



Toddler Times

January/February 2025

BINGO 2025 is coming soon! MDOW's Purse Bingo returns on Friday evening, March 7th! This is MDOW's largest fundraiser of the year. Each classroom will have a theme for filling "their purse". If you'd like to join the team of Bingo volunteers, **please come to the team's first meeting this Wednesday, 1/15 at 6 pm**. If you'd like to help but cannot come, please contact Laura Bochmann lbochmann@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more information about supporting this very anticipated and FUN community event!

Yum! Our January & February Restaurant Fundraiser Events – Plan to eat-in or carryout, mention MDOW:

- **This Thursday, January 16, 4-9 pm at Grilled Cheese & Co.**, 500 Edmondson Ave. in Catonsville
- **Thursday, February 6, 3-7 pm at Peace A Pizza**, 15 Mellor Ave., Catonsville

Online registration for Summer 2025 and the 2025-26 school year at MDOW is underway for current families!

Please be sure to **READ and sign your Tuition Agreement** to enable your child's class placement.

Spread the word! Alumni/Waitlisted family registration starts 1/31, and on 2/7 for new families.

The MDOW Open House for new families will be held Sunday, 1/9 between 1-3.

On Saturday 1/25 from 10 am – 1 pm, MDOW will be represented at the **Howard County Child Care Fair** at the 50+ Center, 6610 Cradlerock Way in Columbia, MD 21045.

Happy New Year 2025! MDOW Weekly Themes in January/February:

See what we'll be exploring this month and the next!

- Jan 6 -10: Snow/Winter, Jan Brett- "The Mitten", "The Hat", "Snowy Day", Letter M
- Jan 13-17: Animals in Winter, Bears, Owls, Letter N
- Jan 20-24: Martin Luther King, Jr. & Friendship, Letter O
- Jan 27-31: Polar Bears, Penguins, Letter P, **Pajama Day—Wear your Pajamas Tuesday/Wednesday!**
- Feb 3-7: Shadows, Groundhog's Day, Superbowl Sunday, Quilts, Letter Q
- Feb 10-14: Valentine's Day, Community/Kindness, Letter R
- Feb 17-21: President's Day, Money, Patterns, Letter S – **MDOW Reads begins!**
- Feb 24-28: Teeth, Time, Letter T – **MDOW Reads!**



MDOW Reads, a favorite annual tradition, will begin February 17 and will run for several weeks. Look for "Mystery Reader" signup schedules outside of each classroom, when you or another loved one can (surprise!) come read a favorite book to your child's class!

We also celebrate reading with blank paper "cookies" that are sent home and returned to school with information about the books that you and your child have read together. The growing "cookie" collections are proudly displayed in each classroom during MDOW Reads!

A big THANK YOU for supporting our most successful yet Scholastic Book Fair in December, and to the parent volunteers who made it look easy—Angel Fraley, Dorcas Schindehette, Jason Clingerman, Jessica Dunevant, and Laura Bochmann. MDOW has been able to purchase much-needed classroom rugs with our Scholastic Dollars. It's a gift that keeps giving in sharing the joy of books and reading with the children in our lives!

Afternoon session spots are available in all classrooms

If your child currently attends only morning sessions at MDOW, consider arranging some afternoon sessions with the teacher to see if this might be something your child is ready for! Smiley, Heart and Bear Room students will nap after lunch.

Do you have friends or family with children who might like to attend MDOW during the afternoon (12:30 – 3:30)?

Annual Pre-K conferences with parents of our Pre-K students will be scheduled soon by teachers in the Ocean and Jungle Rooms. Keep an eye out for communications about this.



Snow Policy Reminders:

Families will be notified about any weather-related MDOW closings or delays via email, brightwheel messaging, and Facebook posts. Please be alert to local media weather-related announcements when bad weather is in the forecast.

MDOW **generally** follows what Baltimore County Public Schools decide. If schools are opening 1 or 2 hours late, MDOW would open at 10:00 am with no before-care. If schools are closed, MDOW is closed. If schools close early, MDOW Discovery is cancelled and you should pick up your child as soon as you are able.

Sickness policy

Please remember that children sick with fever, diarrhea or vomiting must remain home **for at least 24 hours** after they are fever-free, diarrhea-free or vomit-free without the use of symptom-relieving medication.

The answers to many questions--

such as whether or not school is open on certain dates, MDOW's Federal Tax ID number, and much more can be found in the Parent Handbook, which can be found online, anytime, on the MDOW website: mdowpreschool.com

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