

Dolphin Tales

February 3, 2023

Volume 11 Issue 6



February Birthdays

Constance F.	2/4	Sam D.	2/14
Carter M.	2/6	Price P.	2/22
Luca B.	2/7	Charl G.	2/23
Haley M.	2/9	MaraLee S.	2/25
Wanling C.	2/10	Uriah G.	2/27
Rayansh S.	2/14		

Important Dates

February 23rd	International Day – Toddler & Primary
February 24th	International Day – Elementary
March 3rd	Parent/Teacher Conferences (School in Session)
March 30th	Science Fair Division Street Gymnasium
March 31st	Easter Egg Hunt

Toddler News

Ms. Ginny's and Ms. Kelly's Class



★ What we have been learning...

We were hoping all our talk about arctic animals would have brought us some snow in January but alas, it was only rain. We're excited for International Month and learning all about Italy. We just KNOW that all our talk about Italian culture will bring us some pizza :) We'll celebrate International Day on Thursday, February 23rd with our program beginning at 10:30AM. Lunch will follow immediately. We will email a sign-up sheet with some delicious Italian food later this week. You are welcome to take your child home with you after lunch. For our costumes, the students will need to wear a black and white striped shirt or a red and white striped shirt with black pants, please.

We'll have a few special days during the month where we'll become chefs and make our own lunch. Agata's dad has volunteered to bring in pizza dough and his portable pizza oven to teach to the children how to make a real, Italian pizza! One of our primary student's mom has lended us a pasta roller and pasta maker and we will try our hand at making our own spaghetti. We'll let you know beforehand when these culinary days will take place.



Valentine's Day ♥

We'll celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14. We will be making Valentines bags here at school. We have 14 students in our class if you'd like to send in Valentine's with a treat. It's simplest to sign your child's name without addressing the individual Valentine. If you'd like to provide a special treat for snack time for the class, please let Ms. Ginny know.

Toddler News

Ms. Shannon's, Ms. Jessica's, and Ms. Kristin's Class



♥ Valentine's Day

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14. Each child will need to send in just a small Valentine card to deliver to their friends on that day. We have 21 kids in our class. They only need to be addressed from your child so that they are easier for them to deliver. If you would like to send in a treat for that day please contact me. We are looking forward to a great month!



★ What we have been learning...

¡Hola! It's time for our class to start learning about Mexico. Each year every classroom chooses a country to learn about and then it all culminates at the end of the month with International Day. The children are already so excited. We have already started learning some Spanish. They have been searching for rojo, verde, and blanco all over the classroom today!

This month we will talk about Mexico's culture, food, biomes, and so much more. The children will be learning some songs in Spanish and a dance. On International Day, the class will dress up for the day. We have some pieces that we will use from the school and I'll let you know what the kids will need to wear in addition to that. We will share all that we have learned at our fiesta on Thursday, February 23rd. We will start our show at 10:30. Everyone is invited to attend and have lunch afterwards. I will post a sign up sheet for items that we need for lunch and so that you can RSVP.

I would love to have your help in making this a fun and successful month! There are a few things that I would like to have for the fiesta. I think it would be so fun to have a piñata for International Day. If you would like to donate one or would be willing to donate things to stuff it with please let me know. If you have anything that we can display in the classroom, such as art, clothing, cactus, or books to share. it would be appreciated.



Primary News

Ms. Angie's, Ms. Karabeth's, and Ms. Rana's Class

Interesting articles...★

"Choosing a Montessori environment for your child has many benefits. Known for individually paced learning and fostering independence, the Montessori Method also encourages empathy, a passion for social justice, and a joy in lifelong learning.

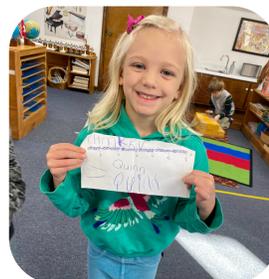
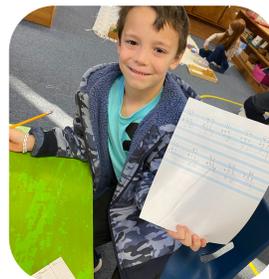
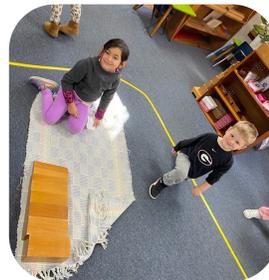
Given the freedom and support to question, to probe deeply, and to make connections, Montessori students become confident, enthusiastic, self-directed learners. They are able to think critically, work collaboratively, and act boldly—a skill set for the 21st century."

Read more here: [Benefits of Montessori Education for Your Child \(amshq.org\)](https://amshq.org)

"Many people think of kindergarten as a child's first year of school. But for Montessori preschool students, kindergarten is their third year of education. This unique "Leadership Year" or "Capstone Year" is the culmination of the growth, exploration, and independence your preschool-aged child has already gained.

By this point, your child has made friends and mastered many skills that children just starting kindergarten haven't studied yet. The Montessori kindergarten year brings your child's earlier learning to fruition and sets them up for lifelong success. Simply put, Montessori kindergarten is something you don't want your child to miss out on."

Read more here: [20 Vital Reasons | Montessori for Kindergarten is Worth It \(primarymontessori.com\)](https://primarymontessori.com)



Primary News

Ms. Krystle's, Ms. Macy's, and Ms. Trudy's Class

Happy February!★

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14 during our morning linetime lesson. We have a total of 25 children. We will talk about how to fill our own buckets and even our friends. We will talk about the many ways we can show kindness and love to one another. Your child may bring in valentine cards, but please ONLY have your child write who they are FROM. You may send candy (we are a chocolate free environment); however, great substitutes are: pencils, erasers, stickers, tattoos, etc.



We will also be celebrating International day on Thursday, February 23. You are welcome and encouraged to come into the classroom- times will TBD. The children will learn how to count in French up to ten and learn to say some common phrases in French. (I will send home the picture for reference for you all via the Remind app, if you'd like to practice with your child.) While we are studying lots of Tahiti, we will also be incorporating Asia (foods, musical instruments, plants, living VS non living, biomes, Asia Flags.). We will talk about reptiles and the children will learn what defines a reptile, what habitat they live in, and what they eat, etc.



"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

- Maria Montessori



Lower EI News

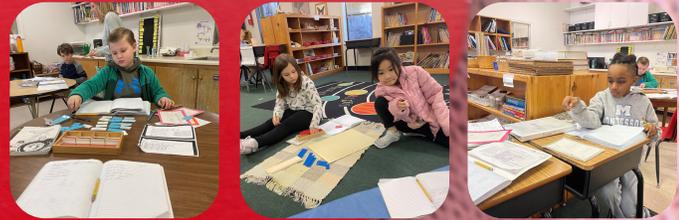
Ms. Stefanie's Class

As we prepare to celebrate International Day this month, I wanted to share some thoughts about another aspect of Montessori education that makes it different from other methods. The following article from the Maria Montessori School in Memphis, TN explains how this educational method makes it a natural process for our students to become global citizens who celebrate all cultures.

“A traditional public school classroom in the United States looks very different from a traditional classroom in Japan and a traditional classroom in Brazil. This is because culture, national standards and measurements of educational success dictate what is done in the classroom. This means that individuals across the globe are educated very differently.

Dr. Maria Montessori developed the Montessori Method as she studied the way that children naturally learn and develop. Once she founded the Casa dei Bambini, she traveled the world as a distinguished lecturer and women’s rights advocate. During her travels, two World Wars erupted, causing her to seek exile in various countries.

During her time in exile, Dr. Montessori trained educators around the world on the Montessori Method. Educators realized that the Montessori Method could be applied in any country and any culture and show similar results because it is based upon the natural development patterns of children, patterns that are constant no matter where a child lives. As educators saw the positive impact of the Montessori Method, it quickly caught on and has since spread to every continent other than Antarctica.



If you tour a Montessori classroom in Europe or Asia, you will see many of the same materials that you see at Maria Montessori School in Memphis. This is because the Montessori Method, including the materials and classroom arrangement, does not vary because of culture or location.

Not only are the materials and principles the same, students at Montessori Schools are taught about the importance of being a global citizen and understanding cultures different from their own. In today’s global economy, this is a huge benefit to students who are educated using the Montessori Method.

Dr. Montessori developed an educational method that has withstood the test of time and culture, has survived through world wars and global crises, because it is rooted in our biology! What an amazing educational discovery!” -mariamontessorischool.org

Thank you to the Townsend family for sharing all the beautiful and educational items from Poland! The students are enjoying learning about the rich culture, elegant art, and lovely landscapes found in this Central European country.

Lower EI News

Ms. Robin's and Ms. Dolores's Class



The Six Principles of the Montessori Prepared Environment Explained★

"Montessori's idea of the prepared environment was that everything the child came in contact with would facilitate and maximize independent learning and exploration. This calm, well-ordered environment has a lot of movement and activity. Children are free to choose and work on activities at their own pace. Here, they experience a combination of freedom and self-discipline, as guided by the environment.

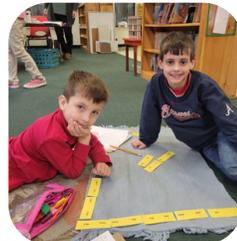
There are generally six aspects, or principles, to the Prepared Environment: Freedom; Structure and Order; Beauty; Nature and Reality; Social Environment; Intellectual Environment. Learn more about each of these aspects, and why the prepared environment is so important to the success a child experiences with Montessori education!"



The Six Principles:

1. Freedom
2. Structure and Order
3. Beauty
4. Nature and Reality
5. Social Environment
6. Intellectual Environment

Read more here: [The Six Principles of the Montessori Prepared Environment Explained \(bluffviewmontessori.org\)](http://bluffviewmontessori.org)



Upper El News



Upper Elementary News

Our International Day country is Ancient China. We enjoyed learning about the culture when we celebrated Lunar New Year! Thank you again to the families that brought in special treats for us. International Day is Friday, February 24th. More information will be sent out soon.

We will continue our studies on Native Americans during afternoon class. Each student is researching a Native American tribe. They will present their findings as well as their shoe box diorama in April. We encourage you to go to the public library and select books on your tribe. We enjoyed our field trip to the Rome Area History Museum. We learned about many interesting events that took place in our area. Thank you again to our drivers for field trips as well as our weekly tennis excursion.

Celebrating holidays in the classroom can:

- Help mark the changing of the seasons.
- Provide an opportunity to study history and geography.
- Honor the birthdays of special people who have made a contribution to the world,
- Encourage understanding and acceptance of diverse cultures.
- Create a sense of community that welcomes all families.
- Give opportunities to introduce holiday art projects and food preparation.

4H Project



Students buried a pair of cotton underwear behind our classroom. Yes, you read that correctly, it was a pair of undies! They will wait 60 days and then dig it back up. We are testing the microbial activity in our soil. The more the underwear is deteriorated, the healthier the soil.



Upcoming★

- Please return signed report cards as soon as possible.
- International Day–Friday, February 24th
- Science Fair–Thursday, March 30th
- Washington D.C. Trip–April