

March 1st, 2019

Volume 7 Issue 7

DOLPHIN TALES



Baby Announcements:



Mason Ellis Seymore
Baby Brother of Yana



Important Dates:

March 8th
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
No School

March 15th
St. Patrick's Day Sleepover
Elementary Only

March 21st
Science Fair
6:00pm-7:30pm

March 25th-29th
Spring Break

March Birthdays:

Dhiren K.	3/6
Robert K.	3/6
Kaylie M.	3/12
Levi H.	3/18
Aurora C.	3/19
Sawyer W.	3/24
Gabe A.	3/27
Kingston S.	3/28
Jamesen H.	3/31



Toddler News from Ms. Ginny & Ms. Pam

What a busy month we had in February. The children learned so much about animals that lived in Australia and so much more. It was a fun country to learn about. Thanks to all you parents for providing all we needed for lunch. It was all really good. I want each and everyone of you to know that you are appreciated very much. We love your children and truly enjoy working with them and seeing them grow and learn. These young moments of their lives go by so fast and I love getting to see what all they learn and accomplish in their toddler years!



March will be all about the farm. It's always fun. The kids love all the songs we sing and crafts we make. We learn about the animals and also talk about the farmers and all the things they do on the farm from herding cattle to growing crops. We will also be reviewing colors and shapes, and as always grace and courtesy.



There will be no school for children, Friday, March 8. We will be having conferences. Please see the sign up sheet on the day and pick a time.

March 25 - 29 is Spring break so please plan accordingly.

Toddler News from Ms. Shannon, Ms. Rachel, & Ms. Kayla



Thank you all for coming to International Day! I think the children did an amazing job! Thanks again to everyone who helped out to make it happen—from bringing stuff for lunch, to ordering costumes, to donating extra money to help buy things for the class, to buying oranges for snack time this month, and anything else that I may have forgotten. I really appreciate all of your support to make our class fabulous! A special thank you to the Chen and Wu families for their amazing efforts to make the day so special!

March is one of my favorite months! The children love learning about farms and their animals. We will also learn about what grows on the farm and that there are different types of farms. We will be collecting eggs from the Montessori chickens too. Let me know if you have anything to contribute to our studies this month or if you have any animals that you can bring to visit us.

Don't forget to sign up for a conference. The list is posted outside my classroom.

Important dates this month: March 8—no school, March 25–29—Spring Break.

Primary News from Ms. Ana Maria & Ms. Valerie

Thank you so much for everyone's help with International Day! All the food was amazing!! I could not eat enough. The students look amazing in their costumes. Thank you again to Jamesen's Grandmother and Athan's Grandmother for helping so much with the costumes and to Kim for helping us draw the animals. If anyone has not been able to see the room, be sure to stop by. The children have been asking that we not take anything down, so we will start taking it down very slowly.



March is science fair month for the elementary students, so we will use this opportunity to do fun science experiments in class. We will learn about the different part of a science experiment and discover all sorts of new things. We will also be learning about Australia this month.



Thank you for everyone who has signed up for conferences. This is an excellent time to come observe your child in the classroom. Their independent work cycle is from 8:45am- 10:30am. If you have an opportunity, be sure to stop by to see all the amazing things your child is doing.



This week we reviewed our grace and courtesy lessons. We hope you are seeing your child use their manners at home. We have been discussing the importance of being kind and using our words. We practiced saying good morning and thank you to each other. We have also been practicing saying excuse me.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Primary News from Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

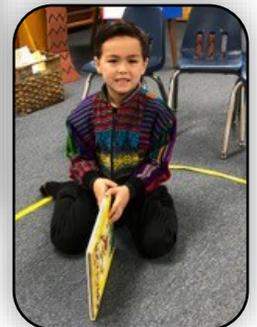
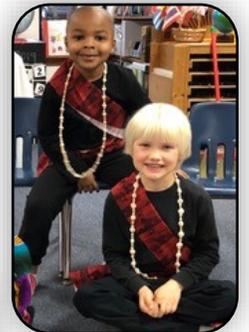
Thanks to everyone for making International Day a huge success. The food was awesome and the children looked amazing. We were so proud of them. The hard work paid off. I love how we are able to bring so much of the cultural world into our classrooms. We are especially grateful for Abby's parents for cooking all the amazing food and for everyone else who contributed to our lunch. During our studies, we focused on grace and courtesy also. Academics are very important, but we also want our children to be courteous and respectful to others. Table manners continue to be one of our daily topics. Hopefully, you are seeing these manners implemented at home also.

We are having an amazing week getting back into our routine, and we are working hard on our lessons. Conferences are coming up on March 8th! Please make sure that you have signed up for a conference time. There is a conference sign-up sheet posted at our classroom door. If you need another time that is not posted, please let me know. I will be happy to meet with you.

On Friday we are celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday. He taught us to use those silly words and to rhyme. The children love to read his books. We are having a special morning with all things Seussical.

We are beginning our studies about reptiles and the desert biome. If you having something related to our studies that you would like to share it with our class, please send it in.

If you have not been able to observe in our class, we invite you to do so. It is amazing at what our children are doing on a daily basis. The children enjoy sharing with you on how the materials are used and are willing to give you a lesson. There are many opportunities coming up at school for a visit/ observation. Re-enrollment packets are going home this week. Please return these as soon as possible. It is that time of year. We are getting many calls from people wanting to visit our wonderful school.



Thank You!

Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

Elementary News from Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

“Every unnecessary help is a hindrance to development.” -Maria Montessori

It seems that independence has been a theme this year for our classroom. Maria Montessori placed emphasis on children being given the confidence to work independently as this contributes to the development of healthy self esteem. Though it may take much longer to allow a child to complete a task which we could do ourselves, if we give in to the temptation to take over then we are unintentionally sending the wrong message to that child. The message is that the child is either incapable of completing the task or unable to complete it sufficiently enough to please us. Lower Elementary is an important age for developing a healthy sense of self esteem as this is the age when social awareness grows tremendously.

Dr. Montessori felt that freedom comes from independence but also pointed out that independence must come before freedom. Independence is an essential step in gaining a healthy self identity. When children realize they are capable of completing a task by themselves, alongside that comes the realization that they are their own separate individual who has the freedom to make their own choices. Given the chance to succeed at a task, the child then has the knowledge of his/her own capability to achieve something by himself/herself.

Of course, with independence comes a need for self-discipline. Dr. Montessori realized the need for limits within choices and the chance for a child to experience the natural consequences of his or her choices. Setting limits and allowing for consequences of choices help a child learn to make wiser choices and develop better self-discipline.



Science Fair is an excellent opportunity to allow a child to be more independent and to be shown he/she is capable of accomplishing a challenging task on his/her own. This is why we ask our students to think about a question to which they would like to find an answer. This question should be the basis for their science experiment. It allows them to work through the scientific method of asking a question, doing the background research, forming a hypothesis, testing the hypothesis through an experiment, graphing their data, analyzing the data, and, finally, communicating that data to others. When a student is permitted to use their curiosity in formulating a question for his/her science project then the result will be a student who is fully engaged in the process of the scientific method. This should create a fun and enjoyable learning experience for all involved even if it does get a bit messy or time consuming. We sincerely hope the science experiments will be an exciting educational process for our students and their families!

Conference time is here again! There is a sign up list posted on our classroom door. Please sign up for a time to come in and see some of your child's work and discuss their progress this year.
Thank you!

Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

Elementary News from Ms. Dolores & Ms. Robin

Science is much more than a collection of facts, it is also a process. It's a way that people can look at the world around them and systematically figure out how things work. Learning science is really about developing skills such as observing, inferring, classifying, experimenting, and predicting. Once these skills are honed, they open the door for the discovery of new facts.

Motivating children to learn about science should be easy because kids are natural scientists. They're always trying to find out "how things work, and why stuff happens." According to the National Science Education Standards, the most effective science programs are based on the idea that students should engage in their own investigations. If students are truly going to understand basic science concepts, they must have hands-on experiences with different phenomena. Maria Montessori taught us that kids (as well as adults) learn best when they "play around with stuff." Instead of being the "sage on the stage," teachers should opt for the role of the "guide on the side." Rather than simply being information delivery systems, teachers today are most effective when they act as facilitators, guiding student investigations and allowing them to come to their own conclusions based on the accepted scientific knowledge.

Parents of former MSR students agree that the "special events"; historical timeline, international day, and science fair; are among our children's fondest memories. And the benefits gleaned from these experiences; public speaking, understanding/appreciating other cultures, and subconsciously using the scientific method to solve everyday problems; have greatly influenced the young adults they have become.

Share the excitement of this event with your child and help them to keep up with the due dates. You get to do the "fun stuff" at home and hopefully witness that "aha moment" when your child learns something new through their own efforts. Your child may also need assistance with keeping things organized and in the science folder. You can help us out by checking the spelling and grammar of the work they turn in and sending in a science board before March 7. Ms. Robin and I will then monitor the "science board construction", otherwise known as the "un-fun stuff."

Thanks to all you parents for the fabulous food and for visiting us in Spain. It bears repeating that we couldn't have pulled this off without the "above and beyond" assistance from Ms. Dagmar, Ms. Robin, and Ms. Chandler.

Parent conference time is upon us and a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside our classroom. I have time available after 4 pm starting this Friday through next Thursday. There will be no school for your child next Friday, March 8, and I have some near-lunchtime appointments on that day.



Elementary News from Ms. Rebecca & Ms. Kaitlin

Parenting for Independence the Montessori Way: Fostering Self Discipline and Confidence

Maria Montessori understood that in order to be free, one needs to be independent. She also said that learning to be independent came before freedom. Teachers and parents that are new to Montessori sometimes misunderstand this concept, and expect a child to become independent by granting her/him freedom of choice without limits. Instead, fostering independence first will lead the child toward a sense of freedom and self-esteem.

So, how does a Montessori parent go about encouraging independence in their children? Here are some helpful ideas for parents to incorporate Practical Life activities at home, and foster the confidence and positive development as part of the Montessori philosophy of an “education for life”.

- **Encourage your children to make wise choices.** It is best, in the beginning, to give limited choices. For example: Would you like an apple or a banana in your lunch? Notice, the question is not “Would you like fruit in your lunch?” Another example would be: Would you like to clean up the playroom before or after dinner? Again, the choice is not whether or not they want to, but when they would like to do so.
- **Personal care and hygiene.** Allow your young children do things for themselves, such as dressing, bathing, brushing hair and teeth, clean-up, etc., with your guidance and supervision while they learn
- **Experience logical (natural) consequences.** Once your children make a choice, allow them to experience the consequences (good or bad) of that choice. Of course, since you are limiting the choices, the children are in no danger of being hurt. If you ask your children to take their gym shoes to school for field day and they choose not to, the natural consequence may be that they are not able to participate fully. I’ll bet they will make a different choice the next time!
- **Be careful of praise.** In an early blog I wrote about Praise vs. Encouragement. “Excessive, long-term praise can inhibit children from gaining independence because they rely heavily on the praise of those in authority positions.” Instead, encourage your Montessori children to make judgments of their own behavior, work, and ultimately, worth.
- **Include your child in family decisions.** Ask your child for her/his ideas and input. Any experience will be more meaningful to the child who feels they have some control over the situation, than a child who has no engaged participation in planning.



There can be no freedom without self-discipline. Self-discipline must be taught, modeled, and practiced before a child reaches the third stage of normalization.

Announcements



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We invite you to connect with us on social media! We post regularly on Facebook and Instagram and just re-launched our Twitter. Please follow us to stay updated on school events and to view a ton of great photos of our students at work. We look forward to connecting and communicating with you. We hope you like and comment on our posts and feel free to ask any questions or share our content with family and friends.

SCHOOL MESSENGER: To opt in to receive text messages from school messenger please text the letter **y** or **yes** to **67587**. We use school messenger to update parents on weather, delayed openings or school closures, etc.

Warm Wishes,
Chandler Lawrence
Administrative Assistant

Yearbook

Order Your Montessori School of Rome Yearbook Online

- Step 1:** Visit <http://www.memorybook.com/online-pay/parent-pay/>
- Step 2:** Enter your school code **189706** then click "Go to your school account log in"
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Order online through: **April 5, 2019**

If you have any questions about ordering your yearbook contact your school's yearbook advisor.

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Announcements

Re-enrollment Information:

- Re-enrollment deposit of \$300 (Upper EI, Adolescent, Secondary is \$400) due **March 15**
- Be on the lookout for the re-enrollment packets which will go out next week!

