

Dolphin Tales

December 6, 2024

Volume 13 Issue 4



December Birthdays

Lilah P.	12/4	Fraunchez D.	12/18
Quentin J.	12/6	Jameson F.	12/18
Robert C.	12/12	Lyra Y.	12/22
Naomi B.	12/13	Victoria V. G.	12/24
Sadie M.	12/13	Will S.	12/29
Liam A.	12/13	Ms. Carol	12/30
Eva R.	12/16	Lani E.	12/31
		Atharva S.	12/31



Important Dates

December 17th	MSOR Holiday Program
December 20th	Holiday Classroom Celebrations (1/2 Day)
December 23rd–January 3rd	Winter Break
January 6th	School Resumes
January 20th	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No School)



Christmas Party & Sleepover

Friday December 13th

Party & Sleepover \$40

Party Only \$30



Merry Christmas!

We invite MSOR students of all ages to join us for a Christmas Party! We will hold a sleepover afterwards for 3rd Year Primary Students and Older!

Pick Up & Drop Off

Party Only 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Sleepover 5:30 PM - 8:00 AM

Activities

Games, Movies, Dance, and more.

Dinner will be provided

If you have any questions, please direct them to ashlete@msor.org



Christmas Sleepover!

Friday December 13, 2024

Hosted by MSOR Adolescents and Secondary Students

Lead Contact: ashlete@msor.org

Yes, I would like for my child (3rd year primary and older) _____
to attend the *Christmas Sleepover* on Friday December 13, 2024 for **\$40**. 5:30PM-8:00AM.

Yes, I would like for my child (all ages welcome) _____
to attend the *Christmas Party* on Friday December 13, 2024 for **\$30**. 5:30PM-9:00PM

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Allergies _____

Total Payment Due: \$ _____ Cash? _____ Check? _____

Checks made payable to "MSOR Adolescents"

**IF YOU ARE ATTENDING... PLEASE TURN IN THIS SIGN UP SHEET WITH PAYMENT
BEFORE DEC. 12TH**

PARTY: ALL AGES WELCOME

SLEEPOVER: THIRD YEAR PRIMARY AND UP!

Snacks and Breakfast will be provided.

THINGS TO BRING:

- Sleeping Bag
- Pajamas
- Toothbrush/toiletries
- Change of clothes for the next day

Toddler News

Ms. Ginny's & Ms. Kelly's Class



Brrr! This arctic blast has helped us welcome the month of December's theme of Polar Animals. We've been learning about different arctic animals like polar bears, penguins, seals, walruses, and even the narwhal. We've introduced new work and the kids have really loved it. We also want to welcome AJ to our class! December is a short month here at MSOR but it is a busy one!

We will have our Christmas Program at the Auditorium downtown on Tuesday, December 17th. We have ordered props and costumes so you don't have to worry about ordering anything! To cover the cost of everything, we are asking that you send in \$13.50 (cash or Venmo Mrs. Kelly @kelly-dougherty-2526), please. You will get to keep everything after the performance. We are working hard on learning the words to the songs and the dances to our number but shhhh! It's a secret. You will get to experience a little bit of the the 2000's that night through our class's performance. You'll travel through the decades that night so make sure to grab tickets at the front office before the show.



Wednesday, December 18th (the day after the holiday program) will be a pajama and movie day in our class. Please make sure your child has on sneakers that day for the playground.

Friday, December 20th is a half day at school. We will dismiss by 11AM so you will not need to send a lunch on the last day of school. We also love to decorate cookies with our toddlers that day. We are in need of cookies, icing, and sprinkles if you'd like to donate to our class. If you'd like to pick up earlier than 11 to avoid some of the parking lot congestion, we will be on the playground beginning at 10 (weather permitting) so you can pick up from there!

You guys have done a great job of sending in warm jackets. If the weather feels above 32 degrees, we will go outside. Just ensure all jackets and outwear are labeled. Thank you!



Toddler News

Ms. Shannon's, Ms. Kristin's, & Ms. LaKosta's Class



We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break with family and friends! We were excited to come back and kick off the busy (and short) month of December. The students have been hard at work rehearsing for our upcoming Holiday Program and coming up with fun surprises for the holiday season.

Speaking of, our Holiday Program is coming up on Tuesday, December 17th. Be sure to mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more information coming from the Office very soon!

Our theme for the month of December is nursery rhymes. These rhymes introduce students to cadence to lay the groundwork for reading. This is always a fun study! We will jump over the candlestick, like Jack in the poem "Jack Be Nimble," to work on gross motor skills. Our language shelf, too, has been updated with new items to explore in our sensory box pertaining to nursery rhymes. The students love this course of study!

Our last day of school this semester will be Friday, December 20th. This day will be a half day and we will dismiss at 11:00am following our classroom celebration. We are looking forward to a fantastic month!



Primary News

Ms. Angie's & Ms. Karabeth's Class

Celebrations and Holidays in the Montessori Classroom

Celebrating holidays in the classroom can:

- help mark the changing of 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 welcome all families
- give opportunities to introduce holiday art projects and food preparation
- bring light and joyfulness to the long, dark winter months by honoring the many winter holidays

[Click here to read more!](#)



Celebrating Holidays the Montessori Way

Children in a Montessori classroom embrace celebrations of the seasons in a cross-curricular, more involved, and less obtrusive way. In the weeks prior to a holiday of importance, the Practical Life shelves may reflect the colors and symbols of the season in the pouring, sorting, or transferring works. The Language area and circle time activities will most certainly incorporate stories and songs related to the seasonal celebrations. Math works may use counting items that correlate with holiday themes. Art supplies change to stimulate the children's unique artistic expression using materials inspired by the time of year. And perhaps the best part of the classroom to share information about specific holidays is the Cultural area, where the children may find continent boxes filled with photographs, artifacts, and items associated with various holidays and the cultures from which they originated.

[Click here to read more!](#)



Primary News

Ms. Ortrud's & Ms. Rana's Class

Dear Parents,

Children are naturally curious and learn about the world by exploring and interacting with their surroundings. One of the most powerful ways they gather information is through their senses—sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. These sensory experiences help children make sense of their environment, form memories, and build foundational skills needed for cognitive, emotional, and physical development.

From the moment they are born, children begin using their senses to engage with the world. In fact, sensory experiences play a crucial role in early childhood development by supporting learning in ways that are engaging and meaningful. When children touch, hear, see, taste, or smell something, they are not just observing—it's an active process that shapes their understanding and connection to the world around them.

Why Sensory Learning Matters

- **Brain Development:** Engaging a child's senses stimulates the brain, fostering neural connections that are essential for problem-solving, creativity, language, and motor skills.
- **Motor Skills:** Sensory activities often involve hands-on exploration that supports both fine motor skills (like grasping, coloring, or writing) and gross motor skills (like running, jumping, or climbing).
- **Language Development:** As children encounter new sensory experiences, they expand their vocabulary and communication skills by learning words to describe what they see, hear, touch, taste, or smell.
- **Emotional and Social Growth:** Sensory play encourages children to express emotions, make decisions, and interact with others, promoting emotional regulation and social skills.

As children grow, sensory learning can help them understand complex concepts like cause and effect, categorization, and spatial relationships, while also allowing them to express their creativity, build confidence, and develop a love for learning.

In short, learning through the senses is one of the most natural and effective ways children engage with their world, and it lays the groundwork for cognitive, emotional, and physical growth.

[Click here to read more!](#)



Lower El News

Ms. Maggie's & Ms. Robin's Class

A Montessori elementary cultural curriculum uses the Fundamental Needs of Humans to explore different cultures. The Fundamental Needs are often introduced by asking the children what is needed to survive as a society. This lesson sparks great interest in children because we can all relate to and identify our own personal and individual needs. Students are quick to recognize most of our shared material needs: food, shelter, communication, transportation, and notice the needs for protection (defense), the arts, and our connections to one another.

Children learn to look at societies, past and present, through these lenses. It gives them truly useful examples of how people organize their lives and use the tools, resources, and technology available to them to meet their needs. For example, children explore the history of houses over human history, or how they gathered, herded, or grew food. They look at art, music, dance, and design found around the world today and explore how they may have evolved over the centuries. Once this looking glass has been created, there are between nine and thirteen fundamental needs of humans. They can be used to notice similarities and differences in all societies, places, and times. This method of exploring different empires, countries, and even towns allows us to see that we all have the same fundamental needs, but over history, and even around the world today, they have been met in different ways. Exploring these needs through materials in the classroom, biographies, art, laws, clothing, architecture, speeches, and various other ways to explore history is encouraged in the elementary classroom, both acknowledging and appreciating differences and similarities. Montessori schools look at the world in search of similarities, differences, beauty, and consideration for all. In following the child and child development, Montessori teachers have always championed the beauty of all people and will continue to do so.



As Dr. Montessori reminded us in her 1937 address in Copenhagen, "An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live." Using Fundamental Needs of Humans to explore history gives us a great tool to see that little white strip of humankind with greater understanding. It provides a helpful springboard for further research on various topics related to human well-being and development.

[Click here to read more!](#)



NORTH POLE

Upper El News

Ms. Shemi's, Ms. Dolores's, Mr. Keith's, Ms. Ribar's, Ms. Gabi's,
Ms. Ariana's, & Ms. Karen's Class

Can you believe it is already December!? Upper Elementary students are spending lots of time rehearsing for the upcoming MSOR Holiday Program while also bringing the first semester of academics to a close. Keep an eye out for classroom announcements coming soon!

In the meantime, take a moment to read this excerpt from a Holiday Montessori article:

The Holiday season is here and for Montessori students, holidays offer plenty of opportunities for growth and celebration. Outside of classroom, holiday celebrations may be more prominent and there are ways to extend Montessori principles into holiday observations at home. Here are a few ideas to consider:

- Gift giving – and receiving – is a big part of Christmas, Hanukkah and other holiday celebrations. Use it as an opportunity to apply the Montessori principle of thoughtfulness. Get your child involved in selecting the gifts for others, from classmates and friends to family members. Talk about each person's likes, hobbies and preferences and discuss which gift would be best for them.
- In the true spirit of the season, teach your child kindness and generosity by finding ways to help others. Participating in a holiday toy drive, donating clothing or food to charity organizations, or engaging in volunteer activities are all great ways to express kindness.
- Create holiday rituals with your child. Rituals are very important for young children. They are likely to become those fond moments that your child will enjoy looking back on when he / she grows up. Think about the kind of rituals you would like to create with your family. Whether it's working on holiday crafts together, baking holiday cookies or going for an evening walk to see the festive lights, these memories are very strong and will probably last a lifetime.
- Cooking is one of the key practical life Montessori activities and the process of preparing meals offers multiple learning opportunities. Measuring and counting, for example, are great ways to begin to instill basic math lessons. Holiday foods are also colorful and can be used as a canvas for a child's creativity.

Whatever you do this holiday season, remember that it's the time to celebrate being together as a family. Enjoy each other's company and make some beautiful memories together.

[Click here to read more!](#)