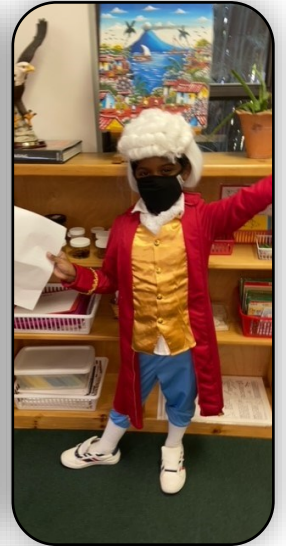


November 9, 2020

Volume 9 Issue 3

# DOLPHIN TALES



## November Birthdays:

Emily H.	11/2
Samuel D.	11/2
Madison W.	11/3
Luca A.	11/4
Parker C.	11/4
Tegan A.	11/4
Myles B.	11/6
Reynolds L.	11/6
Aubree C.	11/7
Luke M.	11/11
Katherine J.	11/12
Thealynn G.	11/14
Nicholas W.	11/16
Athan W.	11/17
Ryder C.	11/17
Bear B.	11/18
Andi R.	11/21
Claire C.	11/22
Charles G.	11/27
Quade W.	11/29



## Important Dates:

**November 20th**  
Holiday Celebration  
In Classroom

**November 23th- 27th**  
Thanksgiving Break  
No School



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



Happy November! We had a blast with all of our nocturnal studies. Our Halloween celebration was so much fun, Everyone's costumes were great. We all enjoyed the treats and candy! Jumping into November we are learning all about transportation and opposites with a little Thanksgiving sprinkled in.

With Thanksgiving approaching, we are sad we can't have our traditional feast. To still have a special day, we are asking you to please send in \$7 for a Chick-fil-A lunch. Each child will get 8 nuggets, bag of waffle chips and a cookie. If anyone would like to donate juice or drinks, please contact Ms.Ginny at (706) 346-4029. We are thankful for you!!

Just a friendly reminder, our parking lot flows best when the kids are dropped off and picked up on time. 8:15-8:30 for drop off and 2:15-2:30 for pick up. Happy Thanksgiving!

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



November is here, and we're excited to move on to a new topic. This month we will be learning about various modes of transportation and opposites. This is a fun month that keeps them engaged and excited. If you have anything you would like to share with the class this month, please feel free to send it in.

The weather is cooling down. Please make sure to send in appropriate clothes for their cubbies. Also make sure to send in an extra pair of shoes, if they don't have them. All jackets and hats should be labeled.

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving in our classroom on November 20. We will be ordering a boxed lunch from Chick Fil A for \$7 for each child. This will include nuggets, chips, and a cookie. We will buy juice boxes to serve too. Unfortunately we will not be able to have our families join us this year. Please send the money in an envelope in their backpack. Thanks!

We will be closed for Thanksgiving break the week of November 23-27. I hope you all enjoy some special time with your families. I am thankful this year for such a wonderful group of children and families.



## Primary News from Ms. Valerie, Ms. Christina,

**" The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."**

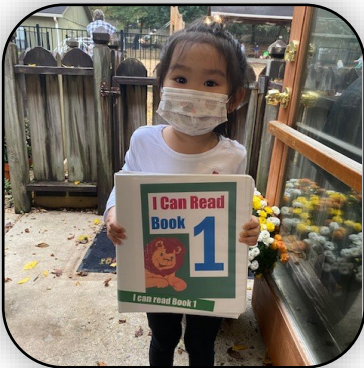
Maria Montessori was a strong believer in fostering independence in children, even at an early age. There are many benefits to cultivating independence in your child. The gift of independence allows children to feel empowered, feel capable, and ultimately trust themselves. We want to teach our children to be self-sufficient. There are many ways we can support our children to become independent. The first thing we must do is change our views on our children's capabilities. We often think that children need our help with certain tasks, but the majority of the time they are very capable of completing the task all on their own. We must provide opportunities for them to be independent.

**Here are some ways to encourage independence at home.**

- Have your child help pack their lunch for school. They can help you put food in their containers, wash fruit and veggies, peel eggs or fruit, and cut food with your supervision.
- Have your child pick out their clothes and dress themselves in the morning
- Allow your child to pour their own drink
- Allow your child to contribute with daily chores around the house.
- Set up your environment to make it child friendly (have a step stool so they can reach things on their own, create a drawer in the kitchen where they can grab their own plates/cups
- For more ideas on how to set up a Montessori environment at home please visit the following website: <https://amshq.org/Families/Montessori-and-Your-Child/Montessori-at-Home>

**Here are some age-appropriate chores that your child can do at home:**

Put their toys away, throw trash away, set the table, feed pets, wipe up spills, make the bed, water houseplants, clean the dishes, prepare snacks, sweep the floor, fold towels, empty the dishwasher, rake leaves, help with



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

Welcome, November!

We are so excited to begin our holiday seasons! We have been doing really well with our sanitization procedures, handwashing, and the children have been great at wearing and keeping their masks on. This month we will begin our studies about Native Americans, preparing ourselves for our Thanksgiving celebration. Since our guidelines have changed, we will have a small lunch on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> from Chick-Fil-A. Please send in \$7 for the boxed lunch.

We are also studying the mountains and fall season.

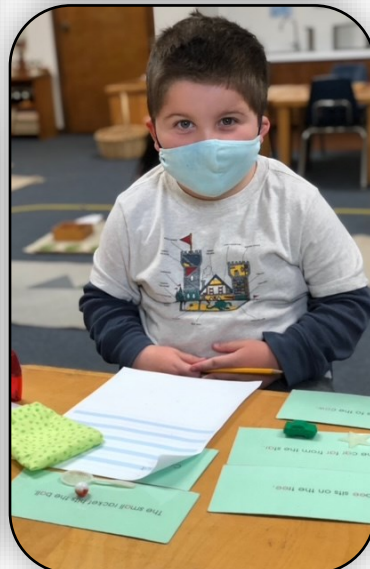
With the weather changing and getting colder, please make sure your child wears a jacket or layers up. Also make sure you have sent the extra clothing with weather appropriate clothes.

A few reminders for this month:

- We will have our Thanksgiving holiday break from November 23<sup>rd</sup> through November 27<sup>th</sup>.

This month is a busy and exciting one as we approach the end of the year. We thank you for your continuous support and understanding as things unexpectedly happen.

Angie, Nikki, and Carolina.



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

We are so happy to be getting back into the classroom routine with everyone recovered and back at school! Thank you all so much for doing your part to protect the people around us from this very persistent virus. Please remember every student needs to wear a mask to school every day. Each student also should have 2 extra masks at school. It is important to encourage your child to wear his/her mask as a way of showing kindness and respect to those around us. We certainly want to do everything we can to protect one another from the virus. I think we all would prefer to be learning together in the classroom with our wonderful Montessori materials than having to work separately from home again! *"There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of differing ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness. There is respect for the environment and for the individuals within it, which comes through experience of freedom within the community."* -Dr. Maria Montessori

Thank you for working with your child to help him/her learn his/her speech for Historical Timeline. This is a special event at Montessori in which we always learn so much about interesting people who have made a difference in our world. Even though it has been different this year than the usual process, everyone still has enjoyed getting to hear about the different historical figures. We couldn't do it without you! The students' speeches will be recorded & posted for you to enjoy!

October has been a challenging month with the virus making its presence well known in our community. However, we have been able to make time for some Fall fun by decorating pumpkins & enjoying other Fall crafts. We hope you enjoy the photos of these unique creations made by your children!

November is sure to be filled with many more learning opportunities for our students through their morning and afternoon lessons with educational and creative activities to go along with them. Afternoon class will include lessons on the founding of America, the geographical location of our 50 states, the parts of the flag, and our fundamental needs. We'll also have a classroom celebration of Thanksgiving on November 20<sup>th</sup>. It won't be the same this year without all our wonderful parents celebrating with us, but we hope to keep the focus on things for which we can still be thankful. Please look for more information about this celebration in the coming weeks.

Don't forget Thanksgiving break will be extended this year. School will be out from November 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope you'll all be able to celebrate with your household, remembering all the blessings we still have. One thing for which we will always be thankful is you, the parents of our students. We know being a parent during these times is not easy. Thank you for all you do to get your child ready for school, dropping them off every morning, picking them up every afternoon, and encouraging them to always try their best even when things are so different from what they've always known. We appreciate you! Happy Thanksgiving!



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

### Montessori Grace and Courtesy in the Lower Elementary Classroom

“Social peace and harmony can have only one foundation—man himself. This is the task of education. We must make it possible for the individual to be free and independent.”

~ Maria Montessori

To be graceful is to be pleasing, agreeable, and demonstrate goodwill. The Montessori elementary classroom is ripe for teachable moments in grace and courtesy that will help a child in situations throughout his life.

The Montessori academic course of study in the lower elementary classroom revolves around the idea of Cosmic Education, or the idea that everything is connected and interdependent upon one another. Just as the universe is seen as a whole community, the lower elementary Montessori classroom is a community of learners which follow very clear ground rules that ensure the success and freedom of all students.

The mantra to “follow the child” is ingrained in the Montessori teacher. The Montessori environment is specially prepared with focus on the individual. Students have the freedom to move about the classroom, exploring and learning as their interest is piqued. Even so, individuals find themselves in the center of the Montessori community. To ensure success, Montessori teachers establish very clear ground rules.

The rules clearly spell out the need to treat others as you would like to be treated. In other words, they encourage children to be respectful of all creatures and all things. While the rules may appear to be simple, the Montessori teacher does not assume that children automatically know what it means to be respectful. This is discussed and demonstrated in great detail in the Montessori classroom. The expectation is that through modeling and practice, children will learn to live and work together in peace and harmony. Montessori students are shown what it means to cooperate, how to be a friend, how to express anger in a positive way, and how to solve problems. The lessons in grace and courtesy provide a foundation on which to build and they set a tone of mutual respect and kindness. Because children are emotional beings and learning to express themselves, the lessons in grace and courtesy also give Montessori students the tools they need to validate their feelings. When feelings are hurt, they are able to call upon what they've learned in these lessons to practice peaceful conflict resolution. Teachers and peers act as guides and mediators, modeling appropriate

behavior and language. Over time, Montessori students become more adept and proficient at handling difficult social situations. The ideas of justice and fairness are fundamental concerns of the elementary child. The culture in the Montessori environment is built upon caring, respect, and consideration for others. An important component of that is creating a diverse cultural, racial, and linguistic environment. We do this through the lessons of grace and courtesy as well as cultural geography. Children learn that all the people on earth have basic needs that must be met. Cultural differences are celebrated and the uniqueness of different culture, language, background, race, and religion is honored. As with any skill, practice makes perfect. Children enjoy role-playing social situations and offering advice to the “actors”. There are ample opportunities to develop grace and courtesy in the elementary Montessori environment.



“The question of aid to the weak, to the aged, to the sick, for example, now arises [for elementary-age children]. If, up to the present, it was important not to bump someone in passing, it is now considered more important not to offend that person.”



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

From the American Montessori Society – “Montessori at Home”

Montessori is not just for the classroom. You can easily bring its principles into your home, and by doing so can be an invaluable bridge to reinforcing what your child learns at school. Here are some ways to build that connection.

### The Prepared Environment:

Encouraging order, independence, and self-motivation is fundamental to the Montessori approach. At school, carefully designed classrooms allow students to develop competence in caring for themselves and their surroundings. You can prepare your home in similar ways.

### Getting Organized:

Having a place for everything, on a child-friendly scale, means that children know where to find what they need, and have a place to put things when they are done. An ordered environment also has fewer distractions, allowing children to focus on the task at hand.



“To assist a child, we must provide him with an environment which will enable him to develop freely.”

Dr. Maria Montessori

### Simplifying your home:

Simplifying your home environment enables your child to understand what is expected of her. With your support, encouragement, and consistent, gentle reminders, even toddlers are capable of returning items to their rightful places. For example, limiting toy choices and providing open shelves (instead of toy boxes where toys are heaped in a pile) at your child’s eye level allows her to see all of her choices and return objects to their correct places. Sorting smaller items, such as puzzles, art supplies, and blocks by category into trays or baskets makes them accessible and your child can easily put them away. Keeping extra toys in storage to be swapped out when you observe your child growing tired or bored with the items currently available will keep her interested in playing with new and familiar favorites, and ensure a space that is not only neat and tidy, but also highly valued and cared for. While the Montessori approach to the home environment can be used in any space, it is particularly useful for children’s bedrooms and the family’s shared space in the kitchen. It can even work in teenagers’ rooms!

### The Bedroom:

Bedrooms for children of all ages should be free of clutter with clearly designated places for rest, self-care, and dressing. To nurture independence and self-esteem, furniture for young ones should be child-sized and accessible. For example, a closet with low-hanging clothes and limited choices will enable your child to make his own clothing choices for the day and put away clothes independently, setting the stage for maintaining tidiness and organization later on. For older children, including “tweens” and teens, bedroom space should provide a place to sleep, play, and work, and should allow your child to feel ownership of her own space. The bedroom can be an expression of your child’s unique personality and interests, such as by allowing her to choose her own artwork and paint color, so that she feels pride in caring for her own domain. All areas of the bedroom should provide opportunities for clutter control to reinforce the value of organization and care of the environment, and your child should be fully responsible for maintaining tidiness in her own space. Particularly when your child is older and is responsible for completing independent reading or homework at home, her workspace should provide a clutter- and distraction-free workspace for focused concentration.

### The Kitchen:

Welcoming young children into the kitchen is one of the easiest ways to support your child’s growing independence at home. Groceries can be placed on low, easy-to-reach shelves, so your child can make choices and be responsible for replacing items to their correct places. A stool placed near the countertop will invite help with washing dishes or food preparation. If there is enough space in your kitchen, consider a table and chairs that are child-sized, so that your young one can take part in meal preparation, sit comfortably for snacks, and clean up easily. Consider using quality silverware, dishware, and other kitchen utensils that are appropriately sized for your child, as opposed to plastic “toy” kitchen items, that allow her to learn proper use of “real” objects for mealtime and food preparation. For example, using a child-sized pitcher and small drinking glass allows your child to pour water when she is thirsty, teaches her to exercise care using real dishes, and supports her growing autonomy in taking care of her needs. As children grow older, the home environment should grow with them, with care given to supporting their independence in accessing and caring for the space. The key is





## 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.

**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,

Melanie Haigwood

Director of Schools