

Dolphin Tales

March 6, 2026

Volume 14 Issue 7



March Birthdays

Josie M.	3/1	Ms. Ortrud	3/14
Wyatt P.	3/4	Maxwell H.	3/22
Rajveer S.	3/9	Noah D.	3/23
Emerson H.	3/11	Harrison M.	3/29
Gordy F.	3/13	Jamesen H.	3/31
Coco S.	3/14		

Important Dates

March 12 th -13 th	Lower Elementary Field Trip to Alabama 4-H Science School
March 27 th	Toddler Field Trip to Atlanta Zoo
March 27 th	Primary Field Trip to Tellus Museum
March 31 st	Science Fair 5:45-7:00pm
April 3 rd	MSOR Easter Egg Hunt
April 6 th -10 th	Spring Break
April 20 th -24 th	(Tentative) ITBS Testing for Grades 2 nd -8 th
April 24 th	Gardening Day/Special Person's Day



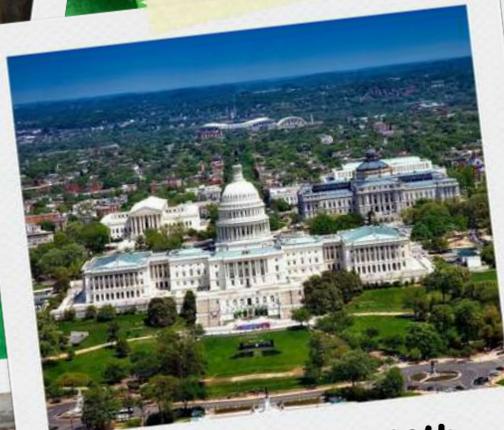
Spring Field Trips Coming Up!



PRIMARY:
TELLUS SCIENCE MUSEUM
FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH



LOWER ELEMENTARY:
ALABAMA 4-H SCIENCE SCHOOL
MARCH 12TH-13TH



UPPER ELEMENTARY:
WASHINGTON D.C.



TODDLER:
ZOO ATLANTA
FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH



ADOLESCENT & SECONDARY:
JAPAN

MSOR Elementary students share what excites them most about Science Fair..

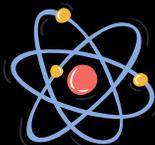
"I like gaining experience making my posters."
-Lilah P.



"I enjoy testing my project."
-Jamesen H.

"We can experiment stuff and learn new things."
-Constance F.

"It's about stuff that you don't know about and you learn it."
-Cora K.



"Finding the area of science I most enjoy."
-Seanna K.

"I like having a board and showing it to people."
-Juliet H.

"When I see all the projects. They are cool."
-Ira June S.

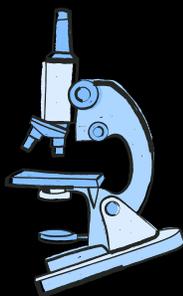
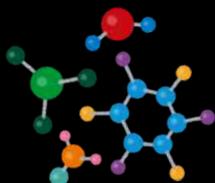
"Seeing if my hypothesis is correct."
-Will T.

"I like doing my experiments."
-Reynolds L.



"I love testing my experiments and hearing about other projects from classmates."
-Gabriella T.

"You get to build stuff and take it home."
-Carter M.



"I like making the boards each year and building my project step by step."
-Rajveer S.

"I like getting the materials for my projects. I am excited about getting the treats for the cats this year."
-Lyra Y.

"What I like best about Science Fair is all of the different projects and getting to see if your hypothesis is correct or incorrect. It doesn't really matter if it's incorrect."
-Vittoria R.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

"Stuff" is an extremely scientific word often used by Lower Elementary students. 😊



"I enjoy figuring out what I am going to do each year. I like doing different types of projects."
-Wyatt P.



FEATURED ADOLESCENT NEWS WRITE-UP

Basins, Biology and Bug Spray, Oh My!

By Charles Giles and Zoey Reynolds

Basins, Biology and Bug Spray, Oh My!

Co-Written by, Charles Giles and Zoey Reynolds - 9th graders.

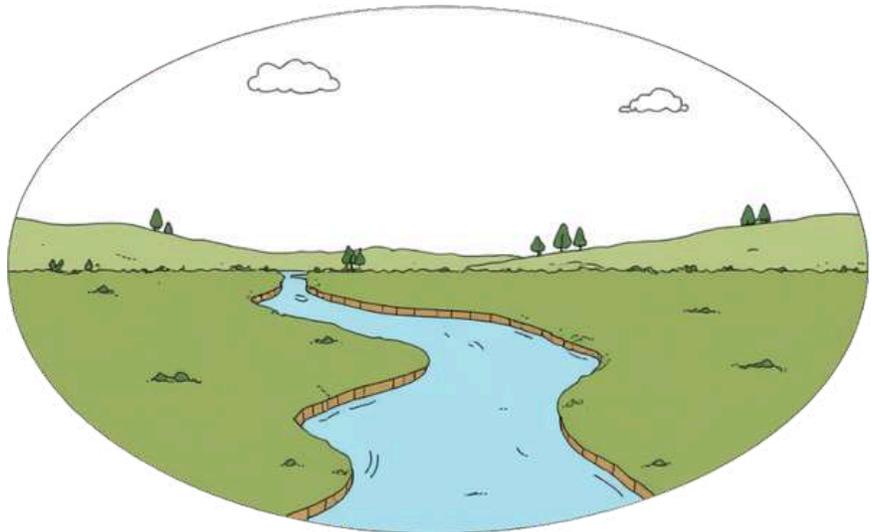
For our biology class, we are competing in the Youth Symposium for Watershed Innovation and Management (SWIM) sponsored by the Coosa River Basin Initiative. We are competing to learn about watersheds and how we can help support them. Our competition is in April and will be held at Berry College. We will be competing against many other high school groups, in both poster and oral presentations, in hopes of winning the “grand prize” called the Keystone Award. This award is based on the keystone species (integral species in our environment and ecosystems).

This project and competition is a great way for us to learn more about our surroundings while also being able to have fun. Another benefit of this project is that we get to choose what we actually want to do, plan it out, conduct our own research, and do our own data analysis. For our project, we decided to test how different commonly found household chemicals affected Moina.

Moina are small aquatic insects, otherwise known as water fleas. Moina are found all over the world because they can handle harsh conditions. We put Moina in different chemicals to see what their reactions were, including survival rates and signs of stress. We tested reactions using diluted coffee, filtered coffee, bug spray, sunscreen, ammonia, Dawn dish soap, and two water controls. We chose these chemicals because they are recreational chemicals (including coffee) that are commonly found in and around the water of our Coosa River Basin.

Through our testing, so far, we have learned that some chemicals are not as safe as they seem for the environment. One of these chemicals was Dawn dish soap, which is marketed as being better for the environment than other leading brands. The Dawn dish soap ended up killing the Moina quicker than the other variables. As we were testing the other chemicals on the Moina, we realized how awful some of the chemicals used for recreation and near water sources can be for different organisms.

So far, this project has helped us realize the impact that different recreational activities and chemicals can have on the environment and that if we take care of the environment, a variety of organisms would no longer be as affected. It has also taught us how to work through a full scientific project independently, with support from Ms. Lili, allowing us to learn more about the scientific method in a hands-on way!



FEATURED SECONDARY NEWS WRITE-UP

Montessori International Day: Immersive and Imaginative Learning
By Tegan Ashley, Benjamin Cramer & Kaleb Pearson

Montessori International Day : Immersive and Imaginative Learning

February 18, 2026

By Tegan Ashley, Benjamin Cramer and Kaleb Pearson

Special student submission to the Rome News Tribune

On Feb. 12 and 13, 2026, the Montessori School of Rome celebrated its 45th annual International Day presentation. Each year, the classrooms select a country to adopt. After months of learning the history, geography, music, art, food, and festivals of their chosen lands, the classrooms then come alive, as if stepping straight into the streets of the country itself. Students dress in authentic clothes, and learn special music and dances. Families cherished a vibrant presentation of song, dance, and history, and then shared an authentic meal with their teachers. Canada, Denmark, Guyana, Japan, Mexico, and Ancient Greece were this year's chosen perspectives. This cultural display, a culmination of months of immersive learning, has become a cherished cornerstone of the school curriculum.

Some of life's best memories can be summarized by stamps on a passport. This year's International Day presentation felt like a journey straight off of an international bucket list. The journey began in Mexico with the sounds of maracas shaking and piñatas flying. Sailing over to Denmark, guests attended the State Dinner of Denmark, meeting famous icons of Danish history. In Japan, visitors were captivated by the story of the Tanabata, a festival that celebrated the reunion of a boy and a girl who were separated by the Milky Way. In Guyana, onlookers were guided by two head explorers through a fascinating "Whodunnit?" mission to find stolen diamonds in the jungle. In the wintry scenes of Canada, families could hear strains of Canadian songs, sung in both English and French. In one classroom, visitors watched a beautiful silk scarf dance. In another, visitors got to learn about indigenous tribes in a riveting game of Jeopardy. Finally, it felt like stepping into a time machine as guests were transported back in time to the lands of Ancient Greece. Patrons took in a play about Alexander the Great, observed a traditional dance, and listened to a comedic song about Greek gods and goddesses. The immersive experiences that this year's International Day brought were truly one of a kind.

What makes International Day such a special presentation of learning? The Montessori School of Rome boasts a very diverse population; the impact of learning about diverse cultures from, and with, one's friends can be everlasting. When asked about the cultural significance of International Day, Upper Elementary Guide Keith Summerlin said, "I think it is great to inspire curiosity about the world from a very young age, as well as to learn about other cultures and how things around the world can be [both] common and different."

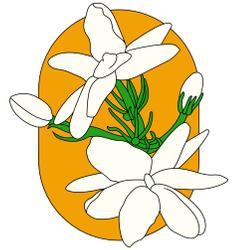
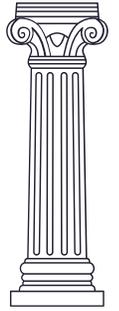
The concept of a classroom immersing itself in customs and traditions of other lands is special. The Upper Elementary classroom takes a deeper educational approach; 4th through 6th grade students only study ancient civilizations. The deeper benefit of this approach is that students "...do not only study a modern country but [rather] its historical self," Summerlin added.

Dr. Maria Montessori said that "The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence." Following her teachings, the Montessori School of Rome provides children with hands-on learning of culture through this event. To accomplish this, each class decorates their classroom, from floor to ceiling, to iconize their chosen country. Lower Elementary Guide Maggie Hale explained, "I try to introduce several different types of art projects. We made water lilies out of clay, we wove baskets out of yarn, and we made birds from the rainforest." Walking through the different classrooms this year, visitors found gallery walls of gods, handmade flags draped from ceilings, student-created dictionaries in foreign languages, masks, and so much more. The diversity of decorations are just as rich as the choices in how they are presented. "We try to always decorate based on the different regions of the country. We do a market scene, we build structures, paint murals, etc," Hale added. This immersive element provides students with the opportunity to learn **inside** the country that they are studying.

International Day is a community project at heart; this annual tradition would not be possible without the passion and preparation from the teachers. While the students are busy taking in all of the information about their country, it is also a learning opportunity for the teachers. Just like the students, the teachers have their favorite memories about International Day. In the five years Spanish Teacher Gabi Shaw has taught at the school, she liked most when students "Talk about the important people of their country because the majority of the time, we don't know about the important people of that country." This year, many students dressed as historical figures, and narrated their legacies in the first person. Bringing historical names to life plays a vital role in the further development of the respect and appreciation of the country, and its people, being studied.

What makes immersive learning so special to the experience? Toddler Guide Ginny Alford spoke to the benefits of this teaching style, saying that "...Immersive learning is vital to culturally educating children because it is the best and only way to teach children about cultures." What would make a stronger impact on you- reading about a country in a textbook, or stepping into a country, wearing the clothes, singing the songs, orating its history?

After watching all of this year's fascinating presentations, we - Tegan, Benjamin and Kaleb- were left wondering about how much of our world remains a mystery yet to be discovered. Primary Guide Ortrud Uhl said it best; "We live in a great big beautiful world which needs to be explored." This year's International Day gave a grand opportunity for students to learn about the "big beautiful world" that they live in. We hope that this tradition will one day inspire younger students to explore the world they live in, or even travel to the countries that they learned about this year. As we celebrate 45 years of immersive learning, we hope that the next 45 years continue to allow students to be creative, open minded, and curious about the world around them.



Toddler News

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

It's so hard to believe that it is March already! The school year is flying by.

The older toddlers are finished visiting primary and they all did very well. I will lose 9 toddlers to primary and will have 5 staying for a second year.

This month we will be talking all about the zoo and zoo animals.

We will be reading lots of books, singing songs and making a few crafts! The zoo topic is fun for the children. They like learning about all the animals that live there. Our zoo field trip is March 27. I am still waiting to hear from several families to find out if you're going and how many in your family will attend.

Please make sure to have names on all water bottles and outerwear that you send in.

Conferences will end this Friday, March 6. Thanks to all of you that signed up. I have already completed several of them during nap which is great. There will be no school for students on conference day.

Our Spring Break is April 6-10.



Toddler News

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

We are roaring into March like a lion! We have started our study of zoo animals. This month, we are learning about different animals, where they live, what they eat, and what their family names are. Yesterday, we discussed how different animals have markings and fur to help them camouflage in their environment. We followed it up with a lesson on a new piece of work that matches animals to cards that have fur or feathers on them.

We are so excited about our upcoming outing to the Atlanta Zoo on March 27th. This will give the children a chance to see the animals that we are learning about. Please let me know how many you will have in attendance, if you haven't done so already. The tickets are \$14.99, and they will be paid at the gate. We will meet right inside the zoo.

Thank you all for taking the time to meet with me for your child's conference. There will be no school this Friday, March 6th. I hope you have a fabulous long weekend!

With the weather warming up, we will be spending more time doing water work. I hope to open the patio next week. Please make sure that your child has extra clothes and shoes in their cubbies. It might be time to go ahead and send in a set of clothes that are Spring-appropriate.

We would like to make a fun treat for St. Patrick's Day and do some fizzy experiments.

Here is the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848ADAE2FA7F49-62761437-stpatricks#/>



Primary News

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

Thank you to everyone that signed up for Parent/Teacher conferences. We've really enjoyed sharing your child's progress with you this spring. Re-enrollment packets went home. Please return those to Mrs. Jamie at the front office. Hope to see everyone in August!

Please remember to return your child's folder neach week.

We have an upcoming field trip to Tellus museum on Friday, March 27. We will meet at Tellus at 9:30AM. Please plan on having lunch on site (you may bring your own or they have a small cafe to purchase items). We will visit the planetarium at 1PM. The cost of the field trip is \$14.50 for students. Parents, you may purchase your tickets online ahead of time or at the front desk the morning of the field trip.

Thank you to Josie's family for the delicious petit fours they provided to celebrate her birthday on March 1.

Emerson's birthday is March 11 and his family will provide a lunch for the class. No lunchboxes needed that day.

Our annual Egg Hunt will be held on April 3rd. We will send more information out during the month about this event.

A few reminders:

- 3/6: No School-Parent/Teacher Conferences (babysitting available)
- 3/10: FRUIT/VEGGIE: Fateh
- 3/11: Emerson's Birthday lunch-NO LUNCHES needed
- 3/16: FLOWERS: Agastya
- 3/17: FRUIT/VEGGIE: Hudson
- 3/24: FRUIT/VEGGIE: Annabelle
- 3/27: Tellus Field Trip (meet at Tellus at 9:30)
- 3/30: FLOWERS: Everleigh
- 3/31: FRUIT/VEGGIE: Gray
- 4/3: Egg Hunt



Primary News

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

Outdoor free play in Montessori is not a break from learning — it is learning in its most natural form.

When children move freely outside, they strengthen coordination, balance, and core muscles. Running, climbing, carrying, digging — these activities build the body, and the body supports the mind. A well-developed sense of movement directly supports concentration back in the classroom.

Nature also refines the senses. Wind, soil, insects, changing light, birdsong — these experiences cannot be replicated indoors. They ground the child in reality and awaken curiosity in a way no worksheet ever could.

Socially, outdoor play allows for negotiation, cooperation, and problem-solving in real time. Children practice leadership, patience, and empathy without adult micromanagement.

Emotionally, being outside regulates the nervous system. Sunlight, fresh air, and open space reduce tension and restore calm. Many children return indoors more centered and ready to focus deeply.

In Montessori, freedom of movement is essential. The outdoors simply expands that freedom.

In the pictures you can see our class enjoying this part of their school day!



Lower EI News

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

Participating in our school science fair is a fun way for students to explore their world, to question how things work, and to learn scientific principles. Children who participate in science fairs learn skills that can be used for problem solving and critical thinking throughout their school years and life.

Our students get so excited when we start to discuss science fair. They enjoy having the opportunity to choose topics they are curious about, asking questions, and planning experiments that will help answer those questions. This fosters their creativity and problem-solving skills. They learn how to plan, organize, and implement a project. As they conduct the experiment, they learn valuable observation and data gathering skills. As they record and analyze their results, they arrive at a final conclusion. We question them so that they reflect on the project, think about what they might do differently, what they have learned, and why. This ability to analyze and problem solve will be skills they use throughout their lifetime. The excitement is palpable during science fair week when the children set up and design their display boards. They are eager to "show and tell", as they demonstrate their experiments and explain them to their teachers and classmates. These communication skills are another benefit gleaned from the experience.



Upper Elementary News

Optimus Club ~ Speech Contest

Optimus Club Speech Contest

Recently, the Optimus Club of Armuchee held its first annual speech contest, inviting students to reflect on the prompt: **“The Moment I Realized I Belonged – My Definition of Community.”** Six upper elementary students participated, each writing and memorizing a 4- to 5-minute speech in just two weeks. We are so proud of our Montessori speakers—Augustus Conrad, Penelope Conrad, Norah Hammond, Seanna Kautz, Liam Angio-Stina, and George Franklin. Congratulations to Liam for earning third place, and to Seanna for securing second place and advancing to the next round.

Seanna’s Speech:

Seanna reflected on the difference between *fitting in* and truly *belonging*. While fitting in asks you to change yourself, belonging allows you to be accepted as you are. She described her sense of belonging in an ordinary moment with friends, where conversation and ideas flowed naturally—showing that community is built through connection, shared effort, and valuing each individual.

Through her experiences, such as reaching out to a new classmate who spoke only Japanese, Seanna showed that belonging isn’t always dramatic; it’s found in everyday interactions, cooperation, and small acts of inclusion. True community celebrates differences, listens as much as it speaks, and creates a space where everyone feels valued.

Belonging, she concluded, is not simply found—it’s created. Every act of kindness and effort to include someone who feels invisible helps build a community where everyone can thrive.

Optimus Club Speech Contest

In Liam’s speech about community and belonging, Liam Angio-Stina reflected on growing up in a small town in Northwest Georgia and attending the same school since early childhood. Through friendships formed in the classroom and on the soccer field, he discovered how encouragement, teamwork, and a healthy sense of competition helped him grow academically and personally. Even as some friends moved away, those relationships continued to shape his understanding of connection and support.

Family also played an important role in shaping his view of community. Liam shared how his parents and brother have always cared for him and supported him through life’s challenges.

Through these experiences, he has learned that community is more than a group of people living in the same place—it’s about caring for one another, offering support, and helping each other become better. *Even just two people can form a true community.*

Science Fair

Upper Elementary students are busy preparing for the upcoming Montessori Science Fair. Over the past few weeks, they have been researching topics, designing experiments, and creating presentations to share their discoveries. Through this process, students are practicing scientific thinking, problem-solving, and clear communication.

All of our students have a topic and many of our students have a scientific question. Students are working on forming a hypothesis and establishing an experiment with variables.

Please send in one Black trifold for us to begin working on the following areas: Title, Background Research, Question, Hypothesis, and Material.