

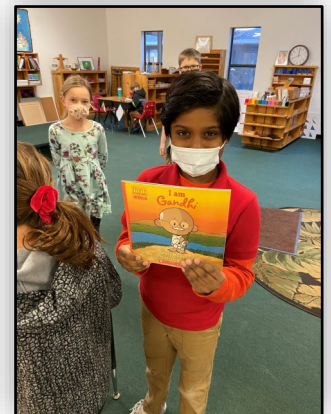


December 3, 2021

Volume 10 Issue 4

DOLPHIN TALES

- Tuesday, December 14th is our Holiday Program! Ticket order forms were sent home earlier this week. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4-12. Children 3 & under are free. Students performing in the show pay no admission!
- **On Tuesday, December 14th Primary & Elementary morning drop-off will be at the Rome City Auditorium at 7:45am for practice.** Parents may leave & pick their child back up at 10:45. Students are welcome to go home directly from the practice and rest until the program that evening!
- **Toddlers do not need to attend the practice and may report directly to school at normal drop-off time on Tuesday, December 14th.**
- **If you wish for your child to return to school after practice, please plan to pick them up from the City Auditorium at 10:45 and bring them to the school afterward.** A pizza lunch will be provided to the students who need to return to school that day—huge thank you to the MSR Boosters!



December Birthdays:

Anika G.	12/1
Lilah P.	12/4
Wren F.	12/5
Nolan C.	12/7
Ria R.	12/11
Robert C.	12/12
Liam A.	12/13
Andrew F.	12/13
Vihaan P.	12/16
Eva R.	12/16
Ann C.	12/17
Fraunchez D.	12/18
Thaddeus G.	12/21
Rex H.	12/23
Agata C.	12/25
Naveed S.	12/31



Friday, December 17th will be a half-day.

Dismissal times are as follows:

- Toddlers—Dismissal @ 11:00
- Primary—Dismissal @ 11:10
- Lower El—Dismissal @ 11:20
- Upper El—Dismissal @ 11:30

Important Dates:

December 14:
Holiday Program | Simple Gifts
6:00pm @ Rome City Auditorium

December 17:
Holiday Celebration in
classroom, Half Day

Dec. 20 - Dec. 31:
Winter Break!

January 3: First Day Back





Toddler News from Ms. Ginny & Ms. Kelly



I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and were able to enjoy family and friends.

We had a really fun month in November learning about transportation and reading Thanksgiving stories. The kids enjoyed our songs and they all seem to love making the crafts.



It's so hard to believe that December is already here!! We will be reading Nursery Rhymes and enjoying Christmas stories and crafts. We will spend a good bit of time practicing for the Holiday program which is really coming up fast!! If you like, you can look the songs up on YouTube and practice with them.



They are:



Dancing Christmas Tree by Kids TV 123
& **Five Little Elves** by Super Simple Songs



They will need to wear Christmas pajamas for the program. Try to have them there around 5:45. We will keep them backstage. After we perform, you may come back and get them if you want. The date is Tuesday, December 14.



On Wednesday, December 15, we will have pajama day at school and just enjoy a fun day. Let them wear their pajamas to school 😊. If anyone would like to send in a special snack, just let me know.

Our last day before the Holiday break is Friday, December 17. It's a half day only with no lunch served that day. We will let the children decorate cookies and just have a fun couple of hours. I will let you know pick up time for Friday in Tuesday notes.

Just a few reminders:

- Make sure all outerwear is labeled.
- If your child is not potty training, please send in diapers for them. If they are potty training and you prefer pull up's, please send in only the ones that open on the sides. If not, we have to take off everything from the waist down to just change their diaper.





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

This year is flying by faster than Santa's sleigh! I can't believe it's December already. We had a great time learning about transportation and opposites in November. We will be busy learning about nursery rhymes, practicing for the holiday program, and preparing for the holidays this month. We will be making lots of fun ornaments for your Christmas trees.

Our holiday program, Simple Gifts, will be held at the Rome City Auditorium on Tuesday, December 14. They need to arrive at 5:45. I will meet you at the back of the auditorium and take them back to our staging room. They will stay backstage for the program duration. Our class is wearing Christmas pajamas and tennis shoes for the performance. You can choose whatever style that you like. Since they are already in pajamas it makes it simple to go home and straight to bed. We are performing two songs, "Jingle, Jingle Little Bell" and "Santa Hunt." You can look them up on YouTube. We are practicing them daily.

We will have a pajama day on Wednesday, December 15. We will enjoy a movie, make crafts, and have some treats. If you would like to send in something please let me know. Any pajamas are fine but please remember to send them in tennis shoes. We will still go to the playground, if weather permits.

Our last day of classes is Friday, December 17. This is a half day. We will be dismissed from 11 to 11:10. Please make sure to arrive promptly because the entire school is dismissing in ten minute increments so we will need to keep the traffic flowing. Our last day we will be decorating cookies and having fun!

Housekeeping notes: Please remember to send in extra clothes the next day if you receive dirty ones home. We have a lot of new water work out on the shelves so everyone needs to have a full set of season appropriate clothes, including socks and shoes. Please make sure to label everything that comes to school. Thank you!





Primary News from Ms. Valerie & Ms. Christina



All About Math

Maria Montessori developed a carefully prepared environment that allowed the child to learn math concepts with the use of concrete materials. She called this **“materialized abstractions.”** The idea behind this concept is for the child to use concrete materials to gain concepts in a real and tangible manner. Maria Montessori wanted to incorporate a sensory experience for each child.

What do we mean by Concrete? The child can hold a material in their hands, for example, the child can feel that the number rods get longer in size as the number gets larger. Not only can the child feel the length of the rod, but they can also visually see that the rod is getting longer.

How do we prepare the child for the mathematical mind? Before we introduce math concepts, we encourage the children to explore the sensorial area of the classroom. The sensorial area of the classroom helps build the foundation for a mathematical mind. For example, the materials allow for a child to learn concepts such as comparing, contrasting, matching, sorting, grading, and sequencing, etc. All these concepts help develop a logical mind, which is applied in understanding mathematics.

What is the order in which we teach the math lessons?

**** First, we always follow the child. Each child has their own pace and ability to grasp concepts differently.**

- First, we start by learning quantity (counting 1-10), the name (recognizing numbers 1-10), and then associating the quantity with the symbol (written number).
- Next, we get into the decimal system and learn the concept of 1, 10, 100, and 1,000. Everything is very concrete. The child can feel the 1,000 cube and visually see that it is more than a unit, etc. We then begin to start operations (addition, multiplication, subtraction, division) using the decimal system materials (1-1,000).
- Simultaneously, we can begin linear counting with the chains, teen board, and ten board.
- When the child is starting to develop the process of thinking more abstractly, we begin to introduce the memorization of operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division).
- The final level of developing the mathematical mind is the ability for the child to think abstractly (symbolic thought). Dr. Maria Montessori observed that children around the age of 6 can start the passage of abstraction in mathematical concepts. This is when we introduce more abstract math lessons like word problems, fractions, etc.



Here are some great resources that explain the development of the mathematical mind

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ841568.pdf> (This follows Piaget’s cognitive development of mathematical instruction. Both Maria Montessori and Piaget

believed that children learn in a sequence).





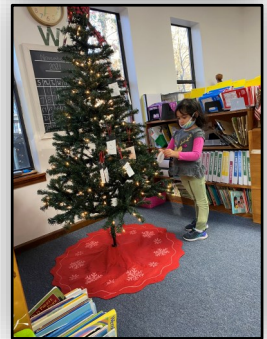
Primary News from Ms. Angie, Ms. Sydney & Ms. Anna Kate



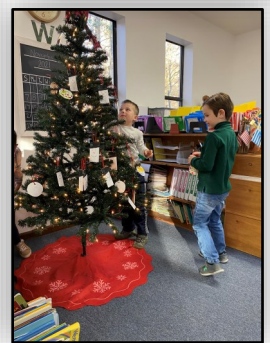
December is here and with it comes lessons on the gift of giving. Giving a gift can be from the heart. The children are continuing their grace and courtesy lessons during the holiday season, concentrating on using kind manners when receiving a gift and giving a gift from the heart so that someone may feel better. We have been talking about the importance of giving from the heart. I want the children to feel the love and peacefulness that one feels when they give from the heart or show acts of kindness to others, In our classroom the children are asked to do or say something positive about others throughout the day. We begin morning line time with each child giving or doing an act of kindness for a friend, Hopefully you will see this happening in your home also.



The children are enjoying the craziness that December brings to us. Our tree is adorned with beautiful ornaments that the children made. We have been working on our songs for the holiday program and having so much fun. The links were attached in last week's email. Also, costume details were sent then. If you have any questions, please let me know. Tickets for the holiday program can be purchased through the office. More details about the holiday program will be sent out next week.



Have a great weekend!!



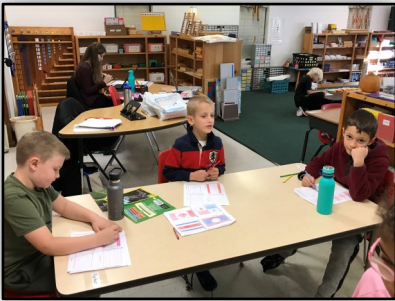


Lower Elementary News from Ms. Stefanie



The season of gift giving is here! As children give and receive gifts, it is important to remind them to always use grace and courtesy in their interactions with others. We often practice these social skills in the classroom. When parents reinforce them at home, the behavior becomes natural for children. Please read these helpful tips and wise words by Jennifer Baker Powers from the Raintree Montessori School in Kansas.

“Help your child become equally excited about giving a gift as they are when receiving a gift. When purchasing or making something for someone, encourage your child to talk about why he or she thinks it is the right gift. Verbalize to your child that he or she is going to make somebody very happy with the thoughtful gesture and meaningful intention.



It is no secret that our children are constantly watching us and are aware of every word that we say, every nuance we emote. Be conscious of saying thank you, not just when you receive a gift, but model showing gratitude for the person who holds the door for you or the person

who lets you in during traffic. Model gratitude. Encourage young children to say thank you when appropriate so that it becomes a habit. Try not to speak ill of a gift that you don't especially love in front of your child.



Invite your child to participate in the wrapping and card making, and this year perhaps the act of putting it in the mail. Giving a gift is a thoughtful gesture; an expression of feeling and a child can learn to garner happiness from the experience of making someone else happy.

Giving and receiving with grace is a learned skill. We can guide our children to gratitude and good manners if we try. Don't be discouraged if your child says something he shouldn't or is not as gracious as you'd like. Embrace these teachable moments. Kids are a work in progress: good at heart and fully capable of learning the proper social expectations for both giving and receiving with grace and gratitude.”

Thank you all for your generous contributions to Cheerful Givers! We were able to buy gifts for a 4-year-old girl and a 6-year-old boy. I am thankful for this program that allows us to give to these children through Restoration Rome. It's a small way we can give back to our local community!

The holidays seem to get here faster and faster every year. It's so easy to get lost in all the shopping, special events, and preparations that we forget to cherish the moments we have with family during this time of year. My hope for you all this holiday season is that you'll be able to slow down and “be in the moment” through all the hustle and bustle. Bake cookies with your children, take a walk in the park together and enjoy the beauty in nature, read a holiday story while you sit together in front of the fireplace, or take the time to play a game with your children. These are the moments your children will remember. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all!





Lower Elementary News from Ms. Dolores & Ms. Robin



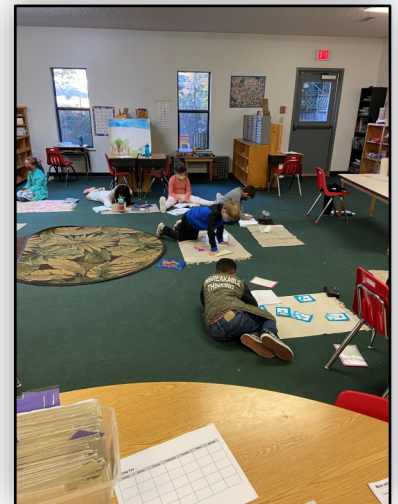
The Joy of Geography

One of the many gifts a Montessori education often brings is a life-long enthusiasm for geography. Geography helps children place themselves on Earth, fostering care for the rivers, forests, oceans, and peoples. Physical geography focuses on the features of Earth’s environment. Political geography studies how humans have adapted to the land, emphasizing settlement and activity.

Geography is the most all-encompassing subject in the Montessori cultural curriculum. It creates the foundation for understanding the oneness of the human family, which they learned last month through the study of the fundamental needs of humans.

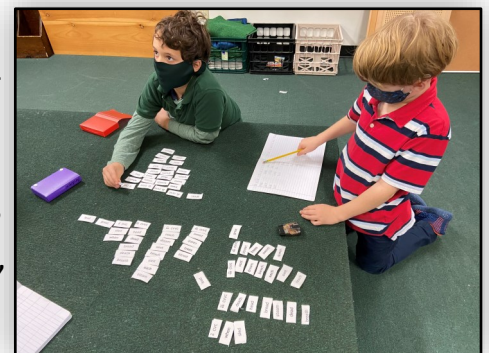


In our classroom, we use sandpaper globes, then find the continents on puzzle maps before beginning work in atlases. Studying land and water forms begins using models, making booklets, and then finding the land and water forms on physical geography maps. Other physical features explored are land regions, climate, plants, and animals. Political maps show countries, cities, and leads to the study of people and products. Pin maps are used to mark cities and capitals with flags.



This month, we begin the study of North America. Please ask your children to share what they are learning about the continent.

When Maria Montessori returned from India after WW II, she was asked her nationality. She replied metaphorically, “I live in heaven, my country is a star which turns around the Sun and is called the Earth.” She passionately believed that “we are a single organism, one nation...” and that “contemporary man has citizenship in the great nation of humanity.”





Upper Elementary News from Ms. Rebecca & Ms. Kaitlin

Teaching Thankfulness to Children (montessori.com)



What better time than the month of Thanksgiving to explore the importance of gratitude. Being thankful can be very meaningful for children. Learning gratitude can lead to:

- Increased happiness, self-esteem, hope, empathy, optimism
- Improved relationships that are stronger, positive, more genuine
- Enhanced perspective and appreciation for what they have, where they live/go to school, who they are, etc.

Want to encourage thankfulness at home? Here are a few ways to get started:

- Have a moment each day where everyone shares one thing for which they're thankful (such as a favorite toy, good soccer practice, call from grandma, etc.). This could be shared in conversation over a meal, drawn on a family chalkboard, or written in a journal each night.
- Limit the number of "things" you purchase your children. This doesn't mean only provide them with the bare essentials, but be mindful of how often you buy them something they want. While we enjoy doting on our kids, too many material items (toys, games, etc.) can cause kids to lose sight of respect for their possessions. Moderation is good for everything.
- Have them write thank you notes. Handwritten notes are becoming something of the past, but it is a perfect way for kids to express gratitude. They can send cards or notes:
 - ◇ After receiving gifts
 - ◇ To thank teachers at the end of the school year or sports coaches at the end of the season
 - ◇ For families who host sleepovers or parties
 - ◇ Just because, to the mail carrier, a favorite aunt, etc.
- Say "Thank you" often.
 - ◇ Set a good example and show your own gratitude every day. Thank the server at a restaurant, the cashier at the grocery store, your teacher/director at the end of a school day, your neighbors for small favors, etc.
 - ◇ Tell your kids why they're special to you! This helps boost their self-esteem without the presence of material possessions.
- Participate in volunteer and donation opportunities. Teaching kids to give back to their community is a great way to instill gratitude. By taking the time to help others in need, they are less likely to take their own health, home, possessions, and family for granted.
 - ◇ Rake leaves for a neighbor, volunteer at an animal shelter or nursing home, pick up trash in your neighborhood, etc.
 - ◇ The next time you're at the grocery store, have your children pick a few canned goods to donate to a food bank, or personal care items for a shelter.
 - ◇ Encourage kids to donate toys they no longer use or clothes they've outgrown. Remind them that some things they no longer need might be useful for another child or family. Involve them in the drop-off at your local shelter or Salvation Army.



Be optimistic! It's easy to see the glass as half empty sometimes, even for kids. Practice seeing the "brighter side" of an unfortunate day or situation. When kids complain, this as a teachable moment to appreciate the positives they may be overlooking. It's all about perspective!



Montessori School of Rome

Presents:

*Simple
Gifts*



Tuesday, December 14th

6:00pm

Rome City Auditorium

"There should be music in the child environment, just as there does exist in the child's environment spoken speech. In the social environment. The child should be considered and music should be provided."

— *Maria Montessori*



May
Lovely,
Happy Times
Decorate Your
Holiday Season,
May Warm, Special
Memories Brighten
Your New Year, May
The Wonder of Christmas
Be With You Forever.



Let's Get Social!



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Add us.



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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.