals of story and through shared reading connect the spoken word to text. Sharing board books with your baby is a first step to help them connect words to pictures. For toddlers and preschoolers, reading aloud is the bridge from a child's understanding of oral language to the written word. If you make one-on-one story time with your child special it will only increase the joy of your child's experience.





Featured Article:

# How Families Can Foster a Love of Reading in Their Children

by V. Kulikow

(continued)

When shared reading time is approached as a chore, an adult unfortunately models that reading is an unwelcome necessity. Those negative messages will be absorbed by the child: reading is not a welcome pastime. Even if you yourself are not a big reader, shared story time for ten to fifteen minutes a day can set the stage for a child's love of reading as long as the experience is enjoyable. That means putting social media and work aside, for a complete immersion into story sharing. Asking questions throughout the book is okay. It can start a dialogue between you and your child reinforcing the connection between oral language and text. Ask simple questions like how did that story make you feel? Sharing your own feelings about the story with your child also helps start a conversation.

## Bring Reading Into the Home

In addition to shared reading time, having readily available language activities in the home makes it easier for your child to interact with story. Here are some ways to do this:

1. Create a reading nook with a comfy chair, favorite books, and even a tablet loaded with digital books.
2. If you're not a book reader, are you a magazine reader? Consider subscribing to a children's magazine. If your child loves nature try one of the nature magazines. It's imperative that you yourself be interested in the topic. Ask your child to share what they've read or read it together.
3. Fill your phone with age-appropriate digital books. Language game apps can be fun and educationally appropriate, but it is "teaching" children to read through games. It is not reading. Download fascinating children's books with stories you think your child will enjoy, either to read or listen to.
4. Listen to audiobooks in the car. If it's your turn to take everyone to and from sport practice, choose a book with stories related to sports. The shared conversation around an audio book is just as important as listening to the book, especially for younger children as they begin to comprehend stories, characters, and structure.

Featured Article:

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(continued)

5. Read the book before watching the movie. Again, this leads to great conversations about the differences between the two. With discussion, children can practice elaborating their opinions.

6. Go to the library and allow your child to choose and check out books even if they can only look at the pictures.

7. Attend library story times and other activities.

8. Allow books to be left around the house. You want books to be the easiest thing for a child to reach for. Books scattered around the house are not messy clutter, but rather tools to help your child develop into a well-read critical thinker.

9. Read your child's favorite books over and over. Try not to act bored. For young children, especially, rereading books is age-appropriate: they are learning something new every time they hear the story.

10. Try to read more. For some parents this might mean reading a magazine a week, while for others it might mean listening to an audiobook while making dinner. Showing your child that there is entertainment beyond a phone or video is important.

Helping your child love reading takes time. If one of the suggestions above doesn't work then try another until you discover what works for you and your family.

“**Reading is a large part of our lives, so instilling it as a joyful act can only add to your child's future.**”





# What did we do this month? Step into our world at Small World!



## Thank You!

We hope you enjoy seeing all the activities your child took part in. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. This newsletter is for parents, and we are open to suggestions including Article Selections. Join us in March to see our Black History Celebration, Dental Health Presentation and more!

Sincerely,  
Montessori School of Miami Gardens

[Send in Article  
Suggestions  
Here!](#)



? **Answers:** 1. B) Dragon 2. C) Red 3. A) For good luck and prosperity