

April 5th, 2019

Volume 7 Issue 8

# DOLPHIN TALES

## Welcome Spring!



### April Birthdays:

Braylen M.	4/1
Lilly C.	4/4
James C.	4/5
Jacob G.	4/7
Felipe S.	4/8
Alex B.	4/10
Banks B.	4/13
Annistyn P.	4/20
Davis D.	4/22
Molly E.	4/22
Kylee H.	4/22
Nicholas W.	4/24
Eldric W.	4/24
Ansley G.	4/27
Aubrey G.	4/27
Grayson G.	4/27
Shakeria A.	4/28
Samuel P.	4/29
Marcus P.	4/29



### Baby Announcements:

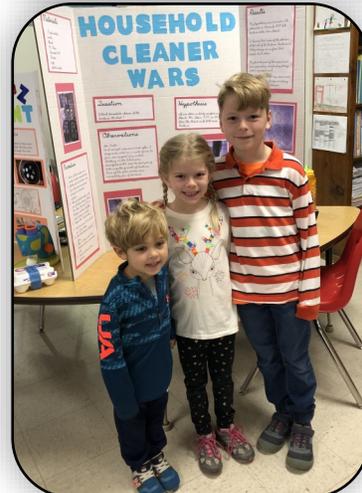


**Ada Jane Garrett**  
Baby sister of Rayann

### Important Dates:

**April 12th**  
Gardening & Special  
Person's Day

**April 19th**  
Easter Egg Hunt



## Toddler News from Ms. Ginny & Ms. Pam

Spring break was great. Hope you were all able to enjoy your child during this time.

Our time on the farm was so much fun. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and I do believe learned many things!! This month we will be learning all about insects and gardening. We've already started gardening crafts and learning new songs about bugs:). We will also review colors, shapes and using our manners.



Please remember the following dates.

Special person/Gardening Day - April 12

Easter Egg Hunt - April 19

Chattanooga Aquarium Trip - May 13



On Special person/Gardening Day, someone special to him /her is invited to come and plant new flowers in our pots on the patio. They will also enjoy making a craft and having a special snack together. You can come anytime from when they arrive and would like to wrap it up by 10:00. Every family needs to bring plants/flowers to plant. We will also have a sign up sheet on our door of other things we will need or would like to have for our patio and inside plants.

Our Easter Egg Hunt starts at 10:00 and is over by 10:05. Those toddlers grab up the eggs super fast. We ask each family to bring a dozen candy filled eggs (please tape each egg together). After the Egg Hunt, Ms. Shannon and I make sure all the children have the same amount of eggs to carry home. You will need to send a basket with their name on it for them to hunt eggs with. If you want to see it, you need to be out on the playground by 9:55, or you will miss it!

I will send more in the Aquarium trip later, but each child must have an adult with them. They also need to wear their field trip shirt. If they don't have one, let them wear a black polo shirt (Walmart usually has these fairly cheap).

Make sure your child has all the clothes they need in their extra clothing boxes.

Again parents, thank you so much for all you do. You all have made this year extra special!!



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



We had a great time learning about the farm but now it's on to greener pastures. We will be learning about flowers and insects this month. We have already learned about the difference between bugs and insects. Insects have 6 legs and 3 body parts (head, thorax, and abdomen). We are also singing a lot of fun songs and making lots of treasures to come home.

We are gearing up for Special Persons/Gardening Day on April 12. On this day, we invite grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, or family friends to stop by and plant a flower with your children. Each child should bring in a flower to plant (part-sun, shade) on our patio. It is best to plant at drop off so that your child doesn't have to go through separation twice. We will have a snack and a special craft to make too. We have a wish list posted outside of the classroom of supplies that we will need for the day. Thanks for helping out! This is always a fun event!

We will have our Easter egg hunt on Friday, April 19. Everyone should send in 10 eggs that are filled with treats, stickers, etc. Please no chocolate, it melts. The eggs need to be taped shut. They will also need a basket to hunt with. You are welcome to come but keep in mind that it lasts about three minutes and if you have a child that struggles with separation it might be best not to come. We would love to have a special treat for lunch that day. Please let me know if you would like to send something in.



## Primary News from Ms. Ana Maria & Ms. Valerie

We have started our studies on flowers. We discussed a lot about leaves back in the fall, but now we will learn about the parts of a flower and tree and what they need to grow. If your child has a flower or plant they would like to bring in to show, they are more than welcome to. Every plant/flower is so different- they love to explore each one. We will also be planting seeds in the classroom and learning about the parts of a seed. Please be on the look out for a wish list of items we would like for our patio.



One of the areas that all the children love is the cultural area. Ms. Valerie and I will actually end up telling the children they can do a map once the students complete their math and language work. The maps start off with the continent map and then go to the North America Map and then to the United States map. Then the students work their way through all the continents. They learn about the countries that make up the continents and how the culture may be similar or different to ours. Something that is very interesting is that the knob for each puzzle piece is placed where the capital is. This starts to give the children a muscle memory of where the capital is in the countries. Each continent has a folder as well. The folder has pictures of the countries. The pictures could be of a landmark, a street market, or even a field. The folders also will include small books about the country or brochures that people have brought back. Every folder has pictures of the people that live on the continent. We discuss how everyone in the world looks different and everyone has different traditions. Our goal is for the children to become citizens of the world.



Just like all the other work that Maria Montessori created, the maps have many purposes:

1. Development of visual discrimination.
2. Development of an awareness of geography and the world around us.
3. Direct preparation for social science.
4. Development of concentration.
5. Vocabulary Enrichment.
6. Development of respect of others and cultures.
7. Development of stereognostic discrimination.

Thank you,  
Ana Maria

## Primary News from Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

We hope everyone had a wonderful spring break. It is hard to believe that we are in the last few weeks of school. There are so many events coming up. Please refer to the office notes on all the upcoming events that have been posted. We will also send out emails when event dates get closer.

We see the children at a place in the classroom where they are working for longer periods of time. That tells us that their length of concentration has increased throughout the year. Our work cycle has become a time of watching children explore the materials in the classroom with a new fascination. Older children are giving lessons to younger children with such confidence now. The children are becoming teachers with their peers. It is a beautiful sight to watch the flow of the classroom and the children working with determination and purpose.

We can't wait for our last field trip of the year to the Center of Puppetry Arts! We are sure the children, and parents, will enjoy it!

Gardening Day/ Special Person Day coming up on April 12th, we want to learn about all the beautiful flowers and trees that grow in our own back yard. The children are encouraged to explore their yard for flowers to share with our class. We are also working on our patio to bring the beauty back to life. It has suffered tremendously throughout the winter and floods. A wish list of our patio needs and desires for Gardening Day will be posted this week. We have enjoyed traveling around the world while being able to stay in the comfort of our classroom throughout the year. The children have enjoyed learning about the continents and their countries. This month we will study Europe during line time. If you have anything that you would like to share with our class, please let us know. The children enjoy sharing at line time and it always peaks the interest and enthusiasm of their classmates when a child brings in something to share. We see our children becoming much more INDEPENDENT and they want to go home and research about the continent we are studying. They are becoming much more confident when they are presenting the information about the animals, housing, culture, music, food, etc that they learned about. It is such a joy to see the whole child evolve. Of course, we see the children grow academically. But, we also see the emotional growth of the child and the confidence gained.

April may be a very hectic month, but let's enjoy it!

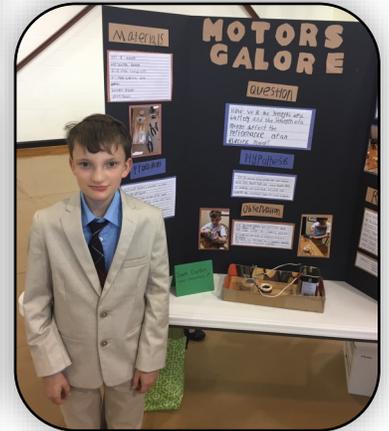


Thank You!

Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

## Elementary News from Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

"It (education) is not acquired by listening to words, but in virtue of experiences in which the child acts on his environment."  
-Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind



Welcome back from Spring Break! We hope you all had plenty of time with friends and family to create special memories. Thank you to all students and parents for working so hard to make Science Fair a success! We appreciate all the effort from families that goes into the Science Fair event.

April is a busy month here at Montessori! We start off with an adventurous 4H trip at Fortson 4-H Center on Thursday, April 4th through Friday, April 5th. This year our 3rd years will accompany the 1st and 2nd years on their 4-H trip. The students always enjoy the 4-H trips and can't wait to return the next year. They get to spend the largest part of each day outside, experiencing hands-on learning in the great outdoors! The outing is one they will always remember as they explore the natural world with their friends and classmates. Our students learn about the natural resources here in Georgia and ways they can help protect the environment. The hands-on approach to education is part of the Montessori method. Dr. Montessori declared, "The senses being explorers of the world, open the way to knowledge." Our 4-H trip is an opportunity to immerse students in a lasting sensory experience which they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Another interesting hands-on experience for our students is Special Persons/Gardening Day. This is an excellent opportunity for students to use the Grace and Courtesy lessons they receive throughout the year in order to be gracious hosts and hostesses to their "special person" they invite to this event. Every student is allowed to choose a special person they would like to invite to plant a flower or shrub with them on the school campus. Students also get to enjoy lemonade and cookies with their guest. Gardening Day will be Friday, April 12th.

We have many birthdays to celebrate in the month of April! Our birthday lunch will be held on Friday, April 19th. Students will not need to bring a lunch on this day as lunch will be provided by our birthday families. Thank you to all these families for your generosity! Happy Birthday to Braylen, Davis, Molly, Kylee, Nicholas, Grayson, and Ansley!

Finally, our 2nd and 3rd years will have ITBS testing on April 22 - 26. Please make sure all students receive plenty of rest the nights before testing and that they eat a nutritious breakfast!

Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

## Elementary News from Ms. Dolores & Ms. Robin

### What is going out? Why is it important? How does it connect to a student's learning?

Maria Montessori said, "When the child goes out, it is the world itself that offers itself to him. Let us take the child out to show him real things instead of making objects which represent ideas and closing them in cupboards."

Maria Montessori recognized that children in the second plane of development (ages 6-12) are in need of a dual environment: that which is found within the Montessori classroom and that which is found outside the Montessori classroom. While the classroom is captivating and intriguing, it is not enough. Children must witness and experience first-hand what is out in the community. Maria Montessori developed "going out" in an attempt to connect children with the outside world.

In addition to experiencing the world around them and the interconnectedness of nature, our field trips provide your children with an opportunity to practice grace and courtesy - learning there are different ways to behave in different places and for different activities. A field trip to a library or theater performance will require whisper voices and walking. During our trip to the Fortson 4-H Center, we will be outside, where louder voices and running will be okay as long as the students stay within sight of an adult.

Finally, when going out brings classroom learning into the real world, applying learned concepts in a manner that is meaningful builds both confidence and independence.

All of these points may feel obvious to us adults, but children are continually learning about the world. The lessons learned while "going out" are always deeply personal and the ones that stick with students the longest.



## Elementary News from Ms. Rebecca & Ms. Kaitlin

### The Importance of Practical Life Activities in the Montessori Elementary Classroom

Practical Life Activities are a major part of the Montessori program. By about five years of age children need and want more than simple activities such as organizing and cleaning. The sensitive period of order has passed and they are now moving into the next stage where they favor more elaborate activities such as cooking, vacuuming, and sewing. They are inquisitive and want to know how and why things happen the way they do. In the Montessori elementary classroom, Practical Life activities build a bridge between the hands-on activities at the Montessori preschool level and become increasingly more abstract.

The focus of the activities is on doing and making real things. Some activities may be done individually, such as latch hooking a rug or creating designs with an elastic band board. Others such as making muffins or planting a garden are best done as a group.

### The Value of Continuing Practical Life Activities

Elementary Practical Life activities allow elementary students to benefit by allowing them to develop and practice skills that will help them not only in other parts of the curriculum, but throughout life as well. Here are some of the benefits associated with incorporating Practical Life activities into the Montessori elementary classroom:

- Expanded concentration
- Following step-by-step instructions
- Attention to detail
- Practicing sequencing
- Developing logical thought patterns
- Increasing sense of independence
- Improving fine motor skills
- Memory and perception
- Motor skills and creativity
- Food preparation
- Fabric crafts
- Planting
- Social graces
- Restoring energy by choosing activities which calm and refresh
- Developing a sense of pride in a job well done
- Showing respect for self, classmates, teachers, and the environment
- Developing self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-control

It can be tempting to forego Practical Life activities in the elementary classroom. The curriculum becomes more academic and parents worry that their children need more rigorous work. However, elementary Practical Life activities remain an integral part of the Montessori curriculum. No other area in the Montessori curriculum provides students with the same opportunity to focus on developing real-life skills that will see them well into their adulthood.



## 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

## Announcements

# Gardening/Special Person's Day

April 12th

Times vary by class so be sure and check when your child's time is!

Each class has a wish list of items to bring so please check those as well!

We look forward to seeing you all there!



## Easter Egg Hunt

April 19th

Toddler: 10:00 Primary: 10:30

Please bring in a dozen eggs with treats in them and be sure to tape the eggs shut!

\*Please no chocolate as it will melt in the heat

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