

April 6th, 2018

Volume 6 Issue 8

# DOLPHIN TALES



It's a boy! Ari now has a baby brother!

Dmitri Ilyasov born 03/15 Congratulations!



## Important Dates:

**April 20, 2018**

Gardening & Special Person Day

**April 16-17**

Huntsville Space Camp for 3-6 Grade

**April 23 -26th**

ITBS Testing 2-9 Grade

## April Birthdays:

- |             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Braylen M.  | 4/01 |
| Felipe S.   | 4/08 |
| Alex B.     | 4/10 |
| Banks B.    | 4/13 |
| Davis D.    | 4/22 |
| Kylee H.    | 4/22 |
| Molly E.    | 4/22 |
| Nicholas W. | 4/24 |
| Eldric W.   | 4/24 |
| Iman Y.     | 4/26 |
| Grayson G.  | 4/27 |
| Shakeria A. | 4/28 |
| Marcus P.   | 4/29 |
| Samuel P.   | 4/29 |



## *Toddler News from Ms. Ginny & Ms. Pam*

The children seemed ready to be back after Spring break. I hope you were able to enjoy some time with them!

We have finished our monthly theme on the farm, and in April we will be learning about gardening and insects. We are currently watching our caterpillars turn into butterflies!! We pass them around each day at line time, anxiously awaiting the beautiful butterflies!!

We are also reviewing colors. Please talk about the colors around your child daily. Talk with them about the color of their clothing and colors outside. They really pick up on them the more they hear them.

This month is also Special person/gardening day. This will be on April 20th. We have each child bring in flowers to plant on our patio with their special person. They will also make a craft together and have a special snack. This will need to be done between drop off and 10:00 a.m. There will also be a few other items we might like to have or need posted on our door if you'd like to volunteer for something.

Please check extra clothing boxes. Some look empty and we never know when an accident might occur!

**May 18th : Toddler's  
Zoo Field Trip. It is manda-  
tory that each toddler  
comes with a parent!**



## *Toddler News from Ms. Shannon & Ms. Dana*

I hope you had a great spring break! The kids are glad to be back in our routine! This month we will be learning about insects. We've been discussing the difference between insects and bugs. We are learning about the parts of the insects. We are also talking about flowers and other things that go along with spring. We have started our traditional spring songs and I have got a class who loves to sing "Bringing Home a Baby Bumblebee!" Monday April 9<sup>th</sup> we will have a cooking activity with Lelia, Liam's mom. She will be making pizzas with the children. That means **no lunch on Monday**. Please send in \$3 to help cover costs.

This month we will have the Traveling Trunk from Bartow History Museum here to do a farm presentation for us. That will be April 11. So that your child does not miss the show, please make sure to be on time :)

Gardening/Special Person Day is April 20. There will be a wish list posted for things for our classroom. Each child will need to bring a plant that needs full sun to plant. Anyone can come to plant with your child-grandparent, aunt, uncle, or whoever they would enjoy having. It's best to do planting at drop off so there are not two different separations if possible. We will plant from 8-9:30. They tend to not be very patient waiting for their turn to plant. We will also have a snack and a craft in the classroom. It's a very fun day!

I was trying to decide what to write for this month's newsletter when I came across the following article <https://montessoriservices.com/ideas-insights/movement-enhances-learning>. It is so easy to underestimate the importance of movement for our kids. I felt like this might be a useful article for all of us. So, I thought I would give you some light reading! Now that spring has finally sprung, we need to get outside and enjoy it!

**May 18th : Toddler's Zoo Field Trip. It is mandatory that each toddler comes with a parent!**



## *News from Ms. Ana Maria & Ms. Valerie*

I hope everyone had a wonderful spring break. I have really enjoyed hearing all about the children's adventures. The children came back to school ready to get to work.

One of the areas that all the children love is the map shelf. Ms. Valerie and I will actually end up telling the children they can do a map once the students complete their math and language work. The maps start off with the continent map and then go to the North America Map and then to the United States map. Then the students work their way through all the continents. They learn about the countries that make up the continents and how the culture may be similar or different to ours. Something that is very interesting is that the knob for each puzzle piece is placed where the capital is. This starts to give the children memory of where the capital is in the countries. Each continent has a folder as well. The pictures of the countries. The pictures could be of a landmark, a street market, or even a folder also will include small books about the country or brochures that people brought. Every folder has pictures of the people that live on the continent. We discuss how everyone in looks different and has different traditions. Our goal is for the children to become citizens of the world.

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es:

Just like all the other work that Maria Montessori created, the maps have many purposes:

1. Development of visual discrimination.
2. Development of an awareness of geography and the world around us.
3. Direct preparation for social science.
4. Development of concentration.
5. Vocabulary Enrichment.
6. Development of respect of others and cultures.
7. Development of stereognostic discrimination.

You can encourage your child to continue learning about the world at home by asking them if they would like to look up information about a certain continent or country. Maybe they would like to hear music from a certain country or check out a book from the library about a certain country or continent. The children love to see pictures of landmarks.

This month we are continuing our study of the world by learning about Asia. If you have anything you would like to share with the class, please let us know. We will study Asia during our group line times, but the children go back and do the other maps during their work cycle.

Thank you!



## *Primary News from Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina*

I hope everyone had a wonderful spring break. It is hard to believe that we are in the last few weeks of school. There are so many events coming up in the next few weeks. Please refer to the office notes on all the upcoming events that have been posted. We will also send out emails when event dates get closer.

We see the children at a place in the classroom where they are working for longer periods of time. That tells us that their length of concentration has increased throughout the year. Our work cycle has become a time of watching children explore the materials in the classroom with a new fascination. We are seeing the children explore extensions with the materials. Older children are giving lessons to younger children with such confidence now. The children are becoming teachers with their peers. It is a beautiful sight to watch the flow of the classroom and the children working with determination and purpose. The child who concentrates is immensely happy--Maria Montessori.

With Gardening Day/ Special Person Day coming up on April 20th, we want to learn about all the beautiful flowers and trees that grow in our own back yard. The children are encouraged to explore their yard for flowers to share with our class. We are also working on our patio to bring the beauty back to life. It has suffered tremendously throughout the winter. A wish list of our patio needs and desires for Gardening Day will be posted by April 9th.

We have enjoyed traveling around the world while being able to stay in the comfort of our classroom throughout the year. The children have enjoyed learning about the continents and their countries. This month we will study Europe during line time. If you have anything that you would like to share with our class, please let us know. The children enjoy sharing at line time and it always peaks the interest and enthusiasm of their classmates when a child brings in something to share. We see our children becoming much more INDEPENDENT and they want to go home and research about the continent we are studying. They are becoming much more confident when they are presenting the information about the animals, housing, culture, music, food, etc that they learned about. It is such a joy to see the whole child evolve. Of course we see the children grow academically. But, we also see the emotionally growth of the child and the confidence gained. Within the child lies the fate of the future--Maria Montessori.

April may be a very hectic month, but let's enjoy it!  
Ms. Angie and Ms. Carolina



## *Elementary News: Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie*

“Everyone in the world ought to do the things for which he is specially adapted. It is the part of wisdom to recognize what each one of us is best fitted for, and it is the part of education to perfect and utilize such predispositions. Because education can direct and aid nature but can never transform her.”  
-Maria Montessori

One of the most appealing aspects of a Montessori education is the freedom to encourage each child’s strengths and interests and then use those strengths and interests to present new information in a way that engages each individual student. For example, for a student who is interested in gardening, Botany materials may be used to introduce parts of speech such as article, adjective, and noun. This student will then enjoy creating and labeling phrases such as “a pink rose” or “the yellow daffodil”. In the area of Mathematics there are many Montessori materials students enjoy using. For instance, using the stamp game where a child can lay out colored tiles representing units, tens, hundreds, and thousands the student can gain confidence and independence when they realize they are capable of adding and subtracting numbers into the thousands. This activity utilizes kinesthetic, auditory, and visual learning to help ensure the student will grasp the concept.

Our class is ready to start planting! Spring weather is here and we are eager to start our herb garden in our wonderful planter which was donated by the Donahue family a couple of years ago. We will also begin observing the growth of a plant from a seed using beans. We will find out from experience what all is required for a healthy plant to grow and what happens if one of those requirements is missing.

April 20th will be a special day when students are encouraged to invite a “special person” to come to school and garden with them. Every student is welcome to bring their favorite plant/flower to create a beautiful outdoor space.

The 1st and 2nd years greatly enjoyed their 4-H trip to Rock Eagle! Thank you to our chaperones! The 3rd years are looking forward to the Huntsville Space Camp trip coming up April 16th - 17th with upper elementary.

This is also the month for ITBS testing. Practice packets have been made for the 2nd and 3rd years as 1st years are not tested. These packets are to help your child become confident and successful with the test-taking process not to try to “teach to the test” as that is not a helpful way to gauge a student’s knowledge. Here at MSR we like to encourage our students to do their best on the test but not place so much emphasis on it that a child becomes consumed with worry over their performance on the test. In the past our students have performed very well on standardized tests.

We are so thankful for the warmer, sunnier weather which allows us to be outdoors more often observing different types of leaves, stems, and roots or hunting for reptiles and insects. Children thrive in the outdoors and our students are always eager to enjoy this hands-on experience.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of teaching your children. They are truly a joy to us and it is an honor to share in their development and achievement!



## Elementary News: Ms. Dolores and Ms. Anna

With Science Fair and Spring Break behind us, we're on that slippery slope that leads to the end of the school year. Science fair was amazing this year and the children loved showing off their projects. In last month's newsletter I explained that using the scientific method can be applied to more than just science. On Friday, after the science fair, we did a little "Fairy Tale" problem solving. I've typed up several of our findings below.

By the time you read this, we will have returned from Rock Eagle 4-H Camp and hopefully you've heard dozens of stories already. I'll try to send out pictures as we go, but if not, I'll compile and send them out early next week. We all love our experiential learning trips. Talking about frogs and snakes isn't nearly as fun as holding them!

ITBS testing will happen at the end of April. For the rest of this month your child will be bringing home practice sheets. Please allow them to do this work independently and we will address any questions in the classroom as a group.

### FAIRY TALE DETECTIVES

#### Liam Cantrell

**QUESTION:** Can a princess really feel a pea through 100 mattresses?

**HYPOTHESIS:** NO! That would be impossible. I can't believe this is a real question.

**MATERIALS:** a princess, a pea, 100 mattresses, and 8 long ladders

#### PROCEDURE:

1. Put a pea under a mattress.
2. Stack 99 more mattresses on top (good luck)
3. The princess will need the 8 ladders to reach the top.
4. The princess goes to sleep.
5. Check on her in the morning.

**RESULTS:** My hypothesis was incorrect. She felt the pea all the way up there. I'm freaking out! I mean that's CRAZY!

#### Yash Garg

**QUESTION:** Can someone's nose really grow when they tell a lie?

**HYPOTHESIS:** No, because I lied once, when I was in first grade and my nose didn't get bigger.

**MATERIALS:** at least 3 people who are good at lying

**PROCEDURE:** Have each person lie 3 times and measure their nose. Record results.

**RESULTS:** My hypothesis was correct. No one's nose got bigger.

#### Ronik Patel

**QUESTION:** Can a cat really play a fiddle?

**HYPOTHESIS:** No, because cats have paws, not hands.

**MATERIALS:** cat, fiddle, and bow

#### PROCEDURE:

1. Put a fiddle and a bow in front of a cat.
2. Tell it to play whatever it wants to.

**RESULTS:** I couldn't do the test because the cat kept walking away. I don't think cats can play fiddles because they don't have fingers.

#### Cameron Fussell

**QUESTION:** Did Jack's beanstalk really grow up above the clouds?

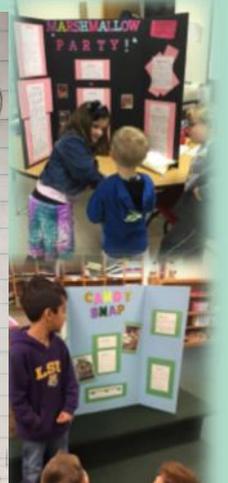
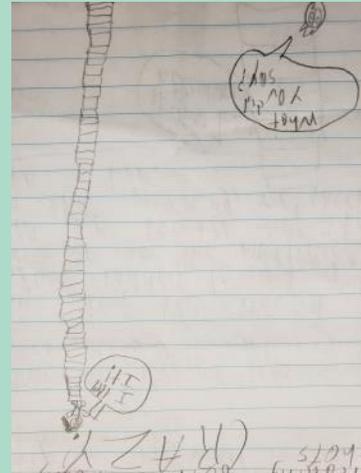
**HYPOTHESIS:** No, it's barely going to grow.

**MATERIALS:** magic beans, soil, and water

#### PROCEDURE:

1. Put the magic beans into the soil.
2. Water every day.
3. Take pictures every couple of days.

**RESULTS:** My hypothesis was correct. None of the beanstalks grew taller than me. Most of them died.



## *News from Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Kaitlin*

### Helping Montessori Parents Raise Environmentally Aware Children

Children in the second plane of development (ages 6–12) are in a period when they are fascinated by knowledge understanding, and moral understanding, or what Montessori referred to as “culture.” (Grazzini) Their independence matures from “I can do it myself,” which predominates the first plane, to “I can think for myself.” Being able to think for oneself is the very basis of developing one’s own personal moral code of conduct. As the elementary-age child learns to think for himself, he seeks to understand the natural world around him. (Grazzini)

It is beneficial, therefore, for us to take advantage of this period of culture and encourage the child’s development of environmental awareness. The best way to do this is by giving children opportunities to go outside and experience nature. Studies have shown that children who have an “immersive experience in nature between the ages of 5 and 10, foster a deep love of the environment that they carry with them their entire lives.” (Fortescue, 2009)

But what do we do once we are outside? Environmental stewardship must be shown not taught. When a child experiences nature first hand, he makes a personal connection. There is a difference between reading about a tadpole in a book and experiencing a pond full of tadpoles!

#### **Show Don’t Tell**

“When you teach someone something, you’ve robbed the person of the experience of learning it.” (Fortescue, 2009) Stay true to the Montessori directive of “less is more.” Keep your words to a minimum, and let the natural world be the instructor. Go on a nature walk and find a shady spot to do nothing but listen to the sounds around you. You will be amazed at the sounds you hear. Birds singing, insects buzzing, and the wind whispering through the trees are just a few.

#### **Model Sustainability**

Planting a garden is a great way to model sustainability. Even a small terrace is capable of supporting a few tomato plants in pots. Children learn through effort and patience that they are capable of raising food for their family. They take pride in contributing to the welfare of those they love. And they will find that homegrown food is tastier, too!

Start composting! Don’t throw those scraps in the trash or down the garbage disposal. Place them in a compost bucket and use the compost to fertilize your garden.

Incorporate more sustainable practices throughout your home. Use reusable cloth bags instead of plastic bags for your shopping. Don’t use plastic bags for food storage. Carry water in reusable bottles instead of buying bottled water. Buy locally sourced food. Walk or ride your bicycles instead of driving the car. All of these seemingly small changes will be noticed without you even having to discuss them. Your habits will become a way of life for your children.

#### **Encourage (and Answer) Questions**

Why? Knowledge is the key to understanding. A curious mind wants to know more, and the more we know, the better we become. So, the next time your child asks how plastic is recycled, take a trip and find out! Satisfy his curiosity and encourage innovative thinking.

#### **Recognize Efforts**

Recognizing efforts goes a long way toward building sustainable behaviors. Rather than nagging your pre-teen about the length of his shower, recognize him when you notice he has taken a shorter one. Thank your child for remembering to turn the lights off when she leaves the room. A little recognition works better than praise or rewards when building lifelong practices.

It is ultimately up to us, as individuals and collectively, to take care of our planet. We all must do our part. Developing a healthy appreciation and respect for nature begins very young, and it is based on the role models we have in our families and our communities.

#### **Works Cited**

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**Michelle Irinyi** — NAMC Tutor & Graduate

# From Rome, GA to Rome, Italy



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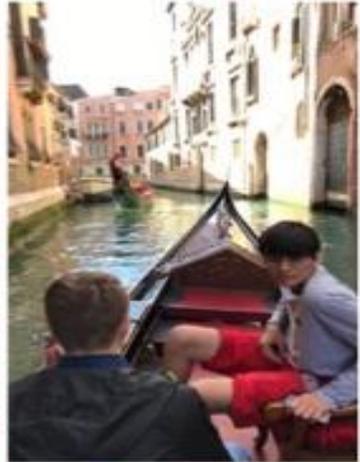
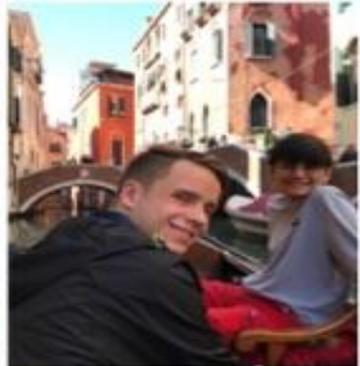
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