

December 1st, 2017

Volume 6 Issue 4

DOLPHIN TALES

Important Dates:

Dec. 7, 2017 @ 6:00 pm

Holiday Program at the
Rome City Auditorium

Dec. 15, 2017

1/2 Day Holiday Cele-
bration in Classroom

Dec. 18- Jan. 1st

Winter Break

School resumes Jan. 2



Happy Thanksgiving



December Birthdays:

Anika G.	12/1
Tilly C.	12/3
Rayann G.	12/3
Devi S.	12/5
Callie D.	12/9
Mady H.	12/12
Andrew F.	12/13
Liam A.S.	12/13
Lilah P.	12/14
Vihaan P.	12/16
Ann C.	12/17
Chandler W.	12/21
Rex H.	12/23
Natalie D.	12/27
Yana S.	12/28

Toddler News from Ms. Ginny & Ms. Pam

November was a fun month learning all about different types of transportation and also about Thanksgiving. I want to thank you all for all the great food you provided for our Thanksgiving dinner!

This month we will be talking about nursery rhymes and just having fun with Christmas stories and crafts. We are also busy this week and next learning the songs in our Christmas program. They are doing pretty well with the motions! We are still working on the words. We never know how they will do until they get up there on stage. They are usually really, really cute!! Hopefully, you have found their Christmas pjs by now. We'd love them to have green and red in them if possible, and be sure to wear tennis shoes. Be at the auditorium between 5:45 and 5:50. We start at 6:00. They will be with us behind the stage until it starts. We will come out looking for them if you can't find us.

Our Christmas holidays are December 18 thru January 1. School resumes January 2. December 15 is 1/2 day. Your child will be dismissed at 11:00.

On Monday, December 4, your child will not need to bring a lunch. Lilah's parents are providing lunch in honor of her 2nd birthday .

Please check your child's extra clothing boxes.



Toddler News from Ms. Shannon & Ms. Dana

December is here!! Let the season begin! We are starting our studies of nursery rhymes and of course the holidays. We will spend the beginning of the month practicing our holiday program songs. This month will be full of fun! We are going to be making lots of ornaments for your trees. We might even make a little something special for you!

I hope you have the Christmas Vacation holiday program on your schedule. The kids have been practicing and are doing a wonderful job!! It is next Thursday, December 7 at Rome City Auditorium. The show starts at 6 so I need the kids to be there at 5:30(no later than 5:45). We will send the Christmas pajamas that I ordered home with them the day of the program. They need to come dressed and ready to go. We will pick them up at the side door of the stage and take them backstage. We will keep them backstage with us for the entire show. We will perform our numbers and then come back out for the finale. We will dismiss from the stage at the end. If your child is extremely restless or tired, we will bring them out to you. If you would like to bring some cookies, fruit snacks, or juice boxes for snacking backstage please let me know, and you can drop them off at school the day of the program.

We will have a pajama party the day after the program. We will watch a movie and have snacks. So they can sleep in their new jammies and come on into school.

The last day of school is Friday, December 15. It is a half day. We will dismiss at 11. We will have a small party that day. Let me know if you would like to bring in a treat.

Ms. Dana and I want to thank you for all that you do to make our class fabulous!! We hope you have a wonderful holiday!!



News from Ms. Ana Maria & Ms. Valerie

We are really getting into the holiday spirit in our classroom. Christmas decorations are up, and Ms. Valerie has changed out the work in practical life to Christmas themed work. One of the children's favorite work is decorating a mini Christmas tree. Parents will ask us for suggestions of work the children can do at home. The mini Christmas tree would be a great one. We have a mini Christmas tree on a tray with a box of ornaments, and children decorate the tree. The purpose of this work is motor development, coordination and control of movement, development of concentration, care of environment, development of hand-eye coordination, and development of independence and responsibility. Please consider getting your child a mini Christmas tree that would be their responsibility. It is so sweet to watch them decorate the tree so carefully.

In December, we talk all about Holidays from everyone the world. We have started talking about what a tradition is and how every family has different traditions. This is always a great transition into how people celebrate different holidays around the world. Please talk to your child about some of your family's traditions around the holidays so they can share it with the class.

We love for parents to come in to read a story to the children this time of year. Maybe you have a favorite Christmas book at home, or maybe you have a special Christmas book from where you grew up. We would love to hear it. Let me know if you would like to come in to read to the class, and we can figure out the best time. We would also love to hear about any traditions or holidays your family celebrates. I am hoping I can convince my mom to come in to talk to the kids about Three Kings Day. Since my mom grew up in Puerto Rico, my family always celebrates Christmas and Three Kings Day.

If your child would like to bring in a Christmas book to share, they are more than welcome to. Please make sure their name is on it. I want to make sure it gets back to the correct house.

We will start to send home holiday program costumes on Monday. Please be on the look out.

Thank you,
Ana Maria



Primary News from Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

We are enjoying the festive spirit of the season and in preparation for the holidays, we are talking about looking outside of ourselves to see what we can do for others. We are practicing acts of kindness each day. Before beginning the morning work cycle, the children complete one act of kindness for a classmate. We are talking about having a happy and grateful heart during the season and realizing some children may not receive any new toys for Christmas. So, it is kind to give to others.

Recent studies suggest that giving to others and doing for others makes us happy, even happier than spending on ourselves. What's more, our kindness might create a virtuous cycle that promotes lasting happiness and altruism.

We are also working on our table manners. Please reinforce these lessons at home by reminding the children to say excuse me, please and thank you. Elbows off the table, chewing with our mouth closed, not interrupting—these are all ways to practice good table manners to make eating together more enjoyable. We all have something valuable to say, and if we do not take turns, we do not get to hear the valuable contributions of one another.

We also love to learn about holidays around the world. After the Holiday program, we would welcome anyone to come in and read a book or share a tradition in your family. We are making ornaments for our tree, and they will come home with your child on the 15th to brighten your home.

It is the season to be grateful; we are grateful that you share your children with us each day. We come together as friends and leave as family.



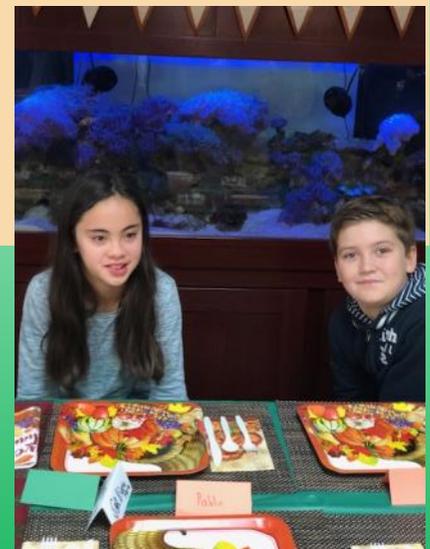
Ms. Melanie's Musings

“Our care of the children should be governed not by the desire to ‘make them learn things’ but by the endeavor always to keep burning within them the light which is called intelligence.” Maria Montessori

We enjoy each day of seeing your child's faces light up with the joy of learning. I noticed that often when we take pictures of the children, they are not smiling, but are deeply concentrating. That level of interest in their activity is more beautiful to see at times than a smile. In the new year, I hope all of you will take the opportunity to come observe the beauty of the Montessori work cycle.

I always remind parents at this time of year of something Ms. Kumar told me when I was a young mother here. At the age of 28, I came to Montessori as a new parent, and Ms. Kumar helped raise me too! She was such a mentor to me, full of wisdom, knowledge, and peace as the motto of her school exemplifies to this day. She reminded me that children want the gift of your time as the most precious gift of all. In the busy days to come, please remember to find some quiet time to spend with your child. It is sure to restore your spirit. Blessings to all of you this holiday season and in the new year.

Ms. Melanie



Elementary News: Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

Happy Holidays to you all!

There is so much excitement in the classroom in anticipation of this holiday season! We are working hard to stay on task while enjoying some special activities and crafts. Speaking of crafts, if anyone would like to volunteer their time to help with Christmas crafts in the classroom please contact Ms. Maggie or Ms. Stefanie. We would love to have extra helpers at this time of year! Also, if you have a holiday snack or dish your family enjoys that you would like to make with the students please let us know. The students always enjoy cooking activities and they are a marvelous educational opportunity.

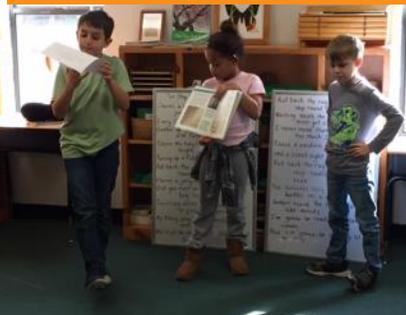
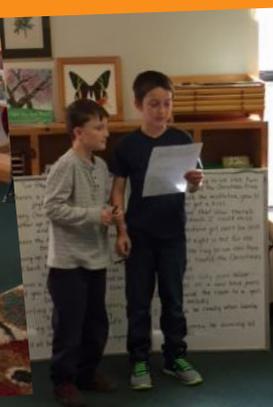
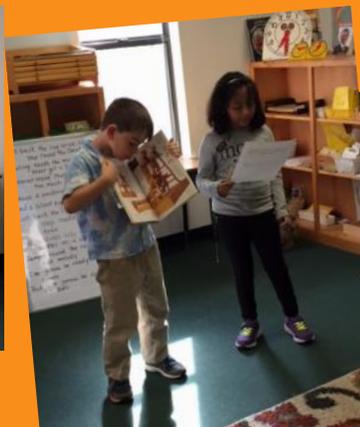
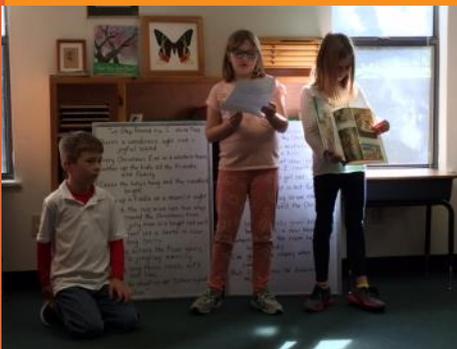
Our holiday program is quickly approaching. We will have practice on the morning of Thursday, Dec. 7th at the city auditorium. Please drop off your student at the city auditorium between 7:45 am and 8:00 am. We will need volunteer drivers to transport the students back to school after practice. This year we will perform at the Rome City Auditorium on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 7th. Please have your students at the auditorium at 5:30 pm dressed in their flannel attire, jeans/overalls, and boots (if you have them, black shoes if you don't). If your daughter is wearing a dress please have her wear long leggings/stockings underneath. We're all looking forward to performing our "Appalachian" Christmas songs for family and friends!

Happy December Birthday to Mady and Natalie! Information regarding our birthday lunch celebration will be sent out soon.

The holiday break will begin Dec. 15th with a half day of school. We'll enjoy holiday celebrations in the classroom on the 15th with a gift exchange and some special snacks. If you can bring a snack to share with the classroom on the 15th, please contact Ms. Maggie or Ms. Stefanie. Our class gift exchange will be a \$1.00 gift (Helpful Hint: Dollar stores). Please encourage your child to use their own money from an allowance or chores to purchase a girl gift if they are girl or a boy gift if they are a boy.

School will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd. We hope you all have a safe and joyful holiday break!

Ms. Maggie & Ms. Stefanie



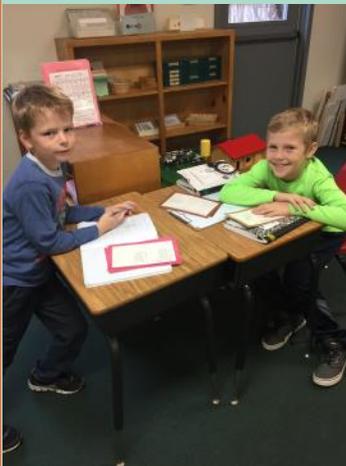
Elementary News: Ms. Dolores

December, oh my! How did we get here so quickly? I hope that your Thanksgiving break was filled with food, family, and friends. Thank-you all for joining us to feast on Italian food. Thanks to all who contributed a delicious dish, and special thanks to Lelia Stina for coordinating with parents and pulling it all together.

Our holiday program, "Christmas Vacation" is fast approaching, and you can count on being thoroughly entertained. Song lyrics have been placed in backpacks so your child can do some practicing at home. Costumes will be simple, plaid tops (button-down shirts) and denim bottoms, to represent our version of an Appalachian Christmas.

We will practice on the morning of the program, December 7, at the Rome City Auditorium. Please drop your child off at the RCA between 7:45 and 8:00 a.m. and let us know if you'll be available at 10:45 to help shuttle children back to school.

The day after our program, Friday, December 8, will be pajama day. It can be a little chilly in the classroom when we first arrive, so please send them in their warm, comfy pjs.

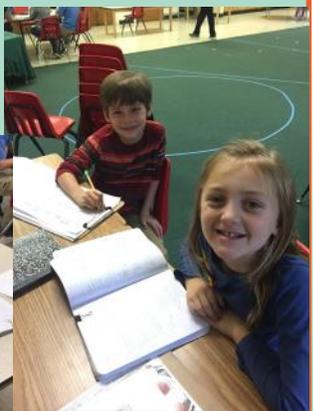


Just as we did last year, we'll be donating books to the House of the Children's Academy. In lieu of an in-class gift exchange, please have your child bring in a gently used book(s). They really enjoyed the wrapping party last year, and experienced the feeling of giving without expecting anything in return. If you have any left-over wrapping paper that you'd like to donate, we'd appreciate it. Please have all donations here by Monday, December 11.

Friday, December 15, will be the last day before our winter break and we will be dismissing early at 11:30 a.m. It will also be "Bring a Treat" day, if you'd like to send some holiday goodies for your child to share with his/her friends.

In the meantime, if you have any spare time that you can't figure out what to do with, you're welcome to come in to cook and/or craft with our class. Just let us know when you'll be available, anytime between the 8th and the 15th.

Holly Jolly



News from Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Kaitlin

Parents:

Here comes December!!! Three weeks until Christmas break (Dec. 18th - Jan. 1). Friday, December 15th will be a half-day for students, pick-up by 11:30AM. This will also be our classroom holiday celebration. Students have decided to participate in 'secret snowflake' and 'firecracker' (more details later).

Don't forget our Holiday Program is on Thursday, December 7th (6:00PM) at the Rome City Auditorium. We will continue to have Fencing class Mondays for the remainder of the semester. All classes will participate in this evening performance. It is always entertaining for the audience and exciting for the students!!!

On December 12th, the upper elementary class will sing holiday songs at the Renaissance Marquis. We will need help driving, please let me know if you are available. We will depart @10:15AM and return by 11:30AM.

This week, we will have our first group participate in our community service project. The Upper Elementary class will prepare and serve lunch to the residents at 'the Shelter' in Rome. We are very excited for our students to participate in such a giving project.

Next week, 5th years will meet for Fire Safety on Tuesday, December 5th. All students will meet for 4-H on December 7th. Friday, the class celebrates our December birthdays with a pizza lunch!!

We will continue to have YMCA on Fridays for the remainder of the semester, with the exception of the last Friday which is a half-day. Please remind students to wear gym clothes on Fridays!

Please remind students to bring a water bottle everyday!! We are practicing our dance and songs frequently this week and next.

Yesterday, Upper El. Made lunch for the residents of the William S. Davies Homeless Shelter. Although not many residents were present for lunch, the students were gratified to know they would enjoy the food at dinner. Here are some thoughts from 3 students:

Aubree: "I like preparing the food for the nice people, and I like Mr. Gordon because he always brought in an office chair instead of sitting in the smaller chairs. They had chickens and cats and everything."

Yana: "I like meeting the people and seeing how they live. They were very funny. They also had two gardens, which was very cool."

Ishan: "It was nice preparing the food and talking to the people. The administrator was very nice and helped the people a lot."

