

November 2, 2018

Volume 7 Issue 3

DOLPHIN TALES

New addition to the Montessori family!
Benjamin Michael Sopata
Christian's little brother



Wisdom



Knowledge



Peace



Important Dates

11/20 Holiday
Celebrations in
Classroom

11/21-23
Thanksgiving
Holidays

November Birthdays

11/2 Emily Hickman

Sam Durbin

11/3 Madison Wells

11/4 Ashley Tegan

Luca Angio Stina

Parker Collins

11/6 Myles Bridges

Reynolds Levy

11/7 Aubrey Crider

11/14 Thea Grant

11/16 Nicholas Whelchel

11/17 Athan Wilson

Ryder Corbin

11/18 Bear Bridges

11/21 Hudson Camp

11/22 Claire Chen

11/23 Lily Cantrell

11/27 Charles Giles

Give
Thanks!

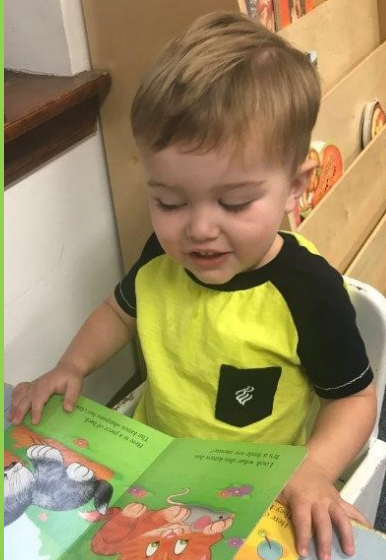


Toddler News from Ms. Ginny & Ms. Pam

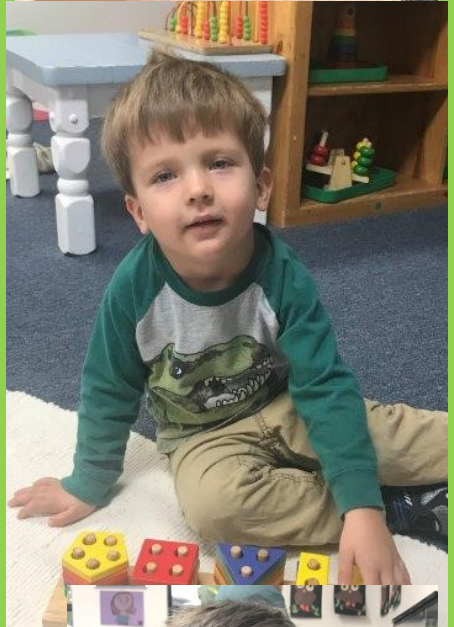


October flew by! We had so much fun learning and singing about nocturnal animals and Halloween!!

November will be a busy month. We will learn about transportation, opposites, and also talk about Thanksgiving. We will also be making lots of crafts and learning new songs. The day before Thanksgiving break, Tuesday November 20, we will celebrate in our classrooms with a Thanksgiving Feast!! We invite you all to join us. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on our classroom door for the food we will be needing that day. We will be out for Thanksgiving Wednesday through Friday!! I hope you all enjoy this time with your family and friends.

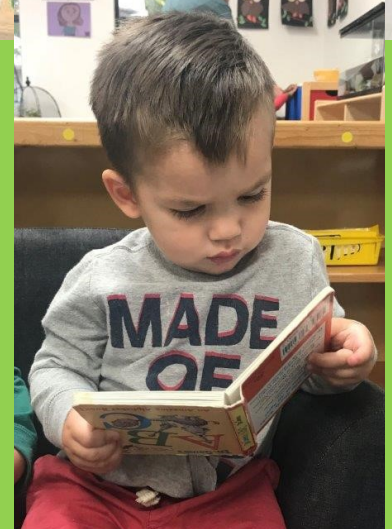


As most of you know, there have been lots of viruses and sickness going around at school. Please keep a close watch on your child and keep them at home if they are running fever, vomiting or have diarrhea. They need to be symptom free (without medication) for 24 hours before they return to school. This will help keep all the children well.



Please check and make sure your child now has warm clothes in their extra clothing boxes. Be sure to label all outerwear. With 14 children, it's hard to know what belongs to which child:).

Thanks for all you do and for being so good about getting your child to school on time! This is helping the school year to go so well!!



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

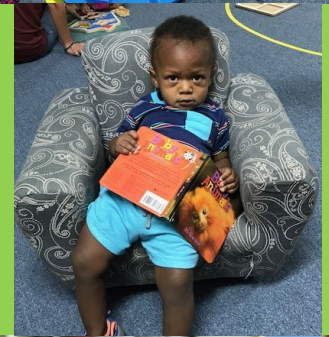
October was such a fun month! We really enjoyed learning about nocturnal animals. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Halloween party a success. The kids loved all the special treats. Congratulations to Lily's family on winning our class pumpkin! It was great to see so many of you at the Fall Festival!

Another month down! This school year is flying by! In November we will learn about different types of transportation and opposites. We will also learn about being thankful, turkeys, fall, and Thanksgiving. It will be another packed month!!

We will have a Thanksgiving celebration in the classroom on November 20th. Families are invited. I will put up both a sign up for food and an RSVP list on the door so we will know how much food to bring. We will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 21-23.

We will also start working on our holiday program music. We will be wearing pajamas for our performance. Ms. Shemi said she may have found some cute ones for us to buy. I will let you know more as soon as possible.

Please check your child's cubby for season appropriate clothing. It might be a good idea to have something for colder and warmer weather since Mother Nature can't seem to make up her mind. Make sure to label everything-extra clothes, hats, jackets, and gloves. There is a Lost and Found in the lobby! We are thankful each day for your children!



Primary News from Ms. Ana Maria & Ms. Valerie



We have had an amazing October. We have learned so much and enjoyed new experiences!

October began with us studying South America. The children loved learning about landmarks and the names of the countries. For each continent, we have a folder where children can explore things about the continent. In each folder, there are pictures of places all over the continent. There are books and sometimes even items that people have brought back when they have visited the continent. The children love to explore the folder and see how things are different all over the world.

We then studied the five senses. I think this was some of the children's favorite lessons. I know it was mine. For the sense of smell, we had smelling jars for the children to match the smells. It was really funny watching them smell garlic! They loved the peppermint scent the best. For the sense of touch, we did an extension of the cylinder blocks. They put on a blindfold and put the cylinders away by just using their sense of touch. For the sense of hearing, we learned about sound waves, and the children matched the classroom bells. For the sense of sight, we did the second color tablet box. This is where the children match all the colors. They then had to find objects from around the room to match the color tablets. For the sense of taste, the children tried all sorts of new foods. We had sour, sweet, and salty for them to try.

We ended the month by studying about parts of the body. We have learned about our bones and nervous system. We learned about the different functions of organs in our body and why it is important to eat healthy. We then had so much fun learning all about our brains. Thank you to Levi's dad for sending in a model of the brain for the children to see. They loved seeing all the different parts of the brain.

We also had some awesome guests this month. We had Ayano visit to talk about Japan. She is a foreign exchange student who is staying with Anika's family. She showed us pictures of Japan and talked about a typical school year. She then taught us how to make an origami ghost. The children loved that part. Thank you so much Ayano for spending part of your fall break with us!

My Mom, Mary Elena, came in to tell the children Halloween stories. She taught the children how to tell a jump story. Be sure to ask them about it.

Thank you to everyone for making October so special!! We had so many people come in to the classroom to help this month.



Primary News from Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

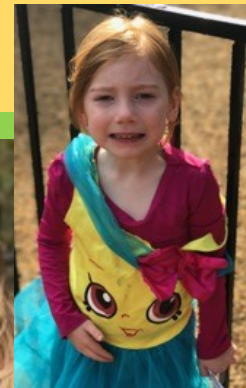
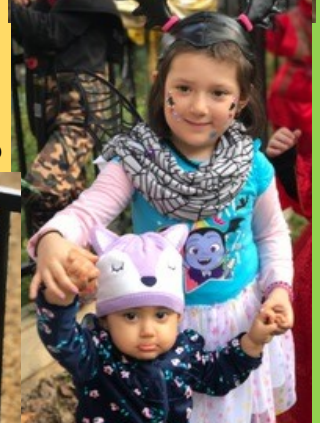


Welcome November!!!

We can't believe we are working on our holiday program show already. October flew by because we were so busy! This month we will learn about the mountains, birds, Native Americans and Thanksgiving. If you have anything that you would like to share with our class about any of these topics, please send it with your child's name on it.

We have been working on grace and courtesy lessons in class. Please be sure to help reinforce this at home by reminding your child how to speak nicely to you and to their peers. For example, insist on the magic words of Please and Thank You. Eye contact is quite important. We often say it's not what you say sometimes but how you say it, so please use a pleasant tone of voice and kind words. We want our children to have grateful and kind hearts. Remember, "One kind word can change someone's entire day." If we work on these lessons at school, and you reinforce them at home, we will cultivate a kinder, gentler world. Another important quality we are trying to work on is about mindfulness. The Montessori Method of education is consistent with the idea of mindfulness. The flow of the individual presentations requires the attention of the child and the adult to be focused on the immediate present. The built-in control of error in the Montessori materials and activities consistently bring the child's focus back to center. Being mindful requires the child to be fully aware sensorially. The Montessori sensorial lessons and activities serve to isolate each sense so that it might be fully explored and internalized by the child. Montessori education is preparing the child not just for school, but also for life. Exercises such as 'The Silence Game' and 'Walking on the Line' help the child to focus his thoughts inward and be aware of his body within the space of his environment. It helps the child become fully conscious of his surroundings. "Every exercise involving movement where mistakes can be corrected...is of great assistance to a child...Our children become agile by learning how to walk around various objects without bumping into them." (Dr. Maria Montessori)

For this month of Thanksgiving, we look forward to our annual Thanksgiving feast with the Pilgrims and the First Nation people. It will be on Tuesday, November 20th, and the festivities begin at 11:00. A sign-up sheet will be posted next week. Speaking of Thanksgiving and gratitude, thank you for the donations from the Book Fair! The children love to see new books on our classroom shelves.



Elementary News: Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree" - Emily Bronte

The beauty of autumn has inspired us to head outdoors to observe the rainbow of colors we enjoy this time every year. After exploring the parts of a twig, we are now collecting leaves which we will take back to the classroom to classify. The students enjoy the challenge of discovering and labeling the individual leaves they have found. Students learn vocabulary to classify leaf types, leaf veins, and leaf margins. Leaf rubbings which were a part of the lesson were a favorite activity in the classroom this month.

Our students did a great job on their Historical Timeline presentations! We know they worked hard learning about their chosen person of influence. Thank you all for coming out and supporting this important and educational event!

Ms. Maggie and the Montessori Cross Country team enjoyed their first race at Berry College on October 26th. Our students put in a lot of effort and spent Tuesday and Thursday mornings running at school to prepare themselves for the Berry Pumpkin Run. Thank you to Ms. Maggie for leading this fun and exciting new club!

With October behind us, we look forward to celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday with all of you and sharing this special time of year with family and friends. A Montessori education is unique in that we choose to take the time to educate the whole child - physical, emotional, social, and cognitive. During the month of November we will be focusing on recognizing and acknowledging both people and things for which we can all be thankful. We welcome you all to come and be a part of our classroom Thanksgiving celebration on Tuesday, November 20th. A sign up sheet will be put out for everyone to sign up to bring something to share. School will be out from Wednesday, November 21st through Friday, November 23rd. Please enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday break with your families! We'll look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday, November 26th!



Elementary News: Ms. Dolores

In the twentieth century, Maria Montessori saw Cosmic Education as a way to protect humankind from the threat of self-annihilation posed by seemingly endless acts of war and political aggression. In the twenty-first century, global awareness, cooperation, and peaceful communication are integral to resolving problems that Dr. Montessori could hardly have anticipated. Cosmic Education helps prepare children to deal successfully with today's realities.

"Let us give the children a vision of the universe," wrote Maria Montessori in *To Educate the Human Potential*. "The universe is an imposing reality and the answer to all questions."

During the month of November and leading up to our classroom celebration of Thanksgiving our cosmic education will focus on the Fundamental Needs of Humans. People who lived a long time ago – and people all over the world have much of the same basic needs. We all need to nourish, clothe and defend ourselves as well as find ways to provide shelter and transportation.

We'll begin with determining the difference between a need and a want, letting all children create their own fundamental needs chart. Afterwards, we'll look at fundamental needs through time in both a Vertical study (examining different needs, i.e. shelter, and how it's developed since prehistoric times) and a Horizontal study (looking at all needs within a particular culture, i.e. Ancient Egypt).

"Cosmic Education teaches children to recognize the fundamental needs we all share and to respect the cultural differences by which we meet those fundamental needs. Such an education can lead us to a future of true peace."

Quick class notes:

All the children did a marvelous job presenting their historical characters to the community.

Thank-you, Attaway family, for the winning bid on our class pumpkin.

We will going to the Eco Center at Ridge Ferry Park next Wednesday, November 7, from 9:30 until 11:30. It's an in town trip so we won't need a signed permission slip, but we do need a payment of \$4 for each child. Please send this in ASAP. We also need a few drivers for this trip.

Next Friday, November 9, we will be celebrating the birthdays of Luca Angio-Stina and Charles Giles. You will not need to send a lunch on that day.

Thank-you, Newman Attaway, Luca Angio-Stina, Charl Glover, Marcus Phillips, and the Cramer family for purchasing books from the Scholastic Book Fair and generously donating them to our class.



News from Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Kaitlin

Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do. ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

A few years ago, I received my certificate to facilitate Positive Parenting courses, developed by Lynn Lott and Jane Nelson of Positive Discipline. In my first small group session with parents, I always ask this question: "Imagine it is 20 years from now and your child is coming home for Sunday dinner. What are the qualities you wish to see in your adult child walking through your front door?" I let them brainstorm for a few minutes and then we collectively come together and write our responses paper for everyone to see. Generally, the qualities identified look something like this:

- happiness
- success
- pride
- honor
- love
- honesty
- self-worth

independence

When this is shared, I then ask the most important question: "Is what you are doing now as a parent developing these character traits in your children?"

Independence is a skill. Like learning how to swim or ride a bike, it is not something that comes naturally or develops overnight. What it looks like and what it means to be independent needs to be modeled and practiced repeatedly, until it is mastered. Parents (and teachers) who wish to smooth the way and all obstacles may also be removing the precious experiences which help children grow.

Montessori Elementary: Developing Independence, Movement, and Motor Skills

Children who have been in the Montessori preschool spend three years preparing to be independent. As they enter the Montessori lower elementary environment, they are once again explorers, embarking on a new stage of development. They ask serious and important questions: Who am I? What am I? Where did I come from? Who and what came before me? While seeking these connections, they journey closer and closer to independence.

Like the Montessori preschool environment from whence they came, students are free to move and explore in the Montessori elementary environment. Through movement, children explore their world. They touch it, they move and manipulate it, they go outside and out into the world to examine the natural beauty around them.

The materials in the Montessori elementary environment are spread throughout the room in a logical and orderly manner. Journals are in cubbies, materials are on shelves, pencils are in a pencil holder by the pencil sharpener and work mats are in a basket by the library. Important social connections are made – Montessori lessons are now given in small groups and students enjoy working with one or two classmates. Montessori students in this stage of development are learning how to establish community and the Montessori environment gives them freedom to explore this in a safe, supportive manner. Children learn to discuss ideas and listen to others without judgment. The Montessori elementary learning materials offer the reality, concretely demonstrating learning concepts, encouraging and enabling Montessori students to explore with their imaginations, creativity and authentic interest.

Montessori understood that realizing one's place in the world and being able to function as part of a community is an important part of being independent. Children in the Montessori elementary environment are encouraged to experience, observe, and yes, make mistakes as they try to make sense of their world. As they develop, Montessori students begin to move away from the concrete materials and proceed to thinking and reasoning abstractly on their own. They develop self-control both physically and emotionally, toward what Montessori called normalization. By being an important part of and engaging in the classroom community and beyond, students learn the social norms of society and how to adapt and behave within the context of different social settings.

Freedom and movement go hand-in-hand in the Montessori environment. Becoming independent and capable means being free to explore and develop. Independence and well-being do not come from sitting at a desk for long hours and memorizing facts. These are achieved by exploring, experiencing and creating your personal working relationship with others and with the world.

https://montessoritraining.blogspot.com/2010/04/independence-and-movement-montessori_08.html

