

# Dolphin Tales

December 6, 2025

Volume 14 Issue 4



## December Birthdays

Ms. Gracie	12/2	Liam A.	12/13
Matthew S.	12/3	Eva R.	12/16
Lilah P.	12/4	Lyra Y.	12/22
Whitley W.	12/6	Millie W.	12/23
Quentin J.	12/6	Jamie T.	12/24
Robert C.	12/12	Victoria V. G.	12/24
Naomi B.	12/13	Lani E.	12/31
		Atharva S.	12/31

## Important Dates

December 16<sup>th</sup>  
December 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>–January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
January 5<sup>th</sup>  
January 13<sup>th</sup>  
January 19<sup>th</sup>

MSOR Holiday Program  
Holiday Classroom Celebrations (1/2 Day)  
Winter Break  
School Resumes  
Winter Open House  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No School)



Montessori School of Rome Presents:

# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas



Tuesday, December 16th 2025

Rome City Auditorium  
6:00pm



It's the most wonderful time of the year! Our students have been rehearsing and getting ready for our annual MSOR Holiday Program, and you won't want to miss this exciting evening!

This year's theme is **'Twas the Night Before Christmas**, and we can't wait to take you on a beautifully narrated musical journey through one of the most classic and nostalgic Christmas stories ever told!

Our program will take place on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00pm at the Rome City Auditorium. Don't find yourself waiting in line the day of – preorder your tickets today!

See below for our official Holiday Program Ticket Order Form. Tickets purchased will be sent home in your child's lunchbox or backpack beginning next week!

*Montessori School of Rome*

*Presents*

# *‘Twas the Night Before Christmas*

*2025 Holiday Program*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Tuesday, December 16th*

*6:00pm*

*Rome City Auditorium*

Don't find yourself standing in line on the night of.... Order your tickets ahead of time!

Our ticket pricing helps cover the rental costs of the auditorium, musician and music fees, technician fees, decorations, and more! We are so excited to have you join us for our MSOR 2025 Holiday Program.

## **Ticket Order Form**

**Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Please write down the number of tickets you would like to order in the blanks provided below and submit this form, along with your payment, to reserve your tickets. You may return your order form and payment (cash or check only) in your child's lunchbox or drop off in the Office. Please make checks payable to Montessori School of Rome. Purchased tickets will be sent home in your child's lunchbox or backpack.

*Tickets are not required for MSOR students as they will be performing.*

### ***How many tickets would you like to purchase?***

Adult Ticket(s) - \$10.00

Child Ticket(s) [4-12 Years] - \$5.00

\*Children 3 years and under are free.

**Deadline to pre-order tickets is Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

# MSOR Winter Wear Drive



**Led & Organized by our  
Lower Elementary Classes**

## What We're Doing:

Montessori School of Rome Lower Elementary students are partnering with the Floyd County Police Department to collect clean, gently used winter clothing items to be distributed to local shelters in our area. This service project will be led and organized by Ms. Robin's and Ms. Maggie's Lower Elementary classes. We will be collecting these items over the next 2 weeks, and we kindly ask that our MSOR community participate so we can help keep families warm this winter!

## Items Needed:

- Jackets/Coats
- Sweaters
- Hats/Toboggans
- Gloves
- Mittens

We are requesting clean, gently used items only, please.

**Help us help  
our community!**

**When:**  
**Wednesday, December 3rd through  
Wednesday, December 17th**



**MONTESSORI  
SCHOOL of ROME**

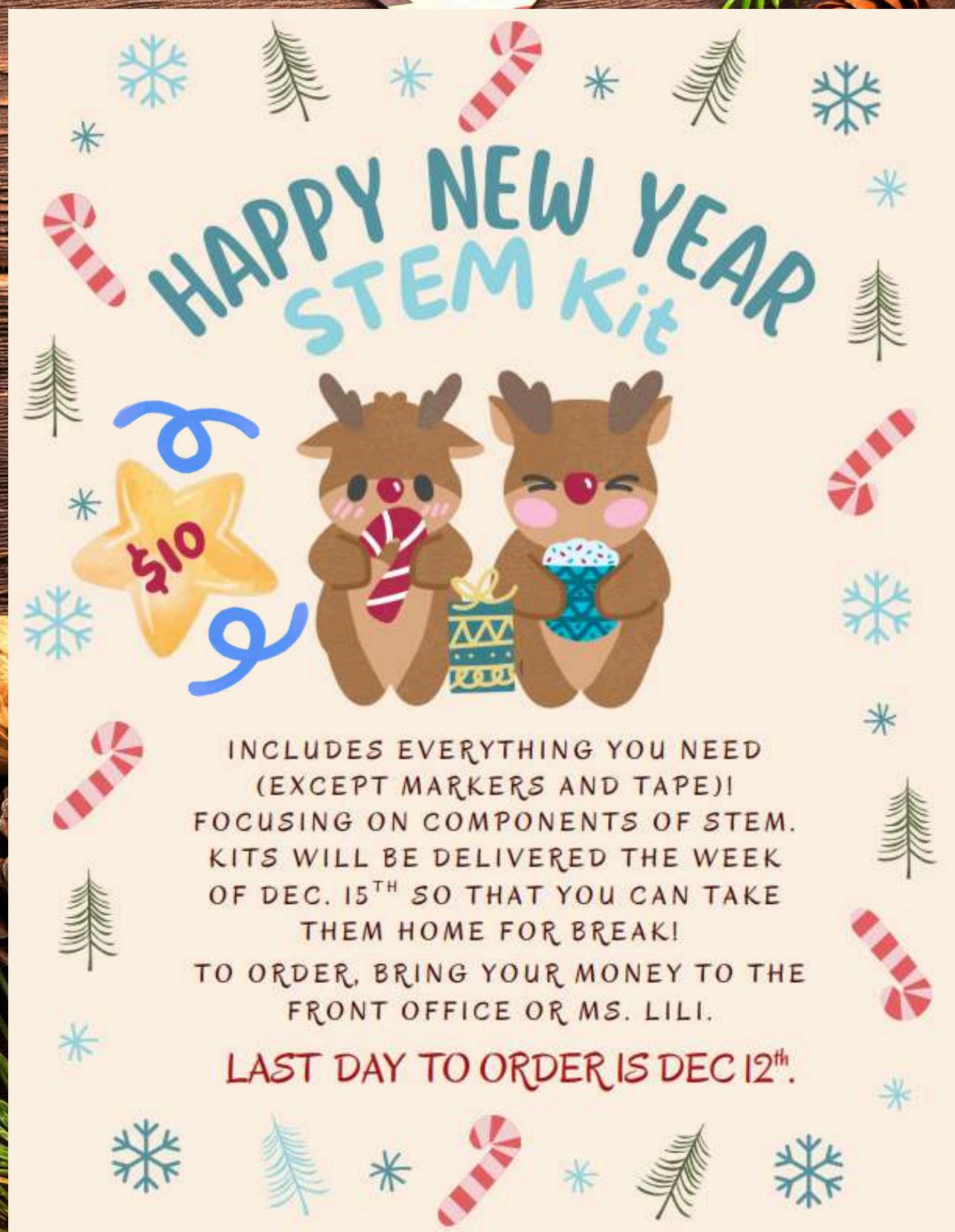
In partnership  
with the Floyd  
County Police  
Department



MSOR STEM Club is now taking orders for a New Year-themed STEM kit!

These kits are amazing take-home experiments suitable for grades K-6, and instructions are included! They will be delivered to students the week of December 15th so they can complete them at home over the holiday break! The deadline to order your child's New Year STEM kit is Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, all proceeds from the sale of STEM kits and STEM Club enrollees go toward the Adolescent & Secondary international trip to Japan in Spring 2026.

Thank you for supporting our school!



# Toddler News

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



I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving shared with family and friends!

The children are back and settled in for a fun filled month of December. We will be learning all about Arctic animals and also enjoy lots of Christmas stories along with plenty of crafts. There will also be LOTS of practicing for the Holiday Program on December 16th. I can't believe it's so close already. They might do great in the classroom and absolutely nothing on stage or even the opposite! You never know with these little toddlers, but I guarantee there will be cuteness!! 😊

Our last day in December will be 1/2 day. There will be no lunches on that day. Our tradition is to decorate cookies, so I'm asking for a parent volunteer to send in at least 14 plain cookies that can be decorated. We will also need a tub or two of icing, sprinkles and any other items you think would be fun for the children to put on the cookies! I've already purchased the plates and tablecloth and we have plenty of little plastic knives! Please text me and let me know if you can send anything in!



Here are some important dates for December:

- 12/16 - Holiday Program at Rome City Auditorium
- 12/17 - Pajama Day. We will play a movie and have special snacks.
- 12/19 - last day of school. It is a half day and we will be decorating cookies. More about dismissal time to be announced later.
- 12/22-1/2 - Holiday Break

I know I miss a lot of your texts from 2:00-2:25. It is an extremely busy time of day, getting children up, to the potty or diaper changing and getting all the nap mats and nap rolls put up. If it's something important, please let Jamie know and she will let us know!! I always hate when I get home and have missed your message!

Please make sure to have your child's name on all their winter gear!! If it is above freezing, we will try to get some outside time in so please send in appropriate weather jackets on those extra cold days!



# Toddler News

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

Happy holidays! Can you believe it's December? This month will be busy! We are going to talk about Arctic animals and different holiday customs around the world. We will be making lots of cute ornaments for your trees and enjoying lots of fun craft projects.

We are gearing up for the holiday program on December 16th. We have all of their outfits ready to go! If you have not sent in your \$20 to me, please do so. We are doing 2 songs and a poem. We are doing a scarf dance to the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy." Our poem is "Five Little Stockings". The grand finale is "We Wish You a Merry Christmas", the Super Simple Songs Version. They are doing fantastic! I hope they perform well in the program because they are so cute!

Please send in a labeled coat, hat, and mittens daily. Please practice with them at home, putting on their outerwear. They are doing great getting their coats, but still need to work on their mittens. We go out if the weather is above freezing. Our recess time is at 10, and it's still very chilly most days. I also wanted to include an article about properly dressing toddlers, since they don't regulate their body heat as well and lose a lot of heat through their heads. This article also discusses not wearing coats in car seats, so please take a look at it. Here's the link:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Winter-Car-Seat-Safety-Tips.aspx>

The last day of school is a half day on December 19th. School will resume on January 5th. We hope you have a wonderful holiday!



# Primary News

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

Wow! What a super fast few months!! We are loving these children. It is a joy to watch them learn and to see them form lifelong friendships. November was enjoyable learning about the first Thanksgiving. I believe the children most enjoyed The Turkey Tango. At our Thanksgiving celebration we loved all our families that came and ate with us. The food was delicious but we loved being with our Montessori families and making memories the most.

We are moving forward to December and all our festivities that are planned. The holiday program is on December 16th. We will have practice that morning at the Rome City Auditorium. Parents will drop off and pick up. Please see email sent from our class with lots of information. We have so much planned for the next couple of weeks. We have crafts to be made, holiday program to practice and perform, work in the classroom, but most of all... wonderful memories to be made with these children. We are always thankful and feel blessed, but during the holiday season we feel it even more so.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. Always blessed!



# Primary News

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



Sensorial activities in a Montessori classroom for ages 3-6 are designed to refine and sharpen a child's senses while laying the foundation for later learning in math, language, and science. Through carefully crafted materials—such as the Pink Tower, Sound Cylinders, Color Tablets, and Smelling Bottles—children isolate one sensory quality at a time, allowing them to focus on size, shape, texture, color, weight, sound, or scent.



These activities help children compare, classify, and grade objects, building essential cognitive skills like observation, concentration, and logical thinking. Sensorial work also supports vocabulary development as children learn precise language to describe their experiences. Above all, sensorial materials empower children to explore and understand their world through hands-on discovery, fostering independence, confidence, and a deeper awareness of their environment.



As you can see in this month's pictures, the children enjoy these activities a lot! Be sure to ask your child about the sensorial work in our classroom.



# Lower EI News

Ms. Maggie's Class

We began the month with geography studies. Students received lessons on atlas usage and the parts of our globe. Students researched and labeled the continents and oceans. We then read books on different trees with a focus on the apple tree. Ms. Cheyanne prepared apple related activities and they enjoyed completing the different stations. Vittoria's mom, Ms. Vita, came in and baked apple pies with us. They were delicious! The students loved following a recipe and measuring out ingredients.

During the week of Thanksgiving, we discussed fundamental needs. We compared whether certain needs were spiritual or material. We also read about children in different countries and discussed how they live. We read about how they get water or food, where they sleep, and their day to day life. We then read about the Wampanoag, the Pilgrims, and the first Thanksgiving meal. We also read about and labeled the parts of the turkey. The students enjoyed all of the autumn related crafts this month.

Thank you for all of the yummy food for our classroom celebration. We enjoyed spending time with you on this special day!

We will be studying North America this month. We will learn about the countries, capitals, biomes, waterways, mountain ranges, etc. In January, we will study South America. Our International Day country is Guyana. Many of our holiday ornaments/crafts will be inspired by Guyana and their traditions.

## Important Dates:

- Holiday Program- December 16<sup>th</sup>
- Half Day- December 19<sup>th</sup>
- Winter Break- December 22<sup>nd</sup>- January 2<sup>nd</sup>



NORTH POLE



# Lower EI News

Ms. Robin's Class

Thank you to all of our families who donated food and supplies for our Thanksgiving lunch. It was nice to spend time with all of you and to meet so many visiting grand and great-grandparents!

Our December class time is always too brief! We've had a busy first week, trying to squeeze in as many lessons as possible. The children love studying geography during cultural time. They are enjoying using atlases; locating countries and their capitals, land and water forms, flags, and biomes.

Next week we will have extra music classes to prepare for our holiday program, and will be working to decorate our room to make it festive for the holiday season. We will learn about winter holidays around the world, and share our own traditions. Parents are welcome to come and share information about holidays and traditions that are important to your students. I am happy to have parents visit at any time of year whenever there is a holiday or festival your child would like to share with classmates.

Please help your child to participate in our Lower Elementary service project, MSOR Winter Wear Drive. The students love helping others, and as fast as they grow, may have something they've outgrown to donate.

Please read the newsletter carefully to get all of the information about the holiday program and rehearsal times on that day. Tuesday, December 16th, students will need to be dropped off at the Rome City Auditorium for practice by 8:00am and picked up after practice.

December 19th is the last day of school, PAJAMA DAY!, and it is a 1/2 day.



# Adolescent & Secondary

Service | Thanks Giving Feast | Gratitude

## Student Perspectives

One of my classes this year is AP Environmental Science. Recent chapters have covered global food production, agriculture, and land use. To address the issues we are learning about in our community, my classmates and I organized a food drive for Northwest Georgia Hunger Ministries.

Our goal was to collect enough food to fill 500 backpacks in 7 days for the Weekend Backpack Program, which supports students experiencing food insecurity. This initiative helps ensure that these students have stable access to food, especially on weekends.

I really enjoyed the opportunity to visit other classrooms and teach students about the positive impact they can have on children in our community. Running a food drive before Thanksgiving taught my classmates and me valuable lessons about understanding and gratitude.

I was happy to help children in need, even in a small way. It is humbling to realize that each week, Hunger Ministries fills 2,300 bags for students—some of whom are my age—who do not have the same food security that we often take for granted, especially during the holidays.

**At the end of our week-long food drive, the MSOR community generously donated a grand total of 2,669 food items! We filled 667 Backpacks.** I want to thank Benjamin and Kaleb for working with me. We are incredibly thankful to be part of such a supportive school community. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much for donating food to the drive and for teaching your children the importance of helping others.

*Tegan Ashley, 11th Grade*

November/December is one of my favorite times of the year at school. The holiday season is not really about getting gifts or going places. The best moments are the ones we share with the people we care about. Even though it is called Thanksgiving, being thankful for what we have should happen all year.

In the Adolescent program, we have traditions that help us focus on gratitude. Before our Thanksgiving Feast, every student stands and shares something they are thankful for. We also write Thank You cards whenever we can, for big things and small ones. Christmastime gives us extra time with teachers and classmates as we prepare for the Holiday Program. At our Christmas Party, we get to do something kind for our Secret Snowflake.

During this season, I laugh more and make more meaningful memories than at any other time of year. What stands out the most is not the gifts. It is the memories I make with the people around me.

## November

November is traditionally the month we focus on helping our students use their academic studies better to understand the world and their role in it. Serving gives them a chance to act on that understanding.

Our recent food drive clearly showed this balance. Students learned about food insecurity, planned the collection, and organized the work. They saw how their academic preparation connected to real needs in the community. Through the project, they practiced leadership, teamwork, and empathy.

In Montessori education, service is part of learning. Students study, reflect, and take action, gaining confidence in their ability to make a difference. By combining strong academics with meaningful service, they grow into responsible, engaged members of their community.



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# Upper Elementary News

**Dia de los Muertos ~ Funk Museum ~ Food Drive ~ Thanksgiving Feast**

## November Going Out Experience: The Funk Heritage Museum

Taking our class to the Funk Heritage Center gave our students a genuine, respectful understanding of the history of Native American peoples in the Southeast. They observed artifacts, listened to stories, and explored the exhibits with genuine curiosity. In Montessori education, experiences like this are significant because they ground learning in reality and foster empathy. I witnessed my students making connections, asking thoughtful questions, and developing a deeper respect for the people who inhabited this land long before us.

Additionally, the students expanded their knowledge of the Trail of Tears and learned about the lifestyle of the colonists who settled here after the displacement.

The docents were passionate, and the students remained fully engaged, extending their classroom knowledge!

## In The Classroom

November was a busy and meaningful month filled with learning and gratitude. The students continued their studies of Native American history and culture, gaining a deeper understanding of these important topics. We also progressed in our studies of the Five Kingdoms and taxonomy. We also celebrated Dia de los Muertos, honoring Ms. Shemi's & Mr. Jim's friend Siti. Thank you Ms. Gabi!

In addition to their academic work, the students put into practice the lessons on grace and courtesy in hosting friends and family. They learned how to write formal invitations, which set the stage for a remarkable event: a grand feast hosted for 96 guests this year. This annual feast has become a cherished tradition, serving as a beautiful gathering of families, friends, and graduates, filled with laughter and warmth.

Thank you for preparing a dish; it helped make the celebration memorable. Your presence and support meant a great deal to all of us.



## Importance Of Teaching Students About Service

As a Montessori Elementary teacher, we see every day how capable children are when we trust them with real responsibility. Community service is one of the most meaningful ways to show them that their actions matter. It turns abstract ideas about kindness and citizenship into something they can touch, see, and feel.

In our classroom, community service is not an extra activity. It is a core part of how children learn to understand themselves and the world. When students gather food for a local pantry, write letters to seniors, or help keep our school grounds clean, they practice empathy in motion. **They learn to look past their own needs and ask a simple question: "How can I help?"**

Service helps children build real confidence. They see that they can lead projects, solve problems, and make a difference.

It also strengthens our classroom community. Working together teaches cooperation, patience, and respect. Most importantly, service helps students understand that they are part of something larger. It guides them toward becoming thoughtful, compassionate citizens who know how to act when they see a need.

