

September 2nd, 2017

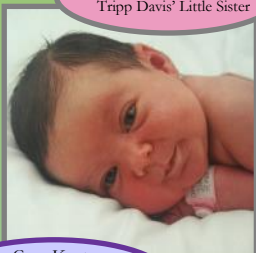
Volume 6 Issue 1

DOLPHIN TALES

New additions to
the MSR Family

Sarah Beth Davis

Tripp Davis' Little Sister



Cora Kautz

Seanna Kautz's Little Sister



Dixie Anna Denton

Tori and Zoey's Little Sister



Harris McElrath

Darden McElrath's Little Brother



Important Dates:

September 4
Labor Day-No School



Wisdom



Knowledge

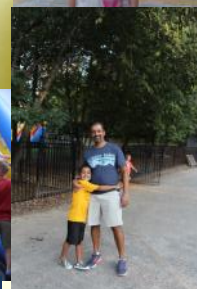


Peace

WELCOME BACK!

Aug. & Sept. Birthdays:

Ezekiel D.	8/1
Wesley S.	8/2
Cade D.	8/6
Cameron F.	8/9
Eleynore O.	8/12
Sasha D.	8/12
Newman A.	8/15
Om P.	8/24
Tripp D.	8/27
Lee D.	8/31
Seanna K.	9/1
George F.	9/2
Kaleb P.	9/7
Brynlee N.	9/8
Rachael C.	9/8
Parker J.	9/13
Ishan S.	9/15
Bo P.	9/17
Darden M.	9/25
Milan L.	9/25
Wyatt S.	9/25
Abigail R.	9/27
Aniyah J.	9/30



Toddler News from Ms. Ginny & Ms. Pam

What an amazing little class Ms. Pam and I have!! The children are settling in and doing so well! They all sit on the line during our line time and really enjoy the stories I read and the songs we sing. At nap time they are all staying on their mats and doing a great job going to sleep. They are learning if they wake up early, to lie quietly on their mats until it's time to get up.....great for such a young group! We feel very blessed this year.

We have had a good time learning about colors and shapes. These are ongoing themes that we will talk about on and off for several months. You can also help them with colors at home when you are dressing them talking about their red shirt, black shoes, blue shorts, etc. It's amazing how fast they will learn colors by doing this. Same thing with shapes really. The plate is shaped like a circle, your lunchbox is shaped like a rectangle. Things like this really help them to learn. We have also talked about grace and courtesy. Teaching them manners at a young age will stay with them always.

In September, we will learn all about the Zoo. We will talk about the animals and how the zookeepers care for them. We will learn several songs and also make lots of crafts (hopefully)!!

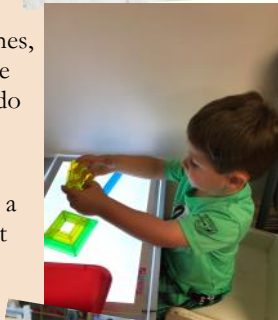
We go to the library every Tuesday morning. Your child checks out a new book each week as long as he/she brings back the one that they have had. It needs to be back by Tuesday morning in the little blue denim bag which we send home. Please talk to them about caring for the book. The children truly enjoy library time. Ms. Carol reads them a story and also shows them a short video on the theme that we are studying.

If your child goes home at 2:15, please remain in the lobby and let us bring them out to you. We don't want to upset the children waiting for their families when they see their friends' mommies and daddies picking them up. It's been a little hectic the first couple of weeks and we might run a couple of minutes behind, but things are getting better by the day. They are getting used to their daily schedules.

We have introduced several pieces of work to the children, and they are really enjoying work time. It's been mostly puzzles and "put and takes". They are also working on spooning (transferring from bowl to bowl), making bouquets and several other things. All these things use fine motor skills which are so important.

We have only received a few of the \$45 classroom fee for the different lunches, costumes, etc. If I do not receive everyone's by September 8, I'll just return the money back to the ones that paid and just ask for money for each thing individually. I just don't want to do part one way and part the other. It's absolutely fine with me either way. The payments are made to me please.

Thanks to all you great parents for trying to do all we've asked of you!! Y'all have done a wonderful job. If you ever have any questions, feel free to send me an email or a text at 706-346-4029.



Toddler News from Ms. Shannon & Ms. Dana



The school year is in full swing! September is here, and the children are settling in and ready to learn! We had a great time talking about our colors and shapes in August. This month we will talk about the zoo. This is such a fun month! The children love to talk about the different animals in the zoo!

We will talk about what the animals look like, what sound they make, what they eat, where they are from, etc. There are lots of great songs to sing and crafts to make.

We have also been talking about grace and courtesy. We will continue to build on these lessons. When we talk about them at school, the children are very interested in their manners. We've talked a lot about table manners and using nice words. This is also something you can work on at home. Helping them to learn please, thank you, you're welcome, and I'm sorry are very important lessons.



We had our first visit to the library this week. Our library day is Monday. Our library time is 9:15 so please send the book and bag back that morning. Children who don't bring their book back don't have the opportunity to check out a new book. This is very upsetting for them so please just put it with your nap roll so you'll remember to bring it back!



Thank you to everyone who came to the Back to School Picnic/Daddy's day. We had the majority of our class there!! I hope you all had a great time and were able to meet some new people. We are truly one big family here! Lunches have been going pretty well overall. There are still several children who are not quite in the routine and are pretty tired at lunch and therefore not eating a lot. I fully expect this to subside pretty soon when they are fully normalized in the classroom. Several of you send a lot of variety which is great. It might be a good idea since you are sending so many things to send smaller portions. When we put their food on their plates they are very full. Please practice at home drinking from a cup. We use small bathroom size cups for milk at snack and lunch. There are several who spill because it's new for them. We still give their water bottles as an option to make sure they stay hydrated. If you have any questions about lunch, it's probably answered on the notes I sent home last week. Several children are coming in hungry. If your child doesn't like to eat as soon as they get up and you are arriving early to school, please feel free to send in a breakfast snack for them.



Thank you to all of you who have sent in your toddler fee. I'm sorry that I forgot to add that checks needed to be made out to me. I hope it wasn't too big of an inconvenience. The toddler fee helps me to be able to handle things for the classroom without having to burden the office with taking up money for the various things that we need during the year. It also enables me to have the cash on hand if I find something while I'm out shopping for our costumes for International day or for the holiday program. Thank you all for your support! With that said, if you would be interested in being a room parent please let me know.

I know we are going to have a fabulous year! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Shannon



News from Ms. Ana Maria & Ms. Valerie



Hello! This school year is off to a great start. We are getting into all the rules and routines of the classroom. We have also been going over grace and courtesy lessons. We have been practicing saying good morning to each other and looking at each other when we say good morning. When we eat lunch, we make sure to put our napkin in our laps. We have also been practicing chewing with our mouth closed.

The children are loving getting all sorts of new lessons. We really enjoyed getting to start flower arranging this week, and Ms. Valerie has been introducing new extensions to lessons. Extensions to lessons are given when a child has mastered a piece of work, and they can then explore the work in different ways. Extensions to lessons happen in the cultural work and sensorial work. For example, one child was able to trace the largest broad stair and then pin punch it out. The children love to explore the work in all sorts of ways.



We have also begun sand paper letters for the year. If your child comes home with letters on their hands, this means they were doing sand paper letters. Please look at the letters on their hand and ask them questions about them. This is a great thing to do on the way home from school. Start off by asking your child what sound the letter makes and then the two of you can try to come up with words that start with that letter. Sand paper letters are always an exciting time, and each child goes at their own pace when mastering the letter sounds. Please make sure to say the sounds of the letters with your child and not the letter names.

Our morning line times have been all about practical life and sensorial. It is wonderful for the older children to get a reminder in how to use the work nicely and to remember all the steps that go into the work. During our second line time, we have been focusing on cultural work. We have been looking at the continent map and discussing where we live in the universe. We also used this week to learn about hurricanes and discuss what is happening in Texas.



Something that has always amazed me about Maria Montessori is that she made sure that every piece of work in the classroom had many purposes. For example, here are all the purposes to the children pouring beans from one pitcher to another pitcher: motor development, control of movement, care of the person and the environment, development of independence and sense of responsibility, development of hand-eye coordination, preparation for pouring liquids, and indirect preparation for writing. Every piece of work has a purpose, and there is always a purpose to the order that the children get the lessons. In practical life, each lesson has a few more steps in order to build the child's concentration before they start doing larger works on the carpet.

We are having a great start to the year. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks!



Primary News from Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

Back to school picnic was a success, what a fun way to kick start the school year! It was great to see all of you! We've had a great first couple of weeks welcoming our new friends in the classroom. We have been working on lessons about grace and courtesy, taking care of our class and being respectful with our friends and teachers. It is amazing to see how normalization is starting to happen and everybody is eager to work and have lessons.

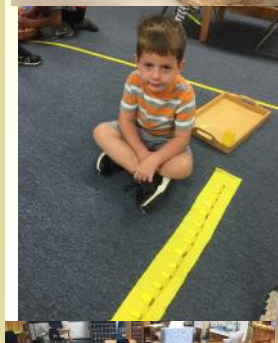
We have been introducing lessons on practical life and for those that have been in the classroom they have been picking up where they left off.

September will be the beginning of our class studies, beginning with North America and Ocean life. If you have something to share with our class regarding any of those two topics, please bring it so your child can present it during line time. We will also continue reinforcing grace and courtesy.

A few reminders:

- September 4th is Labor Day, no school
- Make sure your child has extra clothes in their boxes
- Please cut in half lengthwise all grapes and hotdogs; it is a choking hazard
- We began going to the library this Tuesday. Please make sure that your child brings the book back every Tuesday so they can check out other books. We will go every Tuesday at 8:30, so please have your child on time to join us.

If you would like to donate ketchup or ranch, the children will be very happy at lunch time! We are also still looking for parent volunteers to help with sandpaper letters.



News here and there

Amazon Smile donates .5% to MSR Booster's Club.

Please use this link [.http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1798713](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1798713) and ask your donors, volunteers, employees, and friends to bookmark this link so all their eligible shopping will benefit Montessori Parents Association Inc. Thank you!

Ms. Melanie's Musings

Welcome to our new families and welcome back to our returning families! We enrolled 38 new students this year, and it is so nice to see them happily settling into the Montessori community. Thank you to the parents for following the rules and respecting the teacher's schedules. I promise the rules are based on years of experience as to the best way to assure your child has a happy, healthy, and safe day. Our staff is experienced, compassionate, and knowledgeable about the needs of your children. I know it is difficult to leave your children in the care of others, and I assure you we consider it an honor. When I see the students concentrating on their work from the earliest ages of 18 months to our 10th grade students, and see how much they are enjoying learning, it makes me very grateful for our school and your children!

We were featured 08/30/17 on the front page of the Rome News Tribune for our new outdoor classroom and giant chess set provided by the funds raised by the Booster's Club. With your generous donations to the Booster's Club fundraising last year, and with the efforts of our co-presidents Kim Ball Headrick and Monisha Patel, we now have a lovely outdoor space which the entire MSR community can utilize. As Ms. Shemi stated, "we want to put the student into the environments they study; the wonders of being outside are disappearing in this digital age."

Here is the link to the article: http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rome/lifestyles/young_romans/outdoor-chess-draws-excitement-from-montessori-students/article_e58fc36e-8d55-11e7-bc6d-d33f4d2c6544.html

A special thank you for all the efforts of Kim and Monisha! Also, we want to thank Beth Dunay, architect for ED Design (and mother of Natalie) for designing this project and seeing it through to completion.



Elementary News: Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie



We're off to a great start in Lower El this school year! The solar eclipse provided a lot of excitement as we discussed the path the moon travels and made our own miniature models of the earth and moon. We acquired a new class pet as Ms. Maggie brought in a Leopard Gecko for the class to experience the care of a living creature. Some interesting observations have been made of "Gecky" which is what our gecko has been dubbed by the students.

We have the latest artwork hanging in the hallway and, as you're able to see, the children did a beautiful job introducing themselves to their classmates through art. Culture classes have begun in the afternoon with the students using their creativity to share their own "creation stories" and sketching living and non-living items they discovered outside. Everyone seems to be adjusting well to our morning work cycle and we're looking forward to a fabulous year!



This Friday will be our 1st day at the YMCA! Shin guards are needed for this first 7 weeks of soccer. Please remember to pack your child appropriate gym attire. Don't forget Monday the 4th is a holiday so there will be no school.

The Great Lessons will be presented to us by Upper El students beginning this week. This is always an enjoyable experience for the children. We also will be working on our own personal timelines to share with our classmates.

**** Please send in photos of your child (either email digital photos or send paper copies with your child) for each year of their life. Your student will need one photo per year. As we do not want to destroy precious memories, please do not send in any irreplaceable photos. ****



Also, Historical Timeline will be coming up in October, so it's not too early to begin discussing people from history who have made a contribution to mankind.

The school is participating in Rome Reads this year. It will be held September 12th from 5:00 until 7:00 at Mt. Berry Square Mall. The school will receive \$1 for our library for every elementary student who attends.

Thank you all for helping us have a great beginning to our school year!



Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie



Elementary News: Ms. Dolores



We have had an excellent first couple weeks of school. It's great to see that everyone has mud shoes and water bottles. The classroom schedule is sinking in and the children are enjoying review/new lessons. Our older students are doing an admirable job of helping out with the younger ones. We are all excited that Ms. Anna will be with us on Wednesday. Hopefully, most of you were able to meet her at the picnic.

Speaking of the picnic, it was great to see so many of you there. Know that the children were super enthusiastic about making the cards to put in your "Happy Box" (or whatever they chose to name it). The thought of a little card being able to put a smile on your face really motivated them.

Soon, your child will experience Maria Montessori's FIRST great lesson. There are 5 in all, so if they came home bubbling with excitement, know that there will be more to come. This month, in the afternoons, we will be studying the sun, the solar system, the atmosphere, volcanoes, land forms, living vs. non-living, and the five kingdoms of life.

Homework has begun to come home. Assignments of class work happen on Friday and everything is due on Thursday. If your child is ever having difficulty, please let me know via text or email before Thursday. Homework lab happens daily from 3:15 until 4:00 p.m. We also have time on Tuesdays, during the day, to assist with Spanish homework. Please go through your child's backpack periodically to help them with organization and to remove things that are not school related.

After another couple of weeks, we will have completed the Montessori normalization period, and we'll be looking for parent volunteers in the classroom. Anyone willing to help out with spelling, handwriting, math facts (flash cards) or cutting out materials, please let me know. We will also need a room parent to assist with some of our special events and to coordinate the classroom parties.

In October your child will be dressing up as a famous historical figure (deceased) and giving a short speech. We don't duplicate historical figures from the past 3 years of the Historical Timeline, so soon we will send out the list of people who have been chosen within the last 3 years. This performance works best when your child is curious about and interested in the character. We have many biographies in our school library and will be taking your children there in small groups. A schedule of deadlines will be coming home in the next couple of weeks.

My late afternoon is Wednesday, so if you ever need to have a private conversation with me about your child, I am able to stay until 5:30 p.m. Please make an appointment, as I may not stay that late unless a meeting has been planned.



News from Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Kaitlin



Upper Elementary has had a wonderful start to the 2017-2018 school year. We welcomed ten 4th years into our classroom and two new 5th years. The first few days were filled with excitement and astronomy lessons about the solar eclipse. On the actual day of the solar eclipse, the students were able to enjoy this amazing event safely with eclipse glasses. The students also did a fun activity with phases of the moon and cookies. We have included some pictures from that afternoon! The solar eclipse launched our studies of the solar system and the beginning of the universe.



Upper Elementary students also enjoyed their first fencing lesson this past week. They are doing some conditioning exercises and also learning the footwork they need to know. Instructor Walid also reviewed parts of the sword, or foil. The students are enjoying his instruction.

We had a wonderful bonding trip to Cloudland Canyon this week. Students reveled in the beautiful views at the canyon during the hiking.



News from Booster's Club

Thank you to everyone who attended the Back to School/
Daddy's Day picnic!

We hope everyone had fun meeting new and returning
families, receiving their special present, jumping on the
inflatables, and enjoying their hot dogs and snow cones!!
Please do not forget to turn in your \$25 per family for the
Booster's Club to Melanie.

Lastly, please contact either one of us if you have fun
event ideas for the kids during the day or parents at
night. We are always open to suggestions.

Take care,

Kim Headrick (kim-ball@hotmail.com, 706-266-2482)

Monisha Patel (monisha0423@gmail.com, 267-981-3306)



**THE TODDLER CLASSES ARE LOOKING FOR
RIDING TOYS FOR THE PLAYGROUND
(PREFERABLY WITHOUT PEDALS).**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO-
NATE, WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THEM!**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF MSR
FIELD TRIP SHIRTS. IF YOUR CHILD HAS OUT-
GROWN THEIRS, PLEASE TURN THEM INTO
THE OFFICE, AND WE WILL DISTRIBUTE THEM
TO THE NEW FAMILIES.**

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!