

November 5, 2021

Volume 10 Issue 3

# DOLPHIN TALES



## Important Dates:

November 22nd-26th  
Thanksgiving Break  
No School

## November Birthdays:

Samuel D.	11/2
Madison W.	11/3
Luca A.	11/4
Parker C.	11/4
Tegan A.	11/4
Reynolds L.	11/6
Thealynn G.	11/14
Kriva S.	11/16
Athan W.	11/17
Ryder C.	11/17
Liam K.	11/20
Claire C.	11/22
Zidaan S.	11/22
Charles G.	11/27
Quade W.	11/29



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



How did October fly by so quickly?? We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Halloween even though we were unable to go outside for the parade. We had fun reading Halloween stories, dancing to Halloween music, playing with play dough using Halloween cookie cutters, letting the children pass out treats to each other and enjoying a special snack that Cora's mom and dad sent in (thank you so much)!! It was a great day!

We've finished up talking and learning about nocturnal animals and our theme for this month is Transportation and we will also talk about Thanksgiving. We will learn lots of new songs, make crafts and learn all the different ways we can get from one place to another. It'll be a fun month that the kids will enjoy.

Please remember we will be out of school the week of Thanksgiving, November 22-26. I hope you all will be able to enjoy this time with your family and friends.

We've had our share of illnesses in our classroom, with hand, foot and mouth hitting us hard. We've also had lots of bad colds and chest congestion. We know that toddlers are going to have runny noses, but if your child has a fever or seems to be feeling really bad, please keep them home for a couple days until they are feeling better. This will help all the children to maybe stay healthy.

Please make sure all outside clothing is labeled when sent in! Most of you are doing great with this!

Thank you parents for all you do to help us out! It is very much appreciated!!

Ms. Ginny & Ms. Kelly



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



I hope you all had a Happy Halloween! With November coming we will be talking about the changing of the seasons, the leaves, and Thanksgiving. This month our main focus will be learning about transportation and opposites. We will learn about different kinds of vehicles and their uses. Opposites pair so nicely with this theme. We can talk about vehicles and how fast/slow, big/little, and if they are going up or down.

This month we are highlighting the Sensorial area of our classroom. Sensorial comes from the words sense or senses. These works are designed by Montessori to explore the senses such as size, shape, texture, loudness or softness, matching, weight, smell, etc. We explore the visual, tactile, auditory, olfactory, gustatory, and stereognostic elements with these exercises in our classroom. We visually discriminate differences between similar objects with our tall tower which is the beginning of our sensorial journey. We explore our tactile sense with matching various textiles in a matching work. We use our auditory senses with our sound cylinders when the children distinguish between the loud and soft sounds and match them. We use our stereognostic sense with our cylinder blocks, such as distinguishing thick to thin, short to tall.

There are several things that you can do at home to work on these types of activities. Pinterest has tons of ideas. Some simple ones are to expose your children to lots of textures, like playdough, sand, dirt, and shaving cream. Allow them to taste different foods to distinguish salty and sweet. Shake water bottles filled with rice and compare the noise to ones filled with rocks.

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving in our classroom. I will send more information about that soon. We will be closed from November 22-26 to celebrate the holiday.



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

Maria Montessori was a strong believer in peace, and she firmly felt that to have a peaceful society, we must develop the whole child. To develop the whole child, we must help them grow intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

One thing that sets Montessori schools apart from other schools is our focus on the whole child and developing a sense of empathy, compassion, and a deep understanding of the world around us.

This month we will be focusing a lot on Grace and Courtesy lessons. Grace and Courtesy lessons help teach the child what it means to be polite, how to effectively communicate your feelings, how to use your manners, and how to care for oneself, others, and the environment.

Here are some examples of Grace and Courtesy lessons in the classroom:

How to greet someone, how to make eye contact, how to shake someone's hand, how to clean up after ourselves, how to use our manners at lunchtime, using quiet voices, using walking feet, conflict resolution using the peace rose, using materials appropriately, how to keep our environment clean, how to be kind to others, and many more.

Here are some ways you can help encourage your child to use Grace and Courtesy outside of school:

Guide your child to make eye contact when speaking with others. Guide and Model to use kind words and manners with everyone. Allow them to help with chores around the house. Let them get involved in the community and help others that are in need.



Here is a great article about the importance of teaching manners at a young age <https://centerforparentingeducation.org/library-of-articles/baby-through-preschool-articles/teaching-children-manners/>



## Primary News from Ms. Angie, Ms. Anna Kate, & Ms. Sydney

We are enjoying the weather and everything that comes with fall. We are excited about Thanksgiving approaching. We have continued our grace and courtesy lessons and we have been talking about things that we are thankful for. The children are preparing for the holiday program. We will send our songs and music home next week. We will also learn about how Thanksgiving came to be and the history of Thanksgiving. We have begun talking about the pilgrims and native Americans and what their roles were in our Thanksgiving history.

While discussing what we are thankful for and how we can help others by being a gracious servant, I found an awesome article from a Montessori magazine that I would like to share:

### **Teaching Gratitude - A Look at Montessori Values During the Holidays**

*While the approaching holiday season is full of hustle and bustle, it is also a perfect time to step back and reflect on the many people that contribute to making our lives happier, better, and easier. Showing gratitude is an important part of who we are as humans. It strengthens our relationships and our connection to our community, and studies show that expressing appreciation makes us happier and more compassionate people.*

*In the Montessori environment, gratitude is a key component of peace education, grace and courtesy exercises, and the concept of cosmic education. Dr. Montessori understood implicitly the value in fostering a grateful nature in children and helping them become compassionate citizens of the planet.*

### **Teaching Gratitude - Helping Develop Peaceful Montessori Citizens**

*Although adults understand the worth in expressing gratitude, young children find it more difficult. Gratitude involves being sensitive and empathetic to others, and truly appreciating what others do for you. While children can quickly learn to say please and thank you, it takes time and guidance to help them truly learn to be grateful.*

*Young children, by their very nature, are self-absorbed. In fact, Jean Piaget described children from ages 2–7 as being egocentric, or unable to see a situation from another person's point of view. According to Piaget, young children primarily think and communicate about themselves. They automatically assume that the experiences and thoughts that they have are shared by others. Even in this egocentric phase, however, children can begin to understand gratitude when they are offered repeated opportunities to experience being grateful.*



Here are a few ways you can teach children about gratitude:

- *Develop the habit of vocalizing good things that happen. Comment as events are happening, such as "I appreciate you helping put the silverware away." Or talk about events after they occur, on a bigger, family scale like at dinner or bed time.*
- *Model appreciation of others. After you leave the park, for example, discuss what you observed. "Wasn't it nice when that teenager helped you cross the monkey bars?" "Did you see that man help catch the dog that ran away? I'll bet that family is very thankful."*
- *Invite children to help with daily tasks. Even very young children can help set the table, fold towels, or help feed the pet. The more they help, the more children understand and appreciate the efforts of others.*
- *Encourage children to help others in the community. Together, go through the children's clothing and toys to find gently used items to donate to those in need. Invite children to help deliver the items to the thrift store or donation site.*
- *Write thank you notes together. Expressing gratitude in writing helps children think about and communicate why they are thankful. Young children may draw a picture and dictate their letter. Older children may enjoy writing their letter on beautiful stationery or they may prefer email.*
- *Don't be afraid to say no. Giving in to constant requests for treats can make children feel entitled, not grateful. Be upfront about what you are going to do ahead of time: "Today, we are going to the grocery store to buy a gallon of milk and some bread. We are not buying candy or toys." Then, make sure you follow through.*



*Involve children in selecting gifts for others. During the holidays, ask children to make gift lists, thinking about what other people would like to receive. Invite them to shop for and wrap the presents, and then to give the presents to the recipients.*

*Teaching children to be grateful and show appreciation takes patience. Gratitude is a quality that needs cultivating over time. But encouraging children to be grateful and modeling its importance is well worth the effort as it lays the foundation for children to develop a positive, optimistic outlook on life.*



Thank each of you for helping all the time.

Ms. Angie, Ms. Sydney & Ms. Anna Kate

## Elementary News from Ms. Stefanie

*Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed. – Maria Montessori*

Independence is something we try to constantly encourage in our classroom. It helps tremendously in building a child's confidence. Thank you for all you do to support your child's growing independence. Please enjoy this informative article on independence from Hollis Montessori School in New Hampshire.

Giving a child the gift of independence lets them know we value them and know they're capable. Children can grow up feeling empowered and safe in their abilities to make sound choices. When we trust them, they learn to trust themselves, ultimately becoming happy and productive members of their communities.

### What Independence Means at School

In the earliest years at school, children focus on what we refer to as practical life skills. This may include learning to prepare simple snacks, putting on their own shoes or coats, or caring for classroom plants and animals. Children are given endless opportunities to practice these skills.

Another facet of independence at a Montessori school involves choice within limits. Children are able to decide what work they are interested in. Teachers carefully prepare the classroom environment so that all choices are safe and desirable, but within those boundaries the child is free to explore.

As children get older (the elementary years and beyond), they must meet certain academic expectations. Teachers use a variety of tools to help students work independently while still meeting their goals, including work plans and time management strategies. Research becomes of great interest at this time, and children are given ample opportunity to deeply explore topics they choose.

### How Parents Can Support This Work at Home

How can families continue the cultivation of independence in the home? It all starts with a shift in the way we view our children's capabilities. They are often able to do much more than we realize, and with a little bit of modeling they tend to eagerly accept a challenge. After all, our children want to do what we do, and if we give them the proper tools and support, they can begin practicing.

The list below highlights some of the possibilities. Think of this as an inspiring guide that highlights what children of various ages are typically capable of. Giving our children tasks such as these builds their confidence while helping them learn how to be contributing members of a community - in this case, their family.



#### Ages 6-7

gather trash  
fold towels  
dust mop floors  
empty dishwasher  
match clean socks  
weed garden  
rake leaves  
peel potatoes or carrots  
make salad  
make the bed

#### Ages 8-9

load dishwasher  
change light bulbs  
wash laundry  
hang/fold clean clothes  
dust furniture  
put groceries away  
scramble eggs  
bake cookies  
walk dogs  
sweep the floor



One of the easiest ways to encourage independence in our children is to be more aware in the moment. Though it can be a challenge to slow down and let them move at their pace (like when they insist on zipping up their own coat while we're rushing out the door to get to work), it's going to benefit them in the long run. Building a little extra time into our schedules can help.

Send your child to put their shoes on 10 minutes before you'd like to leave.

- Leave child-friendly cleaning supplies within reach.
- Put pre-portioned or easy-to-prepare snacks on low shelves.
- Turn spills and messes into opportunities.

Let your child (eek!) pick out their own clothes. For younger children especially, some weather appropriate guidance is just fine. Enjoy the creative fashion statements that ensue.

Montessori reminds us that supporting independence is a conquest that does not end, though it most definitely evolves.

Please remember school will be out the week of Thanksgiving. We are thankful for our students and their families. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and hope you are able to enjoy time with your family and friends!

- Ms. Stefanie

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

November is a time when we emphasize the importance of being thankful for everything that we have. The Montessori approach addresses this beautifully with a lesson called The Fundamental Needs of Humans. This lesson is part of Montessori's cosmic curriculum, designed to help children understand that people everywhere have the same basic needs even though those needs are fulfilled in different ways by various cultures.

These basic needs are unchanged across time. When they study how the basic needs of humans are met across different cultures and time periods, the children receive a deep understanding and appreciation for all that they have in their lives today. The recognition that people in very different places in the world, and in very ancient times, all had the same needs that we have today leads to a keen insight for children about the fundamental unity of all human beings.

Teaching history through this worldview is basic to Montessori philosophy and cosmic education, which encourages peace, understanding, and respect for people all over the world.

Ms. Dolores & Ms. Robin



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

“Being considerate of others will take your children further in life than any college degree.” This quote, often attributed to children’s rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, came to mind recently. Walking toward my local market, I could hear the jovial banter between a father and son, who were about ten steps behind me—something about a birthday later that day and their mission to get the cake. Listening to his vocabulary and articulation, I estimated the boy to be 4 years old. Just as I reached the front door, the boy rushed past me, yanked the door open, and was halfway into the store when Dad called him back. “Let’s hold the door open for this lady, son.”



I looked at them both as I entered, said “thank you,” and then we were all off, each into our separate worlds—they to the bakery department and I to the produce section.

Dad managed the episode with grace because he didn’t react as though his child should know better; he understood that the boy’s rushing was due to 4-year-old exuberance (it would be different if the boy were 10). At the same time, the father did not let the opportunity pass to demonstrate to his son what to do.

That is the secret. We teach our children manners in the million moments we have with them. The episodes often come up without warning and can catch us off guard. What should we keep in mind so that when an opportunity presents itself to show our child what to do, we too will handle it with grace?

### **Our children adore us.**

They love us with their entire being. Whatever we do, they want to do. They want to be close to us; they want to watch us, hear us, learn from us, and be loved by us. They want to be just like us. So instilling manners, aka “social competence,” is simple and natural in these early years, from the age of 3 or 4 on.

### **Now is the time.**

Young children want to know—actually, crave knowing—the right thing to do. Their bodies and minds have grown beyond the toddler stage. Now that they are sturdy on their feet and language can be employed in meaningful communication, they are ready for the next phase of self-construction: socialization. They encounter the world as if asking, “What am I to do here? And would someone please show me how?”

### **Correcting is not the same as modeling.**

Like the rest of us, children are easily shamed. If the father at the market had said, “Watch out, son, you’re in that lady’s way,” the boy would have felt judgment, rather than learning what he should have done. Thus, even if we are annoyed or embarrassed by our young child’s behavior, our exasperation is not the lesson—there is another way. Trust that the conduct is not malicious but likely stems from the child not knowing what to do. Then demonstrate what we want our child to learn. Dad didn’t need to say anything further to his 4-year-old son; the boy absorbed the lesson. And if Dad does the same thing the next time and the next, the lesson will be reinforced.

Parents are the most potent teachers of social norms. What we show our children, they will do. Even so, for our lessons to adhere, we must be consistent and positive. And most important, we must model the behavior we want to instill in our children.

As Maria Montessori said, “What is social life if not the solving of social problems, behaving properly, and pursuing aims acceptable to all?”

[Montessori Parent: Manners, Naturally \(amshq.org\)](http://amshq.org)

## Announcements

**REMINDER:** If you are running behind for drop-off in the morning, please verify the drop-off gate is open before dropping your child off. If the gate is closed and locked, please have your child enter through the front office lobby.



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