

December 7th, 2018

Volume 7 Issue 4

# DOLPHIN TALES

## Baby Announcements:



**Aiden Wu**

Baby Brother of Claire  
and Zoey



**Serena Chen**

Baby Sister of Sabrina

## Important Dates:

**December 20th**  
Holiday Program  
Rome City Auditorium  
6:00 PM

**December 21st**  
Half day, Holiday  
Celebration in  
Classroom

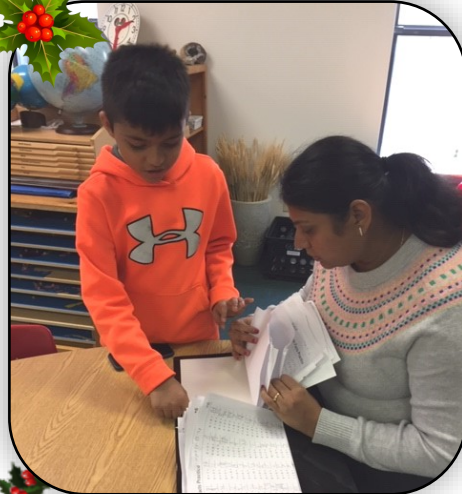
**December 24th -  
January 4th**  
Winter Break

**January 7th**  
School restarts

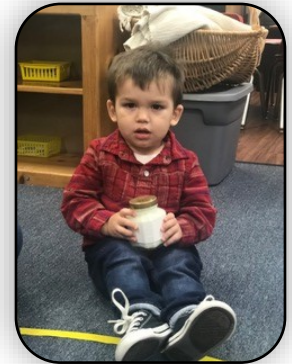


## December Birthdays:

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



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



We are talking about Nursery Rhymes this month. We are also continuing learning colors and shapes and of course grace and courtesy every month!! We will be reading Christmas stories and singing Christmas songs. We are making our own ornaments to hang on our tree so then you'll have some new ones to hang on yours after we get out for Christmas break.



The Holiday program is coming up fast. It is on Thursday evening, December 20 at 6:00. We will need your child there by 5:45. Have them dressed in their Christmas pajamas and tennis shoes. They are doing pretty good at practice but you never know how they will do on stage! We have the most adorable class! Tickets are on sale now in the office! Be sure to get yours soon!



On Friday, December 21, let your child wear pajamas to school. It's our official "Pajama Day". We will watch a Christmas movie that day and also ice and decorate our own cookies for snack! It's half day so your child will need to be picked up at 11:00. We will not have lunch.

Sure hope your holidays will be extra special. Thank you for being amazing parents!!

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



December is here!! It's going to be a fun month! This month we will be learning lots of nursery rhymes, making fun Christmas projects, and getting ready for the Holiday Program! The students received a nice surprise yesterday! James' grandfather dropped him off, and he looks like Santa! We were at line time when they came. Their eyes got huge! They kept saying, "he's got a beard like Santa" and "he's got glasses like Santa." They were so excited!! I wish I would have had my camera ready!!



Make sure to pick up your Christmas pajamas. Please buy something that is green or red or both! We will wear them at the holiday program, and they can wear them on the last day of school for our pajama party!



Our Holiday Program tickets are on sale! Stop by the office and pick yours up so you don't have to wait at the door!

Please make sure to leave coats on the bench with their lunch boxes. I think this will help with misplaced items since both classes are in the dayroom. Thanks!

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

We had a great November! The children loved cooking! They had so much fun making the butter and really worked hard on those mashed potatoes. Cooking is a great activity that the children can help you with at home. If you need someone to help stirring or to help measuring, the children are wonderful. I am hoping we find some time to make holiday cookies before we get out for Christmas break. If anyone would like to come in to cook with the children, just let us know.



We definitely have the holiday spirit in our classroom. With the children in the classroom, it is always so much fun to decorate. Seeing their faces light up and seeing them get so excited would get anyone into the holiday spirit. I have told the children that our classroom is turning into Santa's workshop because of all the fun art projects and crafts we are doing. I think Ms. Valerie and I may be having more fun than the children.



One of the children's favorite piece of holiday work is a mini Christmas tree that we have on the shelf. We have it on a tray with a container of ornaments. The children take it to the table, just like any other work, and get to decorate it. It is great for the children's fine motor skills, and it is just fun. I highly recommend get a mini tree for your child to decorate at home.



We always love for visitors to come in to read your favorite Holiday stories to the children. Our line times are at 8:30am and at 10:30am. We will have a calendar in the classroom if you would like to sign up for a time. (The only days that are a little busy for us are on Mondays. We go to the library and have music class.) Parents are not the only people invited to do this. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends are all invited.

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

The holidays are upon us so we have been studying how other people celebrate the season. The children enjoy learning about holiday traditions around the world. We also enjoyed our very own Ms. Robin sharing her traditions of Hanukkah with us. We have been studying about the polar regions and the animals that inhabit the Arctic and Antarctica. We know so much about penguins and polar bears now. Please ask your child to share some of their knowledge with you. Grace and courtesy has continually been a major focus throughout our studies. The children do seem much more aware of each other, sharing feelings, showing empathy, and being patient and aware of others.



Our children are academically growing. They are being given lessons and showing mastery and they have the desire for new lessons. Normalization has been achieved within the class. Please find the time to observe our class and see the wonderful experience of all of this in its purest form. "The greatest sign of success for a teacher...is to be able to say 'The children are now working as if I do not exist.'" Maria Montessori



If you haven't observed already, please try to find the time. You will definitely enjoy it.



Thanks,  
Angie and Carolina

## Elementary News from Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

“Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.” -Maria Montessori

This is one of the principles upon which the Montessori method of education was founded. On a daily basis we try to apply this principle in the classroom by allowing our students to complete their schoolwork independently, without interruptions. The materials in the classroom are also designed to encourage independence in that they are easily manipulated by the student and organized on the shelf within easy reach. We expect our students to manage themselves, their time, and their belongings in a responsible manner. Encourage your lower el student to check their backpack for items they will need the next day, making sure they have their homework or other important belongings.



If anyone would like to send in Christmas treats for the class the last week before break (Dec. 17th - 21st) you're welcome to do so. Also, if any family celebrates an international holiday this time of year and would like to share your traditions with the class, please let Ms. Maggie know so we can set a time for you to visit. We would love to learn about celebrations from different cultures!



We're looking forward to our Christmas performance which will be Thursday, December 20th at the city auditorium at 6:00pm. Students should arrive by 5:30. Please remember your child will need to wear a red or green sweater in traditional Christmas colors and black pants/skirt with black shoes for the program. You may email a photo to Ms. Maggie to ensure the sweater will coordinate with the rest of the class. We look forward to seeing you all there!



Our last day of school before Christmas break will be a half day on Friday, December 21st. Students need to be picked up by 11:30am. School will resume on Monday, January 7th. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays with friends and family!

## Elementary News from Ms. Dolores & Ms. Robin

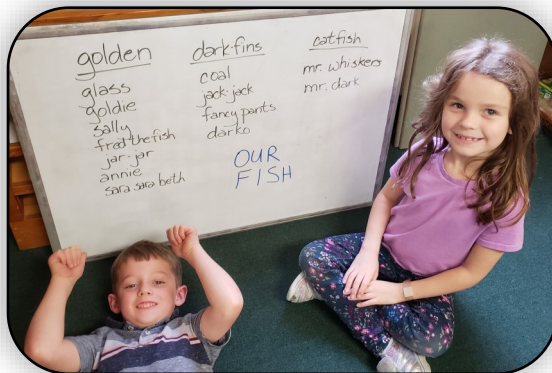


Our holiday program will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, December 20, at the Rome City Auditorium. Song lyrics will be coming home with homework this week and music will be e-mailed to the parents.



For this program students will need to wear traditional Christmas red or green sweaters (no neon, pastels, or burgundy). No words should be printed on the shirt. They will also need to wear solid black pants and black dress shoes. If girls choose to wear a black skirt, they should also wear black tights. We'll be practicing the morning of the program so 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 21, will be pajama day and our school day will end at 11:30. 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.



Donating books to the House of the Children's Academy (in lieu of an in-class gift exchange) has become a holiday tradition. We've been talking about "generosity" in class and defined it as "sharing what you have". Please help your child to choose a gently used book (or books) to bring to class before Friday, December 14. Your children really enjoy our wrapping/dance party and many are surprised at how good it feels to give without expecting anything in return. We will appreciate all wrapping paper donations.

If anyone has a free afternoon and any holiday craft ideas, please let me know.

It will be a busy month, but this truly is the most wonderful time of the year!

## Elementary News from Ms. Rebecca & Ms. Kaitlin

### 20 Ideas to Cultivate an Attitude of Gratitude in Your Children

Author: Shannon Lambert

<https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/grateful-children-printable-challenge>

- Say please and thank you.
- Help someone less fortunate.
- Volunteer.
- Send out thank you cards.
- Look for awe-inspiring moments in your day.
- Share your gratitude at bedtime.
- Share your gratitude at the dinner table.
- Compliment others.
- Keep a gratitude journal.
- Write a letter.
- Create a family gratitude list.
- Create a family gratitude journal.
- Give someone a gift.
- Always look for the positive.
- Practice turning complaints in to praises.
- Create a gratitude jar.
- Donate to a nonprofit.
- Take gratitude walks.
- Ask why.
- Work through envy.



Gratitude is a skill. An *attitude of gratitude* is a positive way of looking at life. Gratitude can increase our children's happiness, teach them to be more empathetic and help them to be more thankful for everything they have.



## Announcements



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We invite you to connect with us on social media! We post regularly on Facebook and Instagram and just re-launched our Twitter. Please follow us to stay updated on school events and to view a ton of great photos of our students at work. We look forward to connecting and communicating with you. We hope you like and comment on our posts and feel free to ask any questions or share our content with family and friends.

Warm Holiday Wishes,  
Chandler Lawrence  
Administrative Assistant



## Holiday Program



The holiday program is a wonderful MSR tradition, and we look forward to it every year! Much work goes into making the production beautiful, and we hire professional musicians, sound, and lighting technicians to enhance the experience. In addition, we hold the performance at the Rome City Auditorium. All of these aspects are costly, and although we do not want to make money, we do charge enough money for the tickets so that we will meet the expenses. We so appreciate your support! Tickets are available in the office, so beat the crowd and buy your tickets before the day of the show! Adults are \$10, children 12 and under are \$5.

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 treasure 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. I consider it a privilege as we all do to spend time with your children each day! Blessings to all of you this holiday season and in the new year.

Ms. Melanie