

Dolphin Tales

September 5, 2025

Volume 14 Issue 1

August Birthdays

David P.	8/3	Will G.	8/22
Jackson B.	8/13	Krish R.	8/24
Kevin W.	8/16	Zazil H.	8/24
Teddy H.	8/16	Will T.	8/31
Sabrina C.	8/20	Maria Montessori	8/31

September Birthdays

Seanna K.	9/1	Atsuto T.	9/16
George F.	9/2	Everleigh C.	9/23
Sofia D.	9/7	Lyla Kay P.	9/24
Kaleb P.	9/7	Penelope C.	9/25
Parker J.	9/13	Ms. Gabi	9/29
Ms. Kristin	9/13	Hikari M.	9/19
Ms. Maggie	9/13	Ms. Lili	9/30

Important Dates

- September 22nd | International Day of Peace
- September 22nd | Elementary Parent Education Night
- September 23rd | Primary Parent Education Night
- September 25th | Toddler Parent Education Night (Subject to change)
- October 3rd | Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
- October 16th | Toddler/Primary Field Trip to Rocky Hollow Pumpkin Patch
- October 24th | Fall Festival 5:30–7:00pm
- October 27th–28th | Historical Timeline
- October 31st | Halloween Celebration/Parade 10:30am
- November 4th–5th | Fall School Portraits

Toddler News

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

September is here! We are moving on to our next area of study. We will continue learning colors, shapes, and work on grace and courtesy throughout the year, but we have established our basic routine, so we are moving on to something a little more fun! This month, we will be studying the farm. We will learn about the animals, what we get from them, and their family names. We will also discuss what grows on the farm. We will learn what grows on trees, bushes, under the ground, on a vine, etc. This is always a fun unit! I know we discussed at our open house exposing the children to different fruits and vegetables. I will be sending out a sign-up for people to volunteer to bring these in, so be on the lookout for that soon.

This month, we will celebrate International Day of Peace on September 19th. On that day, we will join with other Montessori schools around the world to sing the song, "Light A Candle For Peace." We have started singing it, and if you would like to do so at home, you can find the song on YouTube, <https://youtu.be/K9M8SmWh2Fo?si=NmoRnx2uWCjsgrQG>.

I encourage you to continue working on manners at home. We are really working toward a kind and peaceful classroom. I am including a link to a quick article on grace and courtesy. I hope you enjoy it!

<https://www.montessori.org/grace-courtesy-in-a-montessori-classroom/>



Toddler News

Ms. Ginny's & Ms. Stephanie's Class

August slipped on by but I do feel the children learned a lot about their colors and shapes. These are things we work on throughout the year along with recognizing numbers through 10 and counting to 20. We also work on grace and courtesy daily.

In September we will be learning all about the farm. We will talk about the different animals and the animal sounds, what their babies are called and all about what goes on at a farm, from raising crops to milking cows. It's always a fun month with lots of stories and songs! We will also be making some fun crafts!

We will visit the library every Thursday morning where your child will hear stories and be able to choose a book to bring home and enjoy. The library bags will go home in the nap roll bags on Friday. They must be returned by the following Thursday morning in order for your child to check out a new book. They love doing this so I hope you will try to remember to get their books back on time as we can only get books on Thursday mornings.

Parents, you are doing a wonderful job with lunches, getting more clothes sent back the next day if sent home, getting your child here on time and picking them up within our time slot. Thank you all so much. I have a wonderful group of children and parents!!



Primary News

Ms. Angie's & Ms. Kelly's Class

School is off to a great start. The students are receiving many lessons and are normalizing well. We are excited for all that this school year will bring. We are studying space at the moment. If you have something "out of this world" you'd like to share with the class, we'd love to see it! We'd love to have a special astronaut snack one morning. If you'd like to provide some freeze-dried food, please reach out to us.

Just a few reminders:

- Monday: we have music with Ms. Angela on Monday mornings at 10AM.
- Wednesday: we have Spanish with Ms. Lelia at 10:30AM.
- Thursday: we will visit the library on Thursdays. Our first years will enjoy the library at 10 on Thursdays while our second and third years will visit the library in the afternoons. Please send back your child's library bag by Wednesday morning. They are only allowed to check out 1 book at a time and this is something they look forward to each week.
- Friday: we will send your child's red folder home each Friday. Please send this back on Monday mornings. Your child will do many works throughout the week and they look forward to showing you what they've learned. These folders hold their works so they can show off on Fridays.

Did you know that a lot of the clubs we offer are student-led? These clubs serve as fundraisers for the adolescent program's big trip each year; this is also a great learning opportunity for the adolescent students to gain experience running a business. Please see the front office if you'd like for your child to participate in Creative Movement, Art Club, or Spanish Club.



Primary News

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

One of the core principles of the Montessori Method is the use of mixed age groups within the classroom. Unlike traditional educational models that group children strictly by age, Montessori classrooms typically include children of three-year age spans, such as:

- 0-3 years (Infant/Toddler)
- 3-6 years (Primary or Children's House)
- 6-9 years (Lower Elementary)
- 9-12 years (Upper Elementary)
- 12-15 years (Middle School or Erdkinder)
- 15-18 years (High School)

This multi-age setting is intentionally designed to foster a community of learning, where children can learn from one another, develop leadership skills, and progress at their own pace.

Purpose and Benefits

1. Peer Learning

Older children reinforce their knowledge by teaching younger peers, while younger children are inspired and guided by observing older classmates.

2. Individualized Pace

Children are not pressured to conform to a uniform level of achievement. Instead, they can progress according to their own abilities and readiness.

3. Leadership and Mentoring

Older students take on leadership roles, helping others and developing responsibility, empathy, and communication skills.

4. Stability and Continuity

Spending three years in the same environment with the same teacher and peers builds strong relationships and emotional security.

5. Community Building

The mixed-age model encourages cooperation over competition, promoting a sense of respect, mutual aid, and belonging.

Implementation in the Montessori Classroom

Prepared Environment: Materials are arranged to cater to a wide range of developmental stages.

Teacher's Role: The Montessori guide observes and supports each child's growth, offering individualized lessons and encouraging peer collaboration.

Freedom within Limits: Children choose work based on interest and ability, creating a dynamic learning environment that meets the needs of a diverse group.

Mixed age groupings are a foundational element of Montessori education. They create a rich, collaborative, and flexible learning environment where children not only gain academic knowledge but also develop critical social and emotional skills. This approach nurtures independence, respect, and a lifelong love of learning.

For further reading, please follow this link:

<https://montessori-ami.org/trainingvoices/mixed-ages-montessori-environment>



Lower El News

Ms. Maggie's Class

Cosmic Education, a name first used by Dr. Montessori in the 1930's, describes the universe as a whole system. At the beginning of every school year, we introduce the Five Great Lessons which help paint the cosmic picture. These lessons are bold, exciting, and are designed to awaken a child's imagination and curiosity. Maria Montessori believed Cosmic Education is the natural vehicle with which to introduce all of the elements of the universe to the children. She saw that all in the universe was related. She also saw how the elementary age child was perfectly suited to exploring these relationships.

The Great Lessons provide a narrative for the opening of exploration in the physical sciences, biological sciences, human history, and the stories of language and mathematics.

First Great Lesson: Coming of the Universe

Second Great Lesson: Coming of Life

Third Great Lesson: Coming of Humans

Fourth Great Lesson: The Story of Language

Fifth Great Lesson: The Story of Numbers

Our first Great Lesson was on Friday, August 22nd. The students heard the story of how the universe came to be. They watched as we demonstrated the laws of the universe. This sparked their interest in various subjects. The students were then able to perform and manipulate multiple science demonstrations. We read several creation stories and they wrote and illustrated their own story. We also began learning about the solar system. They impressed me with their knowledge about the planets.

On Friday, August 29th, the Upper Elementary students shared their research about the Timeline of Life. This is our second Great Lesson about how life began. We then took a deeper dive into learning about how organisms adapted and evolved or became extinct over time. This is always a favorite for Lower Elementary students. They love the artwork and activities based off of these lessons. They also really enjoy the dinosaur research and studies. We will continue to study the Timeline of Life in the upcoming week. We look forward to hearing the third Great Lesson from the Upper Elementary students next week.

Lower El News

Ms. Robin's Class

We're just finishing our third full week of school, and students are settling in nicely while adjusting to new routines and expectations. They are learning to choose their own work independently and practicing grace and courtesy. Much of our beginning work in Lower El requires careful practice and coordination. They are mastering basic routines for classwork: how to set up a page, how to form numbers correctly, and how to align work on a page. We have had many cursive lessons and encourage daily practice. Practical life work in the classroom includes learning how to use a hole punch, filing papers in notebooks, and how to use tape. Students are also completing classroom jobs each day. Please have your children complete chores at home each day to help them learn the importance of contributing to the betterment of a community.

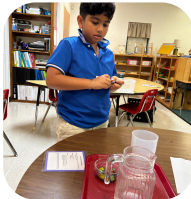
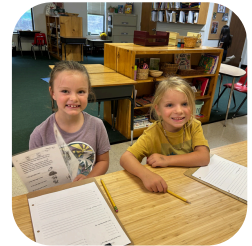
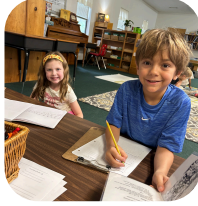
Students enjoyed the first Montessori Great Lesson. They learned about how the universe and our earth were formed. This helps them to understand their place in the universe and helps them to develop an appreciation for the world around them. This lesson is also known as "The Coming of the Universe," and "God With No Hands." This is a good time to discuss any family beliefs about the formation of the universe. After The First Great Lesson, we began our science experiments and demonstrations to follow up on all the laws we observed in the lesson. We have been learning about states of matter, gravity, density, and centrifugal force. We had lots of fun during "What's the Matter Day?", when we explored a wide variety of states of matter in the classroom and outside. We will continue with our scientific exploration throughout the year. We also heard stories of creation from other cultures around the world as we investigate the nature of humankind's questioning mind. Students were encouraged to go home and talk about their family's beliefs with parents.

Last week, we visited Upper El to see their Timeline of Life presentations. The Timeline of Life is a long chart with pictures and information about microorganisms, plants, and animals that have lived (or now live) on the earth. The great diversity of life is emphasized, and special care is paid to the "jobs" that each living thing does to contribute to life on earth. This lesson opens our exploration into the plant and animal kingdoms.

Students should choose Historical Timeline characters and have a children's book that can be read alone or with help from a parent. The deadline for character approval is Tuesday, September 23rd.

Our days are full with our three-hour work cycle, Spanish, Junior Great Books, library, and YMCA. Next week we are excited to start Music class with Ms. Angela! Homework will go home on Wednesday next week and will be due the following Thursday. Spelling lists will be given on Mondays and we will have "spell check" each Friday. A few students are working on Primary Phonics Readers. Whenever your child comes home with a new reader, please have them read it with you and send it back when they complete it.

Lower El Snapshots



The Timeline of Life





YMCA Snapshots



Upper Elementary News

Classroom News & Bonding Trip

In the Classroom

Montessori method encourages a love for learning and fosters independence in children from an early age. At the core of this approach for elementary students are Montessori's Great Stories—engaging narratives designed to strike the imagination of our young learners to the wonders of the world while sparking their curiosity about the universe, life, and human history

What are the Great Lessons?

Dr. Montessori's Great Stories are more than just tales; they are thoughtfully crafted narratives that serve as a foundation for the Montessori curriculum, captivating students from Lower to Upper Elementary. These stories encompass five main themes:

The First Story - The Coming of the Universe and the Earth: Our class has journeyed through the creation of the universe, exploring how galaxies, stars, and the Earth came to be.

The Second Story - The Coming of Life: We explore the history of life on Earth, beginning with single-celled organisms and progressing to the diverse range of creatures that inhabit our planet. This story concluded with our students presenting their research findings to the Lower Elementary students.

The Third Story - The Coming of Humans: We are currently examining the story of human evolution, our collective history, and the development of culture and civilizations. After spending a week studying early humans, we will next explore the Holocene Epoch. This topic will conclude with a presentation to the Lower Elementary next Friday.

We will share more about the fourth story - *The Story of Writing*, and the fifth story - *The Story of Numbers*, next month.

Bonding Trip

Our bonding trip to Sloppy Floyd State Park and Cloudland kicked off the year by fostering independence, social responsibility, and a sense of community. We had our first botany lesson of the year and then headed to the mountain to enjoy the water and catch fish. Everyone had the opportunity to row, pedal on the water, catch fish, and enjoy Mr. Jim's spaghetti and breakfast. We also roasted s'mores by the bonfire and danced and sang the night away!

As a result of this experience, we grew much closer and were eager to start the year and journey through it together.



Adolescent & Secondary

Summer | Bonding Trip | The Year Begins

Student Perspective

"As I approached my transition from Elementary to Adolescent, I was especially nervous. I was new to everything. There were more classes, homework, and things to remember. When summer break ended and the new year started, it was not as intimidating as I thought it would be. About 2 days after the school year had begun, we had our first bonding trip to Cloudland Canyon.

During the trip, we hiked, went paddle boarding, had meals together, learned to salsa, and roasted marshmallows. On the Monday after the trip, we had our first official day of school. This day was not bad for me, since the bonding trip had me adjusted quickly. The first week of school, we had already learned and discussed finances, planning, business, and much more. These businesses are all leading to our trip to Japan in April, where we'll be staying for 9 days."

-Claire Chen, 7th Grade

Clubs

We were excited to start Clubs this week! Most of us had the opportunity to interact with our classmates from other classes. I appreciate your support—we are looking forward to a fantastic semester of Art, Breakfast Box, Chess, Lunch Box, Spanish, and STEM Club. STEM Club is a new addition this year for our Lower Elementary and possibly Primary friends. We are currently working to finalize the curriculum and obtain its approval. Please look out for more information on this and other opportunities! Thank you for supporting us.



Getting Going

"In August, the adolescents and secondary students took a bonding trip to Cloudland, which helped us learn more about each other. This annual MSOR tradition includes various activities that encourage everyone's involvement and discussions about our upcoming classes and micro-businesses.

This year, secondary students will manage an average of eight classes and three clubs. I am excited to take three dual enrollment courses off campus. While I feel a bit nervous, I know my teachers are here to support me. Former students have told me that this opportunity helped them succeed in college.

I was elected as the lead finance person for the Adolescent and Secondary Class. While each micro business manages its own accounting, I am responsible for overseeing a total class budget of \$60,000. We are navigating new experiences and opportunities, and we are looking forward to a successful school year!"

-Tegan Ashley, 11th Grade



Camp Out & Sleepover



Party Only (6:00–9:00pm): \$25 (Open to Potty-trained Toddlers and Older)
Party & Sleepover (6:00pm–8:00am): \$40 (Open to Third Year Primary and Older)

Breakfast Box is Back!



BREAKFAST BOX IS BACK!



LET US TAKE CARE OF BREAKFAST FOR YOUR CHILD ONCE A WEEK! BUY A BREAKFAST BOX SUBSCRIPTION, AND YOUR CHILD CAN LOOK FORWARD TO BREAKFAST WAITING FOR THEM IN THEIR CLASSROOM ON FRIDAYS.

—KALEB PEARSON

FALL SEMESTER DATES SERVED: SEPTEMBER 12, 19, 26... OCTOBER 10, 17, 24, 31... NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21... DECEMBER 5, 12, 19

BISCUIT MEAL

\$110

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

- Chick-Fil-A Chicken Biscuit
- Go-Gurt Yogurt
- Banana
- 100% Caprisun Juice

**Deadline to order for
the fall is August 30!**

**We are excited to
serve you!**

Thank you for supporting the Adolescents by signing up for our microbusiness clubs! Funds raised from Breakfast Box will help us travel to Argentina in Spring 2025! Thank you for helping us explore the world around us!

contact Kaleb at
pearska@msor.org
with any questions!

MUFFIN MEAL

\$80

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

- Homemade muffin
- Go-Gurt Yogurt
- Banana 100% Caprisun
- Juice

**Spring Subscriptions can
be ordered in December!**

DROP OFF YOUR ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT AT THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN September 10, 2025! WE ACCEPT CASH (PREFERRED) OR CHECK: PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO "MSOR ADOLESCENTS" – THANK YOU!

See e-mail sent from the Office to sign up!

Lunch Box is Here!

Lunch Pricing



**Lunch Box Begins
September 15th.**

Parents can choose to purchase one day a week or both days.

Semester Plan Monday Only

Child's plate: \$105

Adult plate: \$130

Semester Plan Thursday Only

Child's plate: \$105

Adult plate: \$130

Semester Plan Mondays & Thursdays

Child's plate: \$195

Adult plate: \$250

Hot School Lunch Monday & Thursdays

Each meal is prepared fresh and delivered HOT to MSOR.



All meals have a protein, vegetables, rice or noodles and fresh fruit.



Meals are prepared at China Max, Japan Cafe, Happy Wok, or Chef Chen.



Customers can order a Childs plate or an adult order.

**Lunch Box Begins September 15th
Place your orders quickly!**

Lunch Menu

1. Sweet and Sour Chicken served with Vegetable Fried Rice (containing eggs, cabbage, carrots, and broccoli).
2. Teriyaki Chicken served with a mix of cabbage, broccoli, and carrots, along with plain fried rice.
3. Chicken on a Stick served with Vegetable Fried Rice (containing eggs, onions, carrots, and green peas).
4. Chicken Fried Rice (includes chicken, eggs, onions, carrots, green peas, and broccoli).
5. Sesame Chicken served with broccoli and Vegetable Fried Rice (containing onions, carrots, and green peas).
6. Chicken Lo Mein Noodles (includes chicken, carrots, bean sprouts, and Chinese cabbage).

All meal also comes with a serving of fresh fruit

Menu rotates every 6 meals.

See e-mail sent from the Office to sign up!