



Academy for Children

A Montessori School
and Child Care Center

May 2026 Newsletter

May's Special Themes

The theme for all classrooms this month will be "United States." If you have any information or items to share in reference to these themes, please let your child's teacher know.

Early Dismissal

Friday May 1st is an early dismissal day. Classes will end at 11:40. Please let the Academy office know if anything in your schedule has changed regarding this day!

School Picnic

The school picnic is a great way for the children to mark the end of the school year with their friends and make plans to see each other during the summer programs. It is also a time for the staff to say "Thank you" to the parents for a wonderful school year. The picnic has been set for Tuesday May 12th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Lindenwood Park (weather permitting). Pizza and beverages will be available to purchase ahead of time and will be delivered to the park at 6:00 p.m. for your convenience. However, you are welcome to bring your own dinner items if you choose. Please stop in the office the week of May 4th if you wish to order your pizzas. You may order a large cheese or pepperoni pizza and family drinks for \$18.00.

Unfortunately, this year we were unable to reserve the shelter by the park as they are renovating the parking lot, but it is still open to the public. Please plan to bring a blanket to picnic on the ground as we cannot guarantee a table for each family. Also, due to the renovations, that parking lot

will not be available so plan on parking elsewhere. We are so sorry for any inconvenience!

Preprimary Graduation- May 20th

The 2025-2026 Preprimary students going to kindergarten in the fall will have a special graduation ceremony at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20th, at our school playground. We encourage all parents and family to come and join in celebrating all the achievements the Preprimary students have made! Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

Preprimary Picnic

The preprimary classes will be taking a class-only picnic on Thursday, May 21st at Island Park. Please look for a classroom note with more details. The Toddler classes will also have a small picnic on the playground. No lunches will be ordered that day as everyone will be bringing their own lunch.

Last Day of School- May 22nd

Friday, May 22nd will end our 2025-2026 academic year. We had a wonderful year together!

Center Closed for Memorial Day – Monday, May 25th

Swimming Lessons

If you are planning to have your child attend swimming lessons through the YMCA this summer, the Academy will be taking a group of children to 9:00 a.m. classes in the morning. You can call the YMCA and register with the Member Services Desk at 701-293-9622 or online with the links below. Once confirmed, please let the Academy office know by June 1st. Classes fill up early! Attached below is the information for which sessions and groups are being offered.

CAMP 1 - June 8 – July 2

M/W group

<https://ymcacassclay.wufoo.com/forms/z30by7n1o2zrha/>

T/Th group

<https://ymcacassclay.wufoo.com/forms/z1afprlz0w7vjls/>

CAMP 2 - July 13 – August 6

M/W group

<https://ymcacassclay.wufoo.com/forms/zb3q1tw0xnxz3c/>

Special Days in May

*The preprimary classes will be taking a field trip to the zoo on Friday, May 8th. The bus will leave the Academy at 9:30 and return by 11:30.

*Preprimary Island Park play day– May 13th (10:30 – 11:30) – weather permitting

*The preprimary classes will be taking a field trip to the fire station on Friday, May 15th. Ms. Jade's class will be gone from 8:45-10:00 and Ms. Ashley's class will be gone from 9:15 – 10:30.

*Pre-K Graduation – May 20th (2:30)

*Class Cold Lunch Picnic – May 21st (11:00 – 12:15) Toddlers will eat on the playground

E-mail Request

If you would like the newsletter and other information sheets e-mailed to you, please let the office know. You may also e-mail the Academy at AFCMONT@att.net.

Summer of 2026 Weekly Themes



May 25 – May 29	Child Care, <u>Closed May 25th</u>
June 1 – June 5	Backyard Critters
June 8 – June 12	Ancient Cities
June 15 – June 19	Works of Maurice Sendak
June 22 – June 26	The Great Academy Bake-Off
June 29 – July 3	Child Care, <u>Closed July 3rd</u>
July 6 – July 10	Andres Valencia
July 13 – July 17	A Midsummer Night's Dream
July 20 – July 24	Wacky Wonders
July 27 – July 31	Mushroom Forests
Aug. 3 – Aug. 7	Campfire Medleys
Aug. 10 – Aug. 14	Pirates Ahoy
Aug. 17 – Aug. 21	Child Care
Aug. 24 – Aug. 28	Child Care

Your Child's Clothing Box

Just a reminder to check your child's clothing box to make sure they have an extra set of clothes that are weather appropriate.

If your child has outgrown some of their winter items and you would like to donate them to the Academy, please let the staff know.

Classroom News



Preprimary II News– Ms. Ashley

What an exciting month! The theme for April was "Fish and Marine Life." We had so much fun with this theme through books, songs, art projects, and various works. We started the month by learning the parts of a fish. It was interesting learning about all the functions of the different fins. We also studied the layers of the ocean by examining bottles of colored water to demonstrate the amount of sunlight that reaches each layer as well as the different creatures that can survive in each layer. Throughout the month we learned about Echinoderms, Crustaceans, and Mollusks; We even saw some real examples of each classification. One of the favorite works in the room was matching water vehicles to their labels! The life cycle of the turtle is also always a favorite! The kids love learning through the models of the stages-to-label work. They also saw a short video of hundreds of hatchlings making their way to the ocean. We ended the month with an introduction to our study of butterflies. We did a lesson on the life cycle of a butterfly and read some books about it. We are looking forward to our own butterflies in May, where we will get a chance to see the life cycle up close. Watching the metamorphosis take place in our classroom is a highlight for the end of the year!

We celebrated Earth Day this year by singing songs and talking about the things we could do to help keep our earth healthy. The Pre-K kids took a walk around the neighborhood to pick up some trash. The weather was perfect! We also did a special Earth Day art project where we used watercolors and special watercolor paper to resemble the earth!

We had some special events as well. The Pre-K kids got to go to the Oceanarium at MSUM and walked to the Fargo Library. Thank you to the parents that showed up to help! We would like to thank our families for coming to celebrate our Parent Appreciation Day. We are truly so thankful for everything you do for our kids and school! A special thank you to Nicola Herting and Maddie Griffin for taking time to come do a fun presentation on body safety and safe adults! We would also like to thank Ms. Laura for her hard work getting our kids ready

for their year-end music program, as well as the families that attended! May's theme is "United States!"

Preprimary I News- Ms. Jade

The theme for April was "Fish and Marine Life." We learned so many interesting facts about underwater creatures and plants through lessons, songs, and stories! We started the month off by studying the parts of a fish using 3-part cards, a puzzle, and mini figures. To go along with our fish study, we brought up our new Author Bucket. This month we had the "Pout-Pout Fish" series by Deborah Diesen out in our room.

We have had quite a few class favorites this month! It was so great seeing the children enjoy the "arranging a fishbowl" practical life work. Getting creative using real fishbowl materials including rocks, decor, plants, and little plastic fish sure was exciting for everyone involved. They also enjoyed a sea creatures-to-labels work where they reviewed a fact about sea creatures and then matched them to their labels! We studied buoyancy this month to fit the theme of Ocean & Marine Life! This was a really neat multi-step lesson that the children thoroughly enjoyed. We started out by discussing what it means if something sinks or if something floats and what causes it to do so. Once our discussion was done the children drew a card, identified the object on the card, found it in the object bin, formed a prediction as to if it would float or sink, recorded their prediction, tested the object, then recorded the result! Seeing what happened when the object was placed in the water was so much fun!

Another popular work from the science shelf was the life cycle of a sea turtle. The children learned about the different stages of a sea turtle's life cycle and what happens during that stage. Then they matched the plastic replicas to their labels (egg, hatchling, juvenile, and adult). So many interesting books about sea turtles were read this month!

We spent a lot of time throughout the month talking about caring for the Earth in celebration of Earth Day. We read many stories and had a blast singing songs about the environment during circle time. Using their fine motor skills, the children cleared trash-like objects from a container of water. This lesson really reinforced the importance of keeping our water clean and beautiful! Cleaning the "trash" out of the water using tongs sure was tricky but definitely rewarding!

April was so much fun, and it was so nice to start having some warm spring weather! We had many exciting events and activities this April including Parent Appreciation Morning, Parent Guest Speakers, Earth Day, a Music Program, getting our classroom butterflies delivered, and two field trips for the Pre-K students (the Library and the Oceanarium). We are really looking forward to the month of May and all of the fun events and activities that take place during the last month of school! The theme for May is "United States." If you have anything that you would like to bring from home that relates to the theme, please feel free to do so!

Toddler II News – Mr. Tank

We started this month by talking about a few places where marine life might live, such as the ocean, marshes, lakes, and ponds. To start with ocean life, we read "The Pout-Pout Fish Cleans Up the Ocean." We looked at the various creatures and plants in the book. Everyone got to pick a color and use markers to color and make octopi.

Our next book was "There Was an Old Mermaid Who Swallowed a Shark," a very silly book full of rhymes and many beautiful animals. For our next art project, we used bubble wrap, paint, and paper to make sea stars. After that, we all chose another color and made axolotls.

While reading "We're Going On a Treasure Hunt," we looked at many fish and animals we can find at the beach or ocean. We got to make a cut and paste crab after this. We practiced our cutting, then glued the parts together.

Using our sensory bin to mimic a fishing hole, we caught fish and identified them. We also had cards and the corresponding sharks to match, learning about some interesting different kinds of sharks.

Lastly, we used white, black, and yellow to craft angelfish just like the ones we have in our fish tank!

We're getting ready for next month's theme of "United States!"

Toddler I News – Ms. Michell

The month of April was all about "Fish and Marine Life!" Our favorite fish facts were that fish breathe under water, they are cold-blooded, and the oldest fish is the Greenland Shark, living up to 400 years old! That's very old, even older than grandma and grandpa! We also got to watch our classroom fish swim around. Sometimes he would go fast, or he would take his time and swim slowly. The best part

was when he would go to the top and take little bits of food.

This month we also did wheat grinding and strawberry cutting. Wheat grinding really had us using our muscles as turned the handle to grind the wheat down. We talked about what wheat is used to make, such as bread, muffins, and the best cupcakes! Cutting strawberries was very fun! We enjoyed the sweet smell and seeing the tiny seeds on the outside. Of course, the best part was eating them!

It was so nice to see all the parents that came out for Parent Appreciation Day this year. We are so lucky to have such wonderful families at AFC.

Can you believe that next month is our last month of school before summer starts? Another year has flown by!



Infant News – Ms. Connie & Ms. Eve

This month our theme was “Fish and Marine Life!” We have enjoyed stacking our soft multi-colored blocks to make towers. We have all kinds of different sea animals on the outside for us to look at! We are also having fun playing with all the different sharks and fish.

There’s been lots of music-making with our shakers and other musical instruments. We’ve also enjoyed sampling all of the different foods in our kitchen.

This month, some of us have been mastering sitting up while others are getting better at pulling up to a stand and walking around. Crawling and walking are not far away!

For art, we made rainbow fish using sponges, turtles, a coral reef, pink fish, and orca whales. Using bubble wrap, we made starfish and then a fork was used to make a puffer fish and fishbowl. We also made some clams, lobsters, jellyfish, and some footprints on the beach. It was fun to use tinfoil to make the beach!

Some books we enjoyed this month were “The Rainbow Fish,” “The Pout-Pout Fish,” “The Beluga Whale,” and “The Commotion in the Ocean.”

A big thank you to Kelly, our MSUM student intern, for helping us create our Earth Day project! We were glad that she was able to spend time with us this spring.

We are excited to see the snow going away and the weather getting nicer so we can go outside to play again! Next month, our theme is “United States!”

Music News- Ms. Laura

Last month in our preschool and toddler music classes, we had so much fun revisiting and singing many of the songs we’ve been learning for our program. The children are becoming more confident with the melodies and actions, and it’s wonderful to see their excitement grow each week. We’ve also been working on our group skills, such as listening, taking turns, and participating together. The progress has been noticeable, and the children are doing a great job supporting one another during activities. The infants are engaging by moving their fingers and arms, little legs and feet, and trying to sing along! Our classes continue to be filled with joyful music-making, movement, and learning. We are so proud of all their hard work and can’t wait to share more with you soon!

Child Care News- Ms. Rachel

This month we had two full childcare days. Our themes were “Rainforest Excursion” and “Pond Life.” We got to make our own lily pads with paper plates and tissue paper for the flower. For Easter, we got to dye marshmallows like we would eggs. This was a huge hit! The kids loved being able to eat them once they were dry.

There is one last early dismissal day on May 1st. The theme is “At the Strawberry Patch” and you can dress up in red or gardening gear! We will have one partial week of child care at the end of May. We are excited for summer as it approaches quickly in the last month of school!

Thank you!

Gerdes Family – shoes, clothes and stuffies

Christopher Family – clothes and toys

Christenson Family – beads

Griffin Family – house toy

A special thank you to Christy Tehven for donating flowers and coming to talk to us about flowers and her occupation. All the classes had a great time arranging flowers and setting them around our rooms!

We are so grateful for each and every donation to our school.