

Dolphin Tales

January 9, 2026

Volume 14 Issue 5



January Birthdays

Eva L.	1/4	Wyatt H.	1/16
Carson R.	1/4	Harper L.	1/18
Zoey R.	1/7	Ms. Angie	1/18
Alexandra T.	1/7	Ms. Jamie	1/18
Frances A.	1/8	Vittoria R.	1/20
Elvis P.	1/8	Peyton J.	1/24
Winn M.	1/11	Gabriella T.	1/26
Hudson W.	1/12	Dalia T.	1/26
Ms. Jane.	1/16	Norah H.	1/26
Braxton W.	1/16	Ms. Angela	1/31
Gus D.	1/16		

Important Dates

January 13 th	Winter Open House 5:30–6:30pm
January 19 th	MLK Jr. Day (No School)
January 19 th	January Fun Day – Sitter Service
January 30 th	MSOR Winter Fest
February 5 th	International Day – Toddler & Primary
February 6 th	International Day – Elementary
February 16 th	Parent Education Night – Elementary
February 17 th	Parent Education Night – Primary
February 19 th	Parent Education Night – Toddler
March 6 th	Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)





Welcome

TO OUR NEW FAMILIES!

Montessori School of Rome is delighted to welcome many new families to our programs this month:

The McNiece Family
The Moon Family
The Morris Family
The Worthey Family

As you begin this journey with us, we hope you quickly feel at home in our environment rooted in respect, curiosity, and a love of learning. We look forward to partnering with you and your children as they grow, explore, and thrive together.

Welcome—we're so glad you're here!



Wisdom



Knowledge



Peace

MONTESSORI SCHOOL of ROME

Established 1980

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2026/2027!

Considering Montessori for your child?

Be sure to join us for our Winter Open House to discover the beauty and purpose of a Montessori education.

At Montessori School of Rome, we pride ourselves on offering unique, whole-child educational programs designed to foster independence, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning.

Who should attend?

- **Prospective Families:** If you are considering Montessori for the 2026/2027 academic year, this is the perfect opportunity to tour our classrooms and meet our dedicated guides.
- **Current Families:** If your child will be moving into a new program next year (e.g., Toddler to Primary, or Primary to Elementary), we encourage you to come see what awaits them in their next stage of development.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, January 13th
- **Time:** 5:30-6:30pm
- **Location:** 165 Dodd Blvd. SE Rome, GA 30161

Come see how our prepared environments support your child's academic, social, and emotional growth. We look forward to welcoming you!



RSVP:

office@msor.org
706.232.7744

Shemi Kumar, Directress
Jamie Foster, Executive Administrator





Please join us for

MSOR INTERNATIONAL DAY

Feb. 5th - Toddler & Primary
Feb. 6th - Elementary

We are delighted to invite you to join us for our annual International Day presentations, a cherished Montessori tradition at our school.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, February 5th and 6th, our students will present what they have been learning about countries and cultures from around the world. Through research, creativity, and hands-on exploration, the children have prepared presentations that reflect their curiosity, respect for diversity, and global awareness.

International Day is a special opportunity for our students to share their work with pride and for our community to come together to celebrate the rich cultures that connect us all. We hope you will be able to attend and support the children as they showcase their learning.

More details regarding presentation times and classroom schedules will be shared soon.

Thank you for being a valued part of our school community.
We look forward to celebrating with you.

Brrr... Save the Date for MSOR's

Winter Fest

Please join us Friday, January 30th for MSOR Winter Fest, a schoolwide family celebration hosted by our Adolescent & Secondary programs.

There will be food, inflatables,
and more fun for all ages!

Keep an eye out—
more details will be coming this weekend!

Need childcare on Monday, January 19th?

JANUARY FUN DAY sitter service

Looking for childcare on MLK Day, Monday, January 19th? Your child is invited to join us for January Fun Day - Sitter Service, a full day of fun and care hosted by our Adolescent & Secondary classes! Children will enjoy crafts, creative play, music, and dance on our day off from school!

 Time: 8:00am-5:00pm

 Snacks provided (please bring a lunchbox and water bottle)

 Cost: \$60.00 for the full day

Keep an eye out for registration forms
coming to your email inbox this weekend!

CALLING ALL PARENTS WHO GARDEN!

The Adolescent class needs a few vegetable plants that have been started for a research project. We are looking for tomatoes, lettuce, watercress, strawberries, kale, chives, any herb (ie. basil, cilantro), or any other plant that does not need bees to pollinate. We only need a few plants, but are hoping to have some that have already started growing.

These plants will be used to test an aquaponics system and research from this project will be presented at the Coosa River Basin Initiative's (CRBI) Student Symposium for Watershed Innovation & Management (SSWIM). This is a student-led research project that allows students to practice scientific research, presentation skills, writing skills and gives them an opportunity to win funds to support our school's science programs. Any support would be greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!

-Ms. Lili



Lunch Box starts on Monday, January 12th!

Lunch Pricing



Lunch Box Begins on January 19th.

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

Semester Plan Monday Only

Child's plate: \$136
Adult plate: \$170

Semester Plan Thursday Only

Child's plate: \$144
Adult plate: \$180

Semester Plan Mondays & Thursdays

Child's plate: \$280
Adult plate: \$350

Service Date

January: 12, 15, 22, 26, 29
February: 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26
March: 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30
April: 2, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30
May: 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21

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 Child's plate or an adult order.

Lunch Box Begins January 19th
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 and broccoli served with Rice.
4. Fried Chicken with 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.

Breakfast Box starts on Friday, January 16th!



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: January 16,23,30... February 6,13,20,27... March 13,20... April 17 May 1,8,15

BISCUIT MEAL

\$110

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

**Deadline to order for
spring is January 14!**

**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

**Deadline to order for
spring is January 14!**

DROP OFF YOUR ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT AT THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN January 14, 2025! WE Accept CASH (PREFERRED) OR CHECK: PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO "MSOR ADOLESCENTS" - THANK YOU!



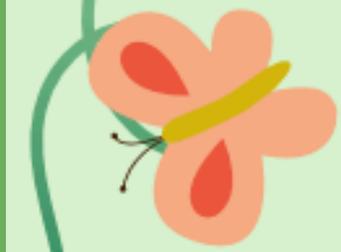
WELCOME TO STEM CLUB



CELEBRATING SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATH
For third year primary and lower elementary students

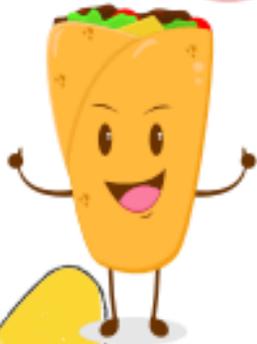
Thursdays 3:15-4:15pm, Starting Jan 15
Spring Semester (15 Meetings) \$195

Are your children curious about the natural world? Are they interested in how things work? Enroll them in STEM Club! Here, your student will take part in hands on, experiential learning based projects to help gain a better understanding of our world! And of course, have TONS of fun!



Montessori School Of Rome

SPANISH CLUB



Wednesdays

Primary 2:30pm-3:00pm

Lower and Upper EL

3:15pm-4:00pm

Hosted by
Ms.Lelia +
Zoey &
Wanling

Fall- (SEP-DEC): \$150.00

Spring - (JAN-MAY): \$150.00

Learn to speak Spanish while
enjoying seasonal fun themes
& music!



PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT ADOLESCENT
& SECONDARY STUDENTS' INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
TO JAPAN!



Hosted by: Secondary Student Benjamin Cramer

Elementary chess club times offered, please choose one
Monday 3:50-4:50 pm or Tuesday 3:45-4:45 pm

Cost: spring semester cost for chess club is \$175 for 31
classes

Please drop off your sign in sheet and payment to the office
by January 12, 2026. You may pay in cash or check, please
make all checks payable to: MSR Adolescent

thank you for all the support

Dungeons and Dragons Club!



**Dungeons & Dragons Club is
back in business!**

Join a D&D campaign hosted by Charles
Giles and Marissa Gonzalez!

***Let your imagination
run wild!***

Starting January 14, Sessions will
take place on **Wednesdays 4:00-5:00pm**
in the Adolescent Main Classroom

See sign up form for pricing!

Toddler News

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

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are so excited to be back. Can you believe 2026 is already here?

This month we are studying the country of Mexico for International Day. We look forward to welcoming parents to our classroom presentation and lunch on Tuesday, February 5th. Keep an eye out for more information regarding costumes and lunch coming very soon!

We are so happy to welcome our new student, Braxton, to the classroom!

If you know any other families who may be interested in Montessori School of Rome for the 2026/2027 school year, please let them know about our Winter Open House happening next week on Tuesday, January 13th from 5:30-6:30pm. We will be on a waitlist very soon!



Toddler News

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



Happy New Year! We are so excited to welcome everyone back, including our two new students - Will and Oliver!

I hope you all had a fabulous break. We have jumped right into our study of Canada for International Day. International Day for our class will be on Thursday, February 5th. It is an exciting day, so make plans to be there! We will learn about their way of life, food, animals, people, and languages. We will be learning some songs and some French too. On International Day, we will wear clothing that represents Canada and share a Canadian lunch. More details on those to follow.

This week, we learned about some of the animals that live in Canada. One animal we discussed was the beaver. We discussed how the beavers protect themselves, what they eat, and how they build their dams. We spent time on the playground on Thursday gathering supplies, like twigs and leaves, to build a dam. Today, we spent the morning digging dirt for the dam and building it. It took us a couple of tries, but we finally got the dam to hold. They had so much fun!

We have a lot of sickness in our class at the moment. Please keep your child home with you if they are not feeling well. We want to do our best to keep all of our children and teachers well.

We have added a lot of new water work in our classroom. Please make sure to send in extra clothes for their cubbies.



Primary News

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

Welcome back! We are so excited to be back at school this January. Thank you to everyone for a great December. All the lovely presents and cards made our holidays! We hope everyone enjoyed their time off. We want to welcome two new students to our class: Charlotte and Jeb have joined us this January and we're excited to get to know them and their families.

We will be preparing for International Day this month. We are studying the country of Denmark. We invite you to visit our classroom on Thursday, February 5th for our Denmark presentation. Each child will need to be dressed in costume (we have many Danes in mind and will be reaching out to each parent to discuss costumes). We will also culminate with a special Danish lunch—parents are invited to stay for lunch as well. Look for a sign-up genius menu from us in the next week.

We will celebrate 100 Days of School on Monday, January 26th. If your child would like to bring in 100 items, we will let them share at line time and we will practice counting to 100 all day! We'd love to have a special snack for this day so if you'd like to volunteer, please reach out. We have a peanut allergy and a watermelon allergy in the classroom.

Make sure to sign up for clubs, lunch box, and breakfast box again this semester! These are semester long sign ups so you'll need to renew now to reserve your space!

We have a few date reminders:

- Tue. 1/3 FRUIT/VEGETABLE: Declan
- Tue. 1/13 FRUIT/VEGETABLE: Merritt
- Mon. 1/19: MLK DAY-NO SCHOOL
- Tue. 1/20 FLOWERS: Maxwell
- Tue. 1/20 FRUIT/VEGETABLE: Victoria
- Mon. 1/26: 100 Days of School
- Tue. 1/27 FRUIT/VEGETABLE: Lyla Kay
- Mon. 2/2 FLOWERS (preferably red and white to represent Denmark): Fateh
- Tue. 2/3 FRUIT/VEGETABLE: Robert
- Thur. 2/5: International Day



Primary News

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

Montessori math for children ages 3-6 is concrete, hands-on, and deeply connected to the child's natural development. Children first experience mathematical concepts through movement and the senses before working with symbols and numbers on paper.

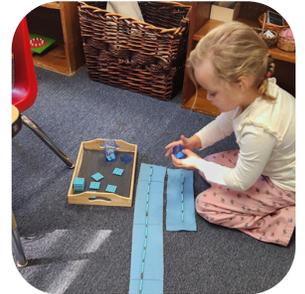
Materials such as number rods, sandpaper numerals, spindle boxes, and golden beads allow children to see, touch, and feel quantity. This helps them understand what numbers truly represent, rather than memorizing abstract facts.

Math is introduced in a clear sequence: quantity before symbols, simple before complex, and concrete before abstract. Children work at their own pace, repeating activities until understanding becomes natural and confident.

Through this approach, children develop a strong foundation in counting, place value, operations, and logical thinking—along with concentration, independence, and joy in learning.

In the accompanying photos, children in our class are shown exploring and working with the various levels of math materials available in the classroom.

Please remember that classroom observations are open to families. Observing the classroom offers a meaningful glimpse into our daily routines and the children's learning experiences.



Lower EI News

Ms. Maggie's & Ms. Robin's Classes

January is our time to get back to work and focus on all that needs to be completed for the remainder of the year. We are also studying our countries and preparing our classrooms for International Day. Please keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks pertaining to costumes and food.

This month is also a time to reflect on peace. Peace education is a vital part of the Montessori curriculum. Montessori guides model peaceful, respectful behavior, and older students are role models for the younger children. Each classroom has a peace table, corner, or nook that is designated as a space for conflict resolution. Students go there together to resolve problems, and students may go alone to calm down and feel peaceful. At the peace table, students take turns speaking about how they feel while holding a peace flower. They stay there until they have listened to one another with respect and resolved their disagreement. This process helps children develop empathy and patience.

As we study the legacy of MLK Jr. this month, we are mindful that Maria Montessori also shared a vision that the education of children should be founded on equity and peace.



"Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of educators". - Maria Montessori

"Intelligence plus character - that is the true goal of education". - Martin Luther King Jr.

Upper Elementary News

Christmas Fun ~ Holiday Program ~ International Day

Looking Back

As we welcome the new year, we look back on December as a busy and rewarding month in our Upper Elementary classroom. Students worked on handmade gifts for you and practiced songs for our Night Before Christmas program, helping each other and gaining confidence along the way. December gave us a chance to see how much they have grown—in their learning, friendships, and sense of community.

A Big Thanks to Kim and Jon

Headrick for arranging tickets for our class to ice skate. The students loved the opportunity!

Looking Forward

The Students are very excited that Second Semester Sports begin next week!

YMCA

YMCA will continue to be on Friday at the same time - 2:30 to 3:30.

YMCA Spring Fees are **\$120**

TENNIS

The MSOR Upper Tennis Program will have a coaching change for 5th-year students for the Spring Semester.

- Coach Jaleel will coach 5th and 6th year students at Lawrence Plantation on Thursdays from 3:00–4:00 PM.
- 4th year students will continue training with Coach Jan on Thursdays from 3:00–4:00 PM.

Tennis Fees:

- **4th Year Students: \$140**
- **5th & 6th Year Students: \$182**

In The Classroom

Now that January is here, our attention has turned to preparations for International Day. Unlike other MSOR classrooms that focus on a modern country, Upper Elementary students dive into the study of an ancient civilization. This year, we are exploring Ancient Greece, uncovering its democracy, philosophy, mathematics, art, and mythology.

Students are eager to engage with Greek history through research, timelines, hands-on projects, and thoughtful Socratic discussions, connecting the innovations of city-states like Athens and Sparta to their own sense of responsibility, collaboration, and citizenship. In the coming weeks, we'll go even deeper into Greek mythology, exploring the exciting stories and legends that shaped Greek culture and inspired generations of art, literature, and thought.

It's an exciting start to the new year, and we can't wait to see where their curiosity and creativity take them! We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the parent presentation and Greek Feast!



Adolescent & Secondary

Midterms.Music.Movement | Holidays | New Year . New Beginnings

January

The holiday season offered our Adolescent & Secondary community a meaningful pause to reflect, reconnect, and recharge. A full semester of learning and growth culminates in a busy and joyful finish, with students preparing for midterms while also learning music and dances that bring our community together. Whether students spent time with family, contributed to their communities through volunteerism or work, traveled, or enjoyed quiet moments at home, the break provided valuable opportunities for independence, responsibility, and personal growth—hallmarks of Montessori learning at this stage. As we all return to our work together, we all carry forward renewed energy and fresh perspectives, ready to engage thoughtfully with each other, our studies, and our community.



Student Perspectives

December was a very busy time as an Adolescent student! We completed our fall academic semester, took midterm exams, and prepared for and performed in our annual Christmas Program. We also hosted a successful Breakfast with Santa event—all of it went by so fast.

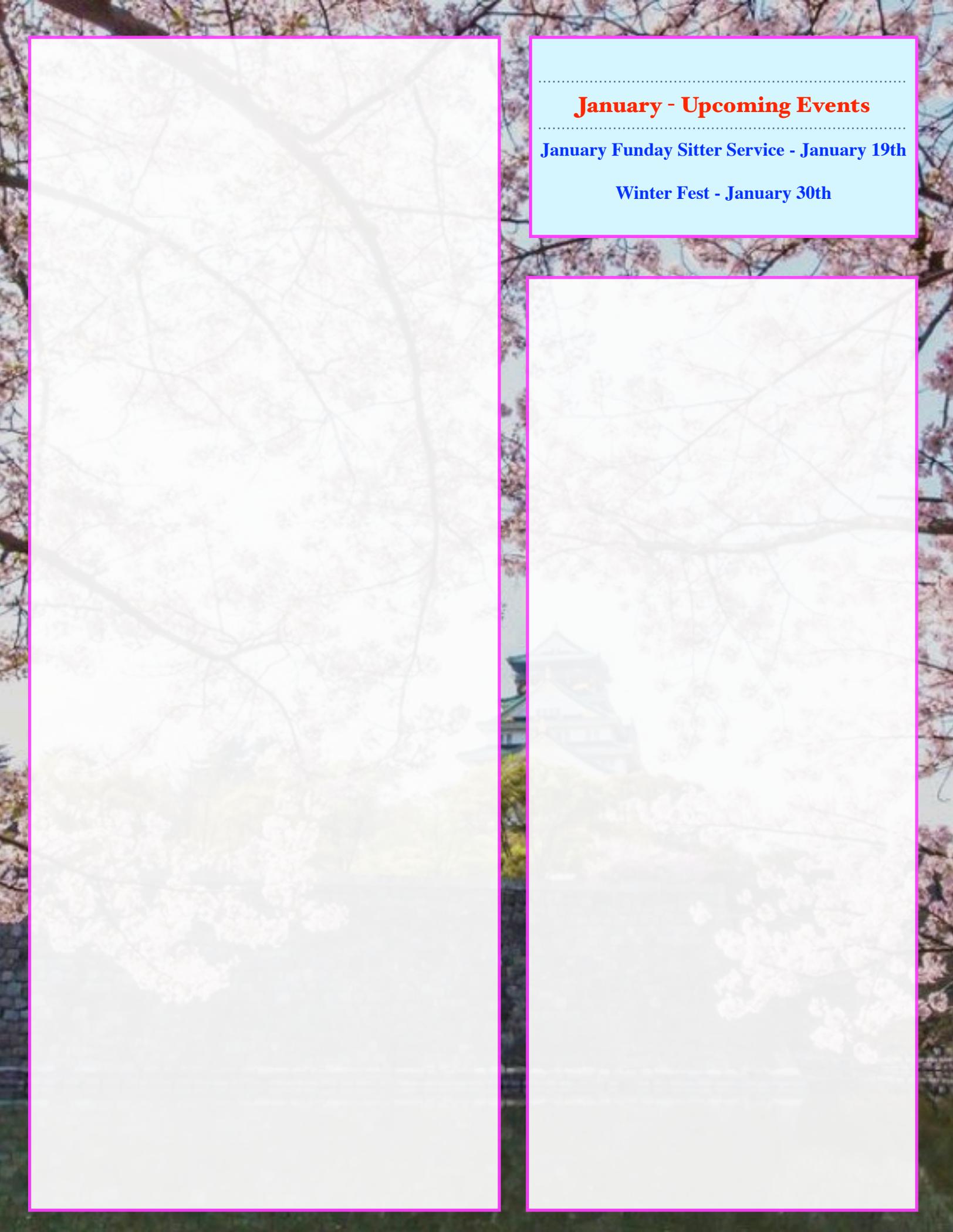
As a 7th grader, the Christmas concert felt very different from my Upper Elementary experience. There was much more preparation involved, including practicing for the guitar ensemble piece, setting up the stage, and helping backstage during the performance. It was a really interesting experience. Singing and dancing on stage are not necessarily my favorite things, but after so many years at MSOR, I am used to it and sometimes even enjoy it. I want to give a special thank-you to Ms. Angela and Mr. Ben for preparing us musically.

The Breakfast with Santa fundraiser was also new for me. We helped set up the room, welcomed Santa from the North Pole, prepared and served food, and cleaned up afterward. It wasn't as overwhelming as I expected because everyone had a specific job. Santa arrived with a sleigh full of Christmas cheer, and everyone enjoyed their breakfast. All proceeds from this event support our trip to Japan, making it the perfect way to begin our holiday break. ~ *Sabrina Chen, 7th year*

My curiosity for creating things began a few years ago when my father gave me a 3D printer for Christmas. When I enrolled at MSOR this past fall and learned that I would be running a micro-business, my first idea was to explore what I could create using my printer. Before coming to this school, I had already experimented with the machine—I even 3D-printed a generator case and hand-wired it myself!

Realizing that the possibilities were endless, I began designing and printing fidget toys, academic support tools, decorations, toys, and more. I started selling subscription boxes and quickly discovered how much I love creating and sharing my designs. I am mentored by my classmate Kaleb, and thanks to his support, I have gained confidence in becoming a young entrepreneur—thank you so much, Kaleb! My goal this semester is to independently learn more about the financial side of my business. Even though I joined the Adolescent Program later than most, the encouragement I've received has helped me stay on track with my classmates as I work toward earning my way to Japan. Be on the lookout for my future pickup-line sales, and give my 3D prints a try!

~ *Will Miller, 7th year*

The background of the entire page is a photograph of cherry blossoms in full bloom, with a traditional Japanese building visible through the branches. The blossoms are a mix of light pink and white, and the building has a dark roof and light-colored walls. The overall scene is bright and festive.

January - Upcoming Events

January Funday Sitter Service - January 19th

Winter Fest - January 30th