

January 2025, Issue 1

The TBM Chronicle

TEDDY BEARS MONTESSORI ACADEMY



INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

Welcome

What's
Happening

What's New

Our Team

Welcome Back to School!

Teacher Preshanie Maharaj (Zia)

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to school! We hope you had a joyful and restful holiday season and that your little ones are as excited as we are to begin another wonderful year at Teddy Bears Montessori. It's always such a special time to reconnect and kickstart a new chapter in your child's learning journey, as we welcome your child back, we're excited to continue fostering a nurturing and inspiring environment where curiosity, creativity, and independence can flourish.



What's Happening

Preshanie Maharaj (Zia)

Our dedicated Montessori educators have been preparing engaging activities and meaningful experiences that will help your child grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

We are thrilled to share with you that we've been busy over the holidays making some exciting updates to our school! Both our indoor and outdoor environments have received a fresh look to better serve our children's learning and development. The playground has been refurbished, with new Astro turf and enhanced features to encourage active outdoor play.

Indoors, we've added a fresh coat of paint and re-imagined the space to bring the beauty of nature inside. Our goal is to create an inviting, stimulating atmosphere that inspires wonder, curiosity, and a deep connection to the world around us.

*The goal of early
childhood education
should be to activate the
child's own natural
desire to learn.*

Dr. M. Montessori

This Month's Theme: All About My Body, Hygiene, and Manners

As we embark on this new year, we're focusing on an exciting theme for the month:

All About My Body, Hygiene, and Manners.

This month, we'll explore the importance of understanding our bodies, maintaining good hygiene, and practicing kindness and good manners.

Through engaging activities, songs, and storytelling, children will:

- Learn about the Body: Explore the basic parts of the body and discover how it moves and functions.
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- Develop Hygiene Habits: Practice washing hands, brushing teeth, and staying clean to develop lifelong healthy habits.
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- Practice Manners & Kindness: Emphasize the importance of using kind words, saying "please" and "thank you," and showing respect for others.



What's New

Preshanie Maharaj (Zia)

Updates to Our Learning Spaces:

We've worked hard during the holidays to create an even more inspiring environment for your child. Here are some highlights:

- **Refurbished Playground:** The playground has been fully updated with new Astro turf and features to encourage exploration and physical activity. It's now an even more magical space for children to play, learn, and grow!
- **Nature-Inspired Indoor Environment:** We've repainted the classrooms with calming, nature-inspired colors and added elements to bring the outdoors inside. Fresh, vibrant spaces designed to stimulate the imagination and curiosity of your child await them!
- **Practical Life :** We have new accessories and materials in Practical life for all our children in the 1 to 3 year old class & the 3 to 6 year old Class too!

Important Reminders:

- **School Hours:** Our school day runs from [07:00] to [12:30 to 13:00 for half day then 14:30 to 15:00 for 3/4 day & then 17:30 not later please. Please ensure your child arrives on time to enjoy a full day of learning.
- **Dress Code:** School uniform daily that is supported with comfortable clothing is encouraged, especially for active play. Please label your child's belongings to help them & us keep track of their things.
- Please DONOT wear Spiderman or any animated cartoon character as this influences their behaviour negatively.
- **Snack and Lunch:** Please pack healthy snacks and lunches, and remember to keep all food nut-free to accommodate allergies. Unless having school lunch see menu on ClassDOJO

*The child who
concentrates
is immensely
happy*
Dr. M.
Montessori





How can you Support Learning at Home

Preshanie Maharaj (Zia)

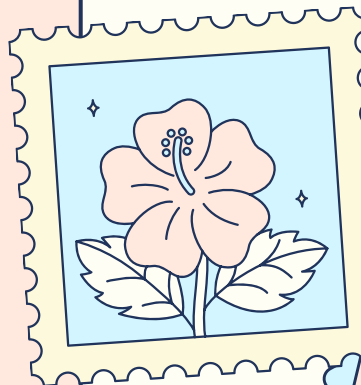
- **Hygiene at Home:** Reinforce the importance of hand washing, brushing teeth, and other hygiene habits learned at school
- **Discuss Body Safety and Respect:** Talk with your child about the importance of respecting their own body and the bodies of others, ensuring they feel safe and comfortable.
- **Practice Manners:** Encourage the use of kind words and polite manners at home to help solidify the habits we are developing in class.

Our Focus this Term

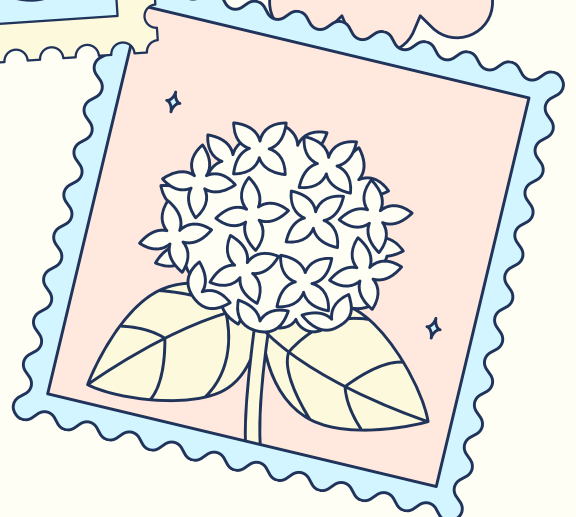
Preshanie Maharaj (Zia) & Ella

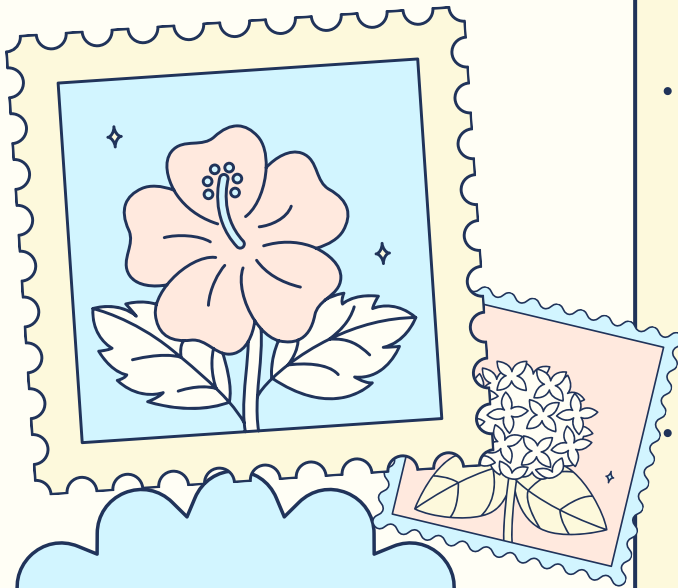
This term, we'll be focusing on:

- **Practical Life Skills:** Encouraging your child to participate in everyday activities, such as dressing themselves, cleaning up, and caring for their environment.
- **Language Development:** Helping children expand their vocabulary and understanding of spoken and written language.
- **Mathematics:** Introducing hands-on activities to build foundational math skills like counting, patterns, and early addition.
- **Art & Creativity:** Offering opportunities for children to express themselves through drawing, painting, and crafting.



- **Login to ClassDOJO** for daily/ weekly updates
- **our annual Calendar & fun days that you need to plan & prepare for & get organised & involved**





School Uniform orders are placed & deposits paid - As soon as I have any change in our uniform order status I will update you on ClassDojo - Please be patient - we are their smallest school with the smartest uniform - it takes time.

Our Team

- **Preshanie Maharaj (Zia)** With 21 years of experience in education, Preshanie holds a Montessori qualification (2003) and a Life Coach certification, specializing in self-esteem, parenting, and birthing coaching. She is a mother to two young adults – one a 4th-year LLB Law student at WITS, and the other a matriculant at Greenside High School. Preshanie is currently working toward completing her B.Ed degree part-time. Her leadership experience includes serving as the Chairwoman and Speaker for IWPG from 2017 to 2019. Additionally, she has conducted online webinars and coaching through Coaching Minds UK, and worked within Jay Shetty's online community, mentoring and coaching his followers for a year.
- **M. Elizabeth Setene (Ella)** Ella is a highly motivated, hardworking, and dedicated individual with a kind and protective nature. She is the backbone of the team, serving as Preshanie's right hand and second-in-command in her absence. With over 15 years of experience at Teddy Bears Montessori, Ella's wealth of knowledge and commitment to the school is invaluable. This year, she is formalizing her expertise by pursuing her qualification as a Montessori Teacher.

Welcome to our Team

Preshanie Maharaj (Zia)

- **Sarah Kalenga:** Teacher Sarah brings a wealth of experience from her many years of training and working in traditional nursery schools. Her loving, kind, and warm approach in engaging with both her colleagues and the children makes her an exceptional fit for our Teddy Bears Montessori family. We are thrilled to have her as part of our team.
- **Nhlanhla Miya :** Teacher Nhlanhla is eager to expand her knowledge of Montessori education. She has a caring and compassionate nature, which she extends to her peers and our young learners. With experience as an assistant teacher in various traditional nursery and foundation phase schools, Nhlanhla has already proven to be a wonderful addition to our family. We're excited to continue working with her this year.
- Both Sarah and Nhlanhla will be working with the Green and Orange Group children. They will also be undergoing extensive in-house training to seamlessly integrate traditional teaching methods with the Montessori philosophy. A warm welcome to both teachers as they join our TBM family!

We are so thrilled to have your child as part of our Teddy Bears Montessori family. Together, we will create a safe and stimulating space where your child can grow, learn, and develop into a confident and capable individual. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Warmly,

The Teddy Bears Montessori Team

