

September 7th, 2018

Volume 7 Issue 1

DOLPHIN TALES

Aug. & Sept. Birthdays:

Ezekiel D.	8/1
Kaizer C.	8/2
Wesley S.	8/2
Cade D.	8/6
Cameron F.	8/9
Dwight P.	8/9
Thea C.	8/11
Elynore O.	8/12
Newman A.	8/15
Sabrina C.	8/20
Lily H.	8/22
Om P.	8/24
Braylon A.	8/25
Tripp D.	8/27
Lee D.	8/31
Seanna K.	9/1
George F.	9/2
Kaleb P.	9/7
Rachael C.	9/8
Parker J.	9/13
Ishan S.	9/15
Bo P.	9/17
Milan L.	9/25
Wyatt S.	9/25
Chloe P.	9/26
Abigail R.	9/27
Aniyah J.	9/30



Wisdom



Knowledge



Peace

WELCOME BACK!



New addition to
the MSR Family

Lela "Quinn" Barton

Banks' little sister



Important Dates

Oct. 1-Teacher Work Day

Oct. 2-Parent/Teacher Conferences

No School!

Toddler News from Ms. Ginny & Ms. Pam



The month of August has been a wonderful start to our new school year. The children have settled in well and are doing great. Our new morning routine of beginning in the Day Room and then coming to class ready to start the day is working beautifully! Thanks to all of you for getting your children to school on time. It makes a huge difference! We have learned all about colors and shapes and will still add this in for several months to come! They are loving ours songs about colors where they get to react to what color they are wearing. They are all so cute!



This month we will be talking about zoo animals. They will learn different facts and also learn to identify them. Of course there will be lots of songs and crafts!

Each month I will try to talk about a piece of work in different sections of our classroom and their purpose. In our practical life area, we have Dressing Frames. The children learn how to manipulate buttons, zippers, snaps, buckles, etc., skills that help them develop independence and care of self, two very important goals in the Montessori classroom. Start letting your child help dress themselves. It's amazing what they are able to do if you give them a few extra minutes!

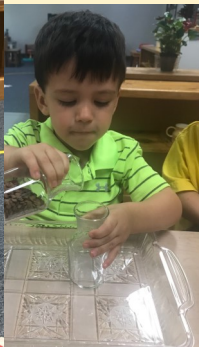


Please always send in extra clothing the next day if your child brings home wet or soiled clothing. Spills and accidents happen regularly!

Please be mindful of our policy on illnesses. If your child is sent home with a fever, diarrhea, or throwing up, they need to be fever/diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to school. This little stomach bug going around seems very contagious. We want to keep all the children as healthy as possible!



A big welcome back to Rayann and a big welcome to Ta'Oir!



Toddler News from Ms. Shannon, Ms. Rachel & Ms. Kayla

We've made it through our first few weeks! In September we will start learning about zoo animals: we will discuss where they live, what they eat, and other fun facts. We will also many fun crafts. If you have any special books that you would like to send to share with the class, please do! I know beginning a new school year is sometimes stressful for both the parents and the children, and you are anxious to see your little one in the classroom working and happy, but it takes us a little while to get there. Here are some tips from a Montessori article I recently read:

Make the goodbye prompt and positive. Giving your child "one more minute" simply prolongs the inevitable. As a parent, the best thing you can do is give your child a hug and kiss, say, "I love you" and reassure him/her that you will be back soon.

- **Establish a goodbye routine.** Montessori parents who establish a consistent goodbye routine have better luck with successful goodbyes. Some ideas are to use a secret handshake with their child, secret hand gesture, give a kiss on the forehead, rub noses, give a reassuring thumbs-up.
- **Trust your child's teacher.** This may be difficult to do when you do not yet know your child's Montessori teacher that well, but keep in mind that Montessori teachers have chosen this profession because they love children! They have a wealth of ideas and strategies to help settle an upset child. The strategies might involve anything from a nurturing hug, redirection, pairing them up with another Montessori student or simply keeping the child close until he/she is ready to engage in an activity. Ask your child's Montessori teacher to step in to help with goodbyes. w
- **Acknowledge how your child is feeling.** Accept and respect your child's temporary unhappiness as it is very real and normal. Say things like "I know you feel sad when Mommy leaves, but you will have a good time, and I will be back very soon." Learning to cope with sadness is an important learning process.
- **Never sneak out on a child.** As tempting as it is, sneaking out the door can make matters worse. The child gets upset when they realize Mom or Dad has simply disappeared without saying goodbye. You want your child to know unequivocally that he/she can trust you.
- **Ask for help.** Sometimes stepping back from the drop off routine can make a huge difference in how your child reacts. Often, a child who experiences separation anxiety with one parent is fine if the other parent does the drop-off.
- **Do not linger.** As a parent, I know how reassuring it can be to stay to peek at your child through the window. As a child, seeing your parent when you are upset, but not being able to be with your parent is not a good feeling. Chances are, he/she settled within a few minutes.

- **Stay calm and be enthusiastic.** Be positive about school! Discuss how much fun school will be, talk about her friends and classmates. Discuss the different works she might want to choose and reinforce how lucky she is to have such a special school and that you cannot wait to hear about her day.

- **Always be on time.** Arriving late can be upsetting to some children as the Montessori class has already begun. Give yourselves plenty of time in the morning. Additionally, it is important to be punctual when picking up your child.

- **Encourage friendships.** Make a point to set up 'playdates' for your child. Invite children from the Montessori class over, so your child can make friendships that will help with the transition.

Sometimes a long weekend or an illness keeps your child home for a few days and regression occurs. Stick to the above strategies and you should notice a significant difference shortly!



News from Ms. Ana Maria & Ms. Valerie

We have had an amazing start to the year, and now that we have had a few weeks to settle into the classroom, we were excited to start our music lessons this week. Our music curriculum starts with the cultivation of listening.

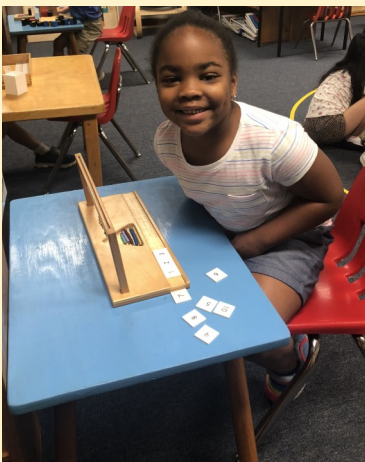
The first lesson that we had this week was on the sound cylinders. The sound cylinders consist of wooden cylinders that are filled with various substances so that they make different sounds. The students then have to match the cylinders based on the sound they make when you shake them. The next lesson would be to grade them from loud to soft.

We always have the children do the sound cylinders to start to develop their auditory sense and ability to identify and distinguish different sound levels in the environment. Sound cylinders also help to continue to develop the child's concentration. This lesson is also direct preparation for the children's musical education with the Montessori bells.

The Montessori bells are always a favorite in the classroom. After the child has had a lesson on them, they are able to play songs while reading music and are invited to create their own songs. There are two sets of bells on our music shelf. We have the control bells that never move and the working bells which will sometime get mixed up. It is then the child's job to match the bells based on the sound they make, just like they did with the sound cylinders.

The Montessori bells hold many purposes in the classroom. Students develop auditory discrimination and an awareness of musical tones. The bells give the child an opportunity to hear each tone separately so they can then distinguish the sounds of the different tones. It also prepares the child for future music appreciation. The children are able to learn to perceive the range between low and high tones. Through the bells, we are able to teach the major diatonic scale. These are only a few of the purposes of the Montessori bells.

We are so excited to continue the Montessori music curriculum this year.



Primary News from Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

Back to school picnic was a success; what a fun way to kick start the school year! It was great to see all of you! We've had a wonderful first couple of weeks welcoming our new friends in the classroom. We have been working on lessons about grace and courtesy, taking care of our class and being respectful with our friends and teachers. It is amazing to see how normalization is starting to happen, and everybody is eager to work and have lessons.

We have been introducing lessons on practical life. For those who have already been in the classroom, they have been picking up where they left off. Dr. Maria Montessori believed that children are innately preparing to be adults. She further stated that parents and teachers needed to provide a strong foundation of skills and work habits that would eventually allow them to be responsible for the caring of their own families, homes, community and environment. Practical Life activities have a unique purpose in which we can see the child demonstrating a high level of concentration, developing a sense of order (putting all materials back where they belong), taking pride in a job well done, increasing independence through care of self and the environment, developing respect for his community (using materials appropriately and cleaning up afterwards) and improving fine motor coordination, among others. As Dr. Montessori said "The education of even a small child, therefore, does not aim at preparing him for school, but for life".

September will be the beginning of our class studies, beginning with the Universe, oceans and the continents of the world. If you have something to share with our class regarding any of those topics, please bring it so your child can present it during line time. We will also continue reinforcing grace and courtesy.

A few reminders:

- Make sure your child has an extra full change of clothes in their boxes
- Please cut in half lengthwise **all grapes and hotdogs**, it is a choking hazard
- Our library days are Tuesday at 8:30, please make sure that your child brings the book back every Tuesday so they can check out other books.
- Make sure to only fill with only **water** the water bottles

Thank you for a great start of this school year!



Elementary News: Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

"The laws governing the universe can be made interesting and wonderful to the child, more interesting even than things in themselves, and he begins to ask: What am I? What is the task of man in this wonderful universe? Do we merely live here for ourselves, or is there something more for us to do?" - Maria Montessori (To Educate the Human Potential, p.6)

These first few weeks of the new school year have passed quickly, and the students seem to be settling in well to the classroom routine. This past week we had the first of The Great Lessons which encourages a child to think about and begin to seek information about the origins of the universe. This lesson incorporates the basic principles of physical science such as the law of gravity, the 3 states of matter, and the properties of magnetism. The students were able to experiment with materials in the classroom to experience these scientific principles firsthand. The remaining Great Lessons will be given during the month of September. They will explore the timeline of life and the coming of man. Students are always encouraged to discuss with their families the beliefs and traditions that are followed in their own households.

Lessons have been given on the movable alphabet material which is a favorite among our students. This is a box of individual printed alphabet letters and punctuation marks with all consonant letters being printed in red and all vowels in blue. 1st years enjoy using it to build words phonetically and then the words are matched to laminated pictures. 2nd years use it for sentence building and it can even be used for practice with correct punctuation with 3rd years.

It's homework time again and homework packets will be sent home in the homework binders every Friday. Students should return completed homework in their binders to school the following Thursday. Homework Lab is held every Monday through Wednesday in Late Stay until 4:00. This is a time when students may work on their homework at school in the classroom. Classroom materials are available for students use, and teachers are also available if help is needed. We will be working on Spanish homework assignments in class.

September is a time of change in the natural world around us as we all look forward to Fall and cooler weather (We hope!). Please take time to appreciate the beautiful outdoors with your child and observe these changes together. Take a walk in the woods and discuss why the leaves change color in the fall or why the weather changes with the different seasons. This is a perfect time to appeal to the natural curiosity of children. "Knowledge can be best given where there is eagerness to learn, so this is the period when the seed of everything can be sown, the child's mind being like a fertile field, ready to receive what will germinate into culture." - Maria Montessori (To Educate the Human Potential, p.3).





Elementary News: Ms. Dolores

What a great year we are having so far...your children are practicing their grace and courtesy, settling into a routine, and becoming more and more independent every day. I'm really proud of the 2nd and 3rd year students for taking the time to help our new students (and Ms. Alyssa) settle into the classroom.

Maria Montessori spent much of her life developing an educational method for the early childhood years. Later, as she expanded into the lower elementary level AND, as a result of her wartime experience, she developed her ideas on "Cosmic Education". Knowing that sparking a child's imagination was key, the Great Lessons were born.

Dr. Montessori considered it a crime to present such subjects as history and geography by forcing students to memorize rather than visualize. We would be helpless in trying to introduce the universe to the child without the use of imagination. How much more interesting to take them back through time and space in their imaginations - to our world as it was with the prehistoric life - inviting them not only to explore our planet of the past, but to speculate on things to come in the future.

"The secret of good teaching is to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field...to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his inmost core." It is not practical to limit one's imagination to fairy tales and super heroes as these things have no connection with reality. "By offering the child the story of the universe, we give him something a thousand times more infinite and mysterious to reconstruct with his imagination, a drama no fable can reveal." The mind that imagines only fantastical things gets stuck in a pleasure-seeking rut, becomes lazy and incapable of nobler deeds - soon becomes centered around its petty self, excluding the grandeur of the natural world around him and becoming indifferent to humanity in general.

"Everything invented by man, physical or mental, is the fruit of someone's imagination." Thus imagination is crucial to the cosmic plan. And Dr. Montessori's Cosmic Education model, which is at the core of the lower elementary curriculum, was her hope for a peaceful future.

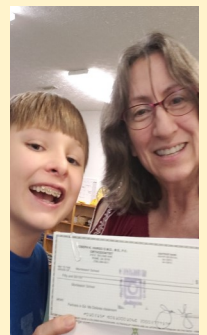
Quotes taken from *To Educate the Human Potential*

We've explored the creation stories of several ancient civilizations and presented the First Great Lesson (a modern interpretation that follows more recent scientific theories). The door is now open for further discussion at home about your family's personal beliefs. We'll spend several afternoons with hands-on experiments demonstrating the laws of nature (gravity, inertia, magnetism).

Our upcoming Timeline of Life Lesson celebrates the plants and animals (current and extinct) from the most primitive to the most complex. Regular botany and zoology lessons will begin soon, along with a more in-depth study of the solar system and the dinosaurs.

Please assist your child with choosing a character to represent in this year's Historical Timeline. It's always helpful if it's someone that your child is genuinely interested in learning about AND if there is information about this person's childhood. Please find a children's book about this person (we have many biographies in our school library) and send it in for teacher approval. Internet research will NOT suffice. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the hallway; please do not begin work on this project until your character choice has been approved. More helpful information, as well as a schedule of project deadlines, will be coming home with next week's homework. Before choosing a character, look online to be sure the character has not been done in the last three years. <https://msor.org/historical-timeline-last-3-years-characters-please-not-duplicate/>

Many thanks to Carter Rush and Vargo Orthodontics for the \$50 gift to our classroom. We used it to purchase an Echo Dot, and we'll be listening to Audible stories during a portion of our lunch time. Up first is *Bob* by Wendy Mass & Rebecca Stead.



News from Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Kaitlin

Montessori: Freedom Is Not the Same as Permissiveness

..To let the child do as he likes when he has not yet developed any power of control is to betray the idea of freedom.

—Maria Montessori

The Absorbent Mind.

Dr. Montessori was very clear: we should not grant children freedom until they have learned to follow the rules. But many Montessori teachers and parents are at a loss at how to set or enforce those rules. After all, aren't we supposed to follow the child?

Following the child does not mean allowing the child to do whatever she wants, whenever she wants.

When a young child is unable to control her impulses and doesn't know what she wants, or how to do what she wants, disorder and disruptive behavior occur. This usually happens because an adult was overly permissive and didn't establish boundaries or rules.

And there are rules in the Montessori environment. Stop and think about the Montessori environments you have observed. What rules of society did you see?

Children walk in the classroom. We talk with quiet voices. Chairs are tucked in. Work is kept neatly on shelves. Mats are rolled and stored nicely when not in use. The snack area is kept neat and tidy, with dishes done after each use.



So, how do children learn the rules of society? In the Montessori classroom, rules are learned through the carefully prepared environment. It is the environment that teaches children self-control and self-discipline. When there is consistency in the environment, there is consistency in behavior.



When the environment is consistent, structured, and predictable, the child is at peace. Stress is reduced because the child knows what to expect. She doesn't have to look to the adult to tell her what to do or where to find things. The environment has limits and expectations. It is the responsibility of the child to accept and remain within those limits. She is in control because she is able to be independent. An environment that is inconsistent can breed stress, anxiety, and even fear of the unknown, causing the child to be dependent upon the adult to problem solve.

If the adult is constantly directing the child, the child isn't experiencing freedom. When the adult is in control, the child is not free.

In the Montessori environment, "freedom" means that the child understands how to do things. If the child does not understand how to do something, she is not free to do it. When children know the limits, they follow the rules.

Michelle Irinyi — NAMC Tutor & Graduate
81.2K

Ms. Dolores Dad's Night Class Project

Self Portraits

