

Dolphin Tales

April 4, 2023

Volume 11 Issue 8

Spring

Spring time showers, golden hours, and two yellow flowers. Pollen is here, allergies fear, the hunters hunt deer. Nice warm days, golden rays, the little kids go out to play. Spring is here!

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and Anika Glover
(Upper Elementary)*



April Birthdays

Braylen M.	4/1	Declan P.	4/11
Carter B.	4/18	Juliet H.	4/13
Sydney H.	4/4	Davis D.	4/22
James C.	4/5	Eldric W.	4/24
Ruthie E.	4/7	Anbu R.	4/26
Felipe S.	4/8	Samuel P.	4/29
A'lani F.	4/9		

Important Dates

April 3rd-7th	Spring Break
April 21st	Gardening Day / Special Person's Day
April 24th-28th	ITBS Testing (Grades 2-8)
May 1st	May Day / Mother's Day Program
May 25th	Graduation
May 26th	Last Day of School (1/2 Day)



Toddler News

Ms. Ginny's and Ms. Kelly's Class



★ What we have been learning...

The students had a wonderful time visiting with the farm animals to round out our month. They enjoy it every year and we always look forward to it! Please enjoy the sweet pictures!

During the month of April we will study insects. Be sure to ask your little one what the difference between a "bug" and an "insect" is!

We will also be studying flowers which will lead up to one of our very favorite events, Gardening Day/Special Person Day. Each child may invite a special person (Parent, Grandparent, Nanny, etc.) to school to plant flowers. Everyone should bring in a flower to plant on our patios and then we end the event by inviting you back into the classroom to make a craft and enjoy cookies and lemonade. There will be more information, including a wishlist of our needed materials, to come!

May Day will be here before we know it and we will be practicing our special music this month. We are so excited to welcome our families back for these fun events during Spring!

We hope everyone enjoys a wonderful Spring Break!



Toddler News

Ms. Shannon's, Ms. Jessica's, and Ms. Kristin's Class



★ What we have been learning...

We had so much fun learning about the farm. It was a fabulous ending to the month to have Cook Farms visit us. The kids loved petting and feeding the animals!

It's time to celebrate Spring! In April we learn about insects and flowers. We will study the difference between a bug and an insect, talk about different insect life cycles and their homes, and go on a lot of bug hunts! We will also start learning some fun bug songs to get ready for our May Day performance.

To go along with our study of flowers, April 21st will be Special Person/Gardening Day. On this day, we invite each child to invite a special person to school to plant flowers. Everyone brings in a flower to plant. The children will then tend to them the rest of the school year. We will then invite you back into the classroom to make a craft and enjoy a cookie and lemonade. We start our planting at drop off to help with separation anxiety. We will have a wishlist of materials for the day posted when we return from Spring Break.

Primary News

Ms. Angie's, Ms. Karabeth's, and Ms. Rana's Class

Interesting articles...★

"How Do Children Benefit from Montessori at Home Practical Life Activities?"

Practical life activities give children confidence and pride in their independence. Maria Montessori spoke of the joy of practical life skills: "Any child who is self-sufficient, who can tie his shoes, dress or undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity, which is derived from a sense of independence." Most parents are familiar with toddler refrains like, "I do it by myself!" or "Don't help me!" Children find a great sense of satisfaction in accomplishing tasks on their own.

Read more here:

<https://www.montessoribymom.com/blog/montessori-at-home-practical-life-activities/>



"50 Ways to Celebrate Summer Learning"

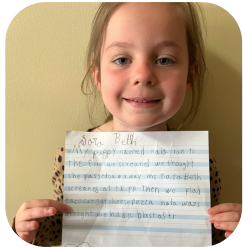
1. Let your child plan an activity for the day or some activities for the summer. They can use maps, stick to a budget, and do the research.
2. Go on a searching hike, in nature or an urban setting; look for objects in the shapes of the letters in your name, or in sets of your favorite number, or particular colors.
3. Learn about the plants and animals that are near you. What are those birds by your home? What are the names of the plants you see every day?
4. Walk at your child's pace. Notice the smells of different plants, admire the bugs, follow your child's lead.
5. Play board games.

Read more here:

<https://www.montessori.org/50-ways-to-celebrate-summer-learning/>

Primary News

Ms. Krystle's, Ms. Macy's, and Ms. Trudy's Class



What's going on...★

Hello families. Happy Spring! I hope you all enjoy your spring break (from April 3-7). The weather is surely warming up! Again, we go outside as much as possible, so please have your child wear appropriate clothing and shoes.

We will celebrate Earth Day/Gardening Day on April 21. Please arrive anytime between 8:30-10:30 (drop in style). Each child is allowed to bring in one special adult to help with this. Every child will need to bring in a plant/flower/etc and we will be planting said item in our patio area. We are looking for a few parent volunteers to help along with this. If you have your own gardening tools/gloves, please bring them in during this time. During this time, we will also talk about ways we can help take care of our community, neighborhoods, classroom and environments to be better and clean. In addition to the plant/flower your child will bring, please sign up for one item on our wishlist to help make our patio beautiful.

Here is our class garden wishlist- We will need these items by 4-19.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44ACAC2CAAFFC25-gardening>

This month...★

Our unit of Inquiry this month will be: Africa. We will study the foods, musical instruments, plants, living and nonliving, vertebrates, animals, flags, countries etc.

We will talk about weather- types of clouds, water cycle, and what makes a rainbow.

Our composer of the month will be Mozart and the children will be able to listen to his work during our workcycle.

I am also going to introduce parts of speech this month and dynamic division.

Enjoy your week off and we look forward to seeing your child on April 10.



Lower EI News

Ms. Robin's and Ms. Dolores's Class

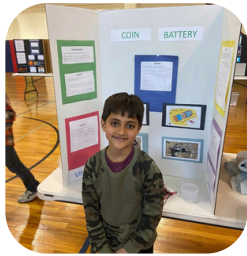
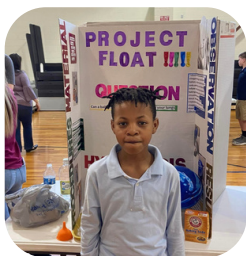
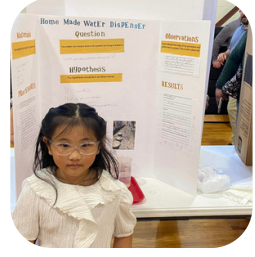


Alabama 4-H Science School ★

Our class enjoyed an educational adventure at the 4-H center in Alabama!

★ Return of the MSOR Science Fair!

It was wonderful to have our community science fair after the three-year Covid break! The students worked hard and had fun presenting their projects. Thank you to all of our parents and families for your support.



Lower EI News

Ms. Stefanie's Class

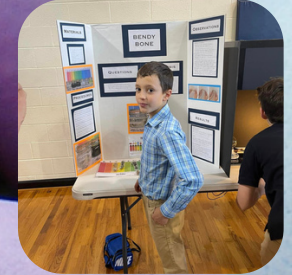
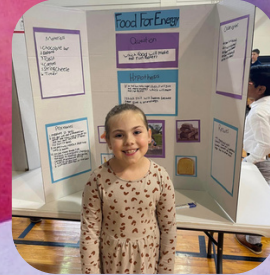
Please enjoy this blog post on sleep and a successful child from Missy Montessori at

<https://www.missy-montessori.com/blog/2019/1/3/sleep-and-a-successful-child>.

Sleep. Not something that comes up super often when talking academics with your child's teacher! But, sleep effects more than you think. This post can go in so many directions: co-sleeping, naps, bedtimes, wake ups, routines, routines. Please remember that this is slightly skewed in the direction of a Montessori teacher who is with your child each day but NOT at home with them!

A child needs to have a routine. A child who pushes against routines is a child who needs firmer boundaries and smaller fences. This can be applied to SO many areas, but particularly sleep. A routine doesn't need to start an hour before tuck in. You do NOT need to tie reading books in bed to a nighttime ritual. Reading to your child can and should be done at all times of day, not to be used as a tool for your child to stay up later. Whatever the routine you establish – make one that works for you and your family, whether it be an hour, or 10 minutes, consistency is key. My favorite routine is bath time, brush your teeth, sing a song and say goodnight. Short and sweet and no negotiating.

If your child wakes up before the sun comes up, we automatically think: I'll put them to bed later! They'll sleep later. Studies actually show that this almost never is the case, and in fact, the opposite is true. If your child is waking up at 5 am, scoot their bedtime 30 minutes to an hour earlier. It allows their system to relax more, get into that deep sleep and fit in a full night of rest.

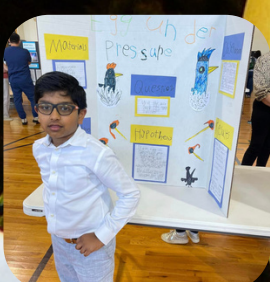
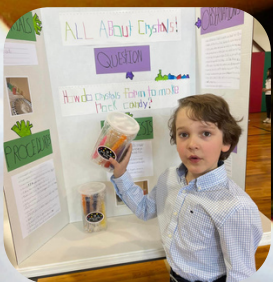


In the Montessori classroom, we supply a child with everything they need to be autonomous and independent. This can carry over in a home environment. There are alarm clocks that glow green when it is an acceptable time to get out of bed. You can establish that the rule in your home is they cannot get out of bed/or leave their room until a parent comes for them, BUT, they can look at books or play with quiet toys if they wake up early. If rules and routines are made clear and are consistent, children most often abide by them.

Sometimes, we want to be "fun", we want to "break the rules" and stay up late, or let a child sleep in our bed, or read one more book, watch one more show, etc. etc. As adults, we are all so reflective on our sleep, we're tired, we had to wake up too early, we had too much to do for the hours in a day – remember – those things apply to children too! Children are not endless bundles of energy that we have to "run until tired." They need rest and relaxation to fuel their days, they need to know what it feels like to be at peace, be quiet, so that they can access that feeling and mentality when needed. Some children/people have different inner clocks than others, they may be a natural night owl or a natural morning riser, but, as Montessori parents, we can give them the tools and strategies they need to find peace within themselves.

Have a wonderful, restful Spring Break! We'll see you all on Monday, April 10th.

Ms. Stefanie



Upper EI News

"The child's development follows a path of successive stages of independence, and our knowledge of this must guide us in our behavior towards him. We have to help the child to act, will, and think for himself."

- Dr. Maria Montessori



In the Montessori classroom, children receive the keys to the universe. When venturing outside the classroom, they experience how it works. Giving children opportunities to experience the world and connect with their community is vital to helping them become independent and socially responsible citizens. Planning these real-world activities is a big part of the Montessori experience.

Our trip to Washington D.C. is April 13-15. The 4th years researched possible monuments/memorials for excursions such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. The 5th years researched Capitol Hill, the Library of Congress, and the Supreme Court Building.

The 6th years are interested in visiting the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the Arlington National Cemetery. We are very excited for our trip and we look forward to learning about some of these historical sites. A finalized schedule for each day will be sent out soon. We hope everyone has a safe and restful break!



★ Coming Up...

- Spring Break: April 3rd-7th
- Gardening Day: April 21st
- ITBS Testing: April 24th-28th
- May Day / Mother's Day: May 1st