

May 3rd, 2019

Volume 7 Issue 9

DOLPHIN TALES



Important Dates:

May 10th
3rd Year Primary Field Trip

May 23rd
Graduation
6:30 PM

May 24th
Last Day of School
1/2 Day

May Birthdays:

Adithri S.	5/9
Sam M.	5/10
Benjamin C.	5/12
Hank R.	5/19
Cydney A.	5/27



Toddler News from Ms. Ginny & Ms. Pam

April was a wonderful month learning all about gardening and insects. The children loved watching the life cycle of the butterflies. We just let them go yesterday. The children were adorable waving goodbye to them!

I want to thank you once again for all the beautiful flowers you planted on our patio. They look beautiful and the children are enjoying taking care of them. Thank you also for the buckets, balls and birdseed. The birds and the squirrels are enjoying that :).

This month will be all about the ocean. It's always lots of fun learning about all the sea creatures. Today we listened to sounds that some of them make. They were very interested and listened so well.

We will be going to the Tennessee Aquarium on Monday, May 13. We will just meet there (more on this next week). Please let your child wear their black field trip shirt or any black shirt if you don't have one. Each child has to have an adult with them. We are not allowed to take them with us in our car. If you do not come, you must find other childcare for that day. Please let us know ahead of time if you are not coming so that we will not wait for you once there.

Visitation for our second year toddlers to visit Primary classrooms will be Monday, May 6 thru Thursday, May 9. They will visit from 8:30 until 10:00. This will give them an idea of what it will be like for them next year.

The last day of school will be Friday, May 24. This is 1/2 day and dismissal will be 11:00.

Thank you all for the privilege of loving and working with your child this year. I love each and every one of them. They are all truly blessings in my life!



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



What a beautiful celebration of May we had this week! May Day is one of my favorite days! Thank you to all the wonderful Moms in our class! You all have beautiful, smart, precious children. I'm so blessed to have them and you in my class!

We are in the home stretch! I can't believe it's the last month of school! We will be learning about the ocean this month. We will culminate our studies with a trip to the Tennessee Aquarium on Monday, May 13. I will send an email with more information about our trip.

Children who are moving up to Primary next year will visit next week. They will go to both classes twice. Please make sure they are here by 8:15 so they will be on time for their visits. We will not take them in late, so they will miss their opportunity to visit if they are late.

I would like to start having picnics on the patio on Fridays. To make this happen, I'm asking for no warm ups on Fridays. You can send sandwiches, chips, crackers, fruits, raw veggies, etc. I think the kids would love this!



Primary News from Ms. Ana Maria & Ms. Valerie

Hello,

I can not believe it is the last month of the school year! We have had an exciting school year and have learned so much!

Here are some ideas of things to do with your child this summer:

- Have your child write letters to friends and family. They could even tell you what they would like to write and then trace it or copy it. Younger students could draw pictures.
- Send your child on a nature/bug hunt. Let them start a nature table somewhere to collect things they have discovered.
- Let your child help with more things around the house. They can set the table, wash windows, fold towels, and sometimes even help with some cooking. Give your child more responsibilities and they will rise to the occasion.
- Be sure to sign up for the reading program at the Sara Hightower Library. It is a great way to encourage your child to read throughout the summer. The children get prizes for the amount of time they read. The time you read to your child also counts.
- Encourage your child to count objects. Maybe when you are cooking, have your child find 15 toy cars for example. You could even make it a game in the car to see how far you can count.
- Play I spy games, but do it with letter sounds. I spy something that starts with an "a." Make it a scavenger hunt, where they have to find objects in the house for certain letters.
- We encourage you to continue to check out readers during the summer so your child will continue on their reading journey.
- Call up friends to meet at the park for play dates.
- The children love science projects. On a rainy day, you could google some science projects and do some with your child. You can do a lot of science projects with just things you find in the kitchen.
- Another favorite is painting or drawing with chalk.
- Please let me know us you are interested in tutoring this summer. Valerie will have a schedule soon. She will be at the school on Fridays.

Be sure to send us any pictures of any adventures your child takes this summer! I hope everyone has a wonderful summer break.



Thank you,
Ana Maria

Primary News from Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

Its hard to believe that our school year is coming to an end. We have had a wonderful year and it has flown by. We have enjoyed watching the children bond with each other and form friendships that will last a lifetime, gain knowledge through many lessons, and learn to work out differences through communication. It has been an honor to be a part of your child's journey thus far. We have shared many beautiful moments that will forever be treasured.

Our year of studies in August began with our place in the universe. We enjoyed learning about the planets and how we can make our planet Earth a better place for our future. Our trip to the pumpkin patch was a great way to kick off fall. We saw some amazing pumpkins and enjoyed the day with family and friends. We ended October with our traditional Halloween walk. Watching the leaves change color throughout the month and enjoying the weather get cooler were again made into lessons that the children enjoyed. In November we enjoyed our traditional feast in class to celebrate Thanksgiving, during this time, the children shared things that they were thankful for; families and friends seemed to be on everyone's list. We also began preparations for the Holiday Program, and we transformed and signed as the cutest Santa's elves ever. It was so much fun to perform and I am sure that each of you enjoyed watching. We also enjoyed pajama day and a visit from the Elf who left snowy marshmallows all over the room.

After enjoying our winter break, we began our studies for International Day. Learning about the Philippines was fun and we enjoyed the food. Time never slowed down and neither did our studies. We loved the Easter Egg Hunt and watching the arrival of spring. One of our favorite's studies in the spring was watching the caterpillars become butterflies. Our lessons on flowers and insects are fun and we always learn something new.

Our primary class trip to the Puppetry Center was a fun day with the families. The children enjoyed the play and learning how puppets work, also they loved creating their own puppets. May Day brought out beautiful flowers, children dressed in Sunday best, and fellowships with friends and families. It was nice to honor Moms on this day also. We are ending our year with more studies of insects and flowers. We will have "Bug day" on the last day of school, which is a half day. We are also enjoying our last few days with some friends who will not be in our class next year.



Thank You!

Ms. Angie & Ms. Carolina

Elementary News from Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

“We cannot know the consequences of suppressing a child’s spontaneity when he is just beginning to be active. We may even suffocate life itself. That humanity which is revealed in all its intellectual splendor during the sweet and tender age of childhood should be respected with a kind of religious veneration. It is like the sun which appears at dawn or a flower just beginning to bloom. Education cannot be effective unless it helps a child to open up himself to life.”

-Maria Montessori



As we celebrate the new life that comes with Spring it brings to mind the words of Dr. Montessori in which she spoke of a child’s humanity as a flower just beginning to bloom. One of the fundamental objectives of a Montessori education is to allow a child’s intellect to bloom, consequently not crushing the spirit of curiosity that exists within him. In a Montessori classroom children have the freedom to explore new concepts using a variety of beautiful materials. They are given the opportunity to use these materials until they reach a point where they can abstract new concepts at their own pace. Exploration is not limited to the confines of the classroom but students also go out into the living world to relate the Botany, Zoology, and Geology lessons they have been given to the physical world. New material and concepts become more thoroughly ingrained in the child’s mind and are quickly retained this way.

Thank you all for joining us for our May Day celebration! Your presence helped make the day extra special. We appreciate our families supporting the school activities! Happy Mother’s Day to all the moms!

Our graduation ceremony will be May 23 at the chapel on the campus of Shorter University. Penmanship students (3rd years) will need to arrive at 5:45 for pictures. Graduation will begin at 6:30pm so please have your student on campus before that time as they will need to have time to line up for the processional. We look forward to seeing everyone at this memorable occasion! Following graduation, the last day of school is May 24 and will be a half day.

This year has flown by as they always seem to do. We have enjoyed guiding your children along their educational journey this year. It is always a pleasure to watch them learn, grow, and mature throughout the school year. We wish you all a peaceful, relaxing summer filled with adventures that bring you joy and laughter!

Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie

Elementary News from Ms. Dolores & Ms. Robin

Summer Vacation Ideas for Montessori Families

Visit a bookstore as a family on the first day of summer vacation.

Help your children select a blank book or journal. Encourage them to record something in this book every day during the summer. This helps with literacy skills and creative writing. It also has the potential to serve as a keepsake your children will cherish for years to come.

Explore local resources and places of interest.

Historic homes, farms, zoos, walking trails and many other interesting opportunities that are close to home can be fun and educational adventures. Take small field trips throughout the summer and include your Montessori child in the planning.

Include your Montessori children in your daily household activities.

If they aren't doing so already, summer is the perfect time to encourage their assistance with planning meals for the week, grocery shopping, and meal preparation. Tending to (or starting) a family garden is work that will see delicious rewards.

Start a family book club.

Ask everyone to suggest one or two book titles that they have not read. Debate the titles as a family and vote on one that everyone will read and then discuss at a later date. Are some members of your family too young to read? In lieu of television, end every evening by taking turns reading a book aloud. The anticipation of knowing what will happen next will keep everyone coming back for more.

Put together a scavenger hunt for your Montessori children.

This can be a great option for a rainy day, but on a sunny day you can include biology and botany related clues outdoors. The hunt can be fun and educational in origin, testing your children's knowledge or research skills (via the internet, books, etc.). Another possibility is a work-related scavenger hunt. Maybe a clue is at the bottom of a bowl of potatoes that need to be peeled. Another clue may appear on the washing machine when the cycle is complete. The possibilities are endless; a scavenger hunt is something that may be done just once or several times throughout the summer.

Challenge your Montessori children to solve a problem that exists for your family or home.

Want to be more environmentally conscious but can't decide what to do? Is there constant conflict over one particular game, toy, or activity? Your children will surely have ideas for what needs improving and ideas for solutions. Ask them to present their findings to the family, where a discussion and vote can take place on the solution that will be implemented.



Elementary News from Ms. Rebecca & Ms. Kaitlin



Did you know there is a way to increase your children's vocabulary by tens of thousands of words, help them to become better listeners, allow them to express themselves civilly, convey feelings of parental understanding, ensure they have higher nutrition levels, reduce their stress, and make them less likely to smoke or use drugs? It's simple: Have a family meal together once a day. By sharing meals together as a family, children learn firsthand what values are important to their family. Without thinking or planning, parents are showing their children how to converse with others in meaningful ways. Children watch as parents ask after each other and help console each other on a rough day, or celebrate milestones or achievements. They see how people who care about each other offer support and courtesy, learn to gauge others to see how they respond, and acquire a host of other important communication skills. Children who eat dinner with their families learn more about their cultural (what, how, and when they eat), ethnic, and religious beliefs. A study from Emory University (Bohanek et al., 2006) shows that children who know a lot about their family history have a closer relationship to family members, higher self-esteem, and a greater sense of control over their lives. These benefits extend even into the teenage years! 71% of teens in a Columbia University study reported that catching up and spending time with family was the best part of family dinners. Research shows that children who eat family meals get better grades, are more motivated, and get along better with others (CASA, 2012). On the other hand, a 2011 study shows that children who do not have family meals are more likely to smoke, drink alcohol, try drugs, feel depressed, or have trouble at school (CASA, 2011). A team of researchers at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health found that, even if the family members are not very close, having a meal together reduces the risk for many of these troubling behaviors among youth (Gengler, 2011). It may take a bit of thinking and rearranging schedules, but family meals provide better outcomes than other after-school activities. So unless your child loves those activities, consider letting one or some go to make time for family meals. Additionally, meals eaten at home are usually healthier than meals eaten on the go, and children are likelier to eat a variety of foods that they prepare with you and benefit from learning how to plan a menu and shop for ingredients. This practice may take a little getting used to, and, depending on your schedules, maybe a different meal would work better for you—think family breakfast. In the end, having a meal together (without the TV on or phones at the table) provides an ideal context to grow together as a family. It's not surprising that, for as long as there have been people, celebrating—even brokering peace—has been done by breaking bread together.

Announcements



@MontessoriSchoolofRome



@Montessori_schoolofrome



@MontessoriRome

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.

SCHOOL MESSENGER: To opt in to receive text messages from school messenger please text the letter **y** or **yes** to **67587**. We use school messenger to update parents on weather, delayed openings or school closures, etc.

Warm Wishes,
Chandler Lawrence
Administrative Assistant

Announcements

Graduation

When: May 23rd, 6:30 PM

Where: Brookes Chapel, Shorter University

Group photo is at 6:00 PM

Individual photos start at 5:35

Please sign up for an individual photo time on the sheet in the office

Last Day of School

May 24th is the last day of school and it is a half day

Please plan on picking up your child by:

11:00 - Toddlers

11:15 - Primary

**11:30 - All Elementary, Adolescent,
and Secondary**