



Upper Elementary

Upper Elementary Photos



So far, Upper Elementary has been working to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves. Upper Elementary is busy with organizing the Harvest Hope food drive, including organizing committees and emailing Harvest Hope to arrange the pickup and loading of donations.

Recently, Lower and Upper Elementary went on our first park trip to Rosewood Park, and we received a sweet treat while we were there. We got Pelican's SnoBalls!

Upper Elementary received a 7-block walking tour on Civil Rights in Columbia, ending at the SC State House. We learned about the history of Civil Rights in Columbia. For example, the story of Sara Mae Fleming, a young maid who sat in the wrong seat on a city bus, an action that led to a local court case.

4th, 5th, and 6th level have been working on a variety of work, including the Tree of Life for the 6th level, area formulas for 5th, and pronouns lessons for the 4th level.

Remember to donate to Harvest Hope if you are able!

Upper Elementary Events

***October 17-** Jennifer Manke will be doing a recycling presentation on exactly what we can recycle, compost, and put in the trash. This is also for our Green Steps program.

* Upper Elementary students are collecting non-perishable food items for Harvest Hope Food Bank during **the month of October.**

MSC Upcoming Events

- October 17th – Primary Watch Me Work, 4:30-6:30PM
- October 17th – MSC sibling photos
- October 18th – Primary individual photos
- October 19th – Elementary individual photos
- October 20th – MSC Information Session, 8:30-10:30am, Building B
- November 2nd – Lunch Break

Upcoming Events

The Montessori Mile and Fall Festival

Friday, October 13th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.

In preparation for this beloved event, your student will bring home an envelope with a letter describing the event, a pledge form, a t-shirt order form and a flyer for the Harvest Hope Food Drive. The whole school community is invited to this event.

Here's what you can do before the event:

1. **Sign up to volunteer for the event**
2. **Help your child collect pledges to support them in the mile walk. Pledges can be entered online or turned in on the paper form. It is okay to bring them the day of the Mile.**
For questions, please email Michael Drennan, development@montessoricolumbia.com.



We are happy to accept donations for the Mile via Venmo. Enter "Mile Pledge" in the Venmo note field.



Above: Palmetto Students read at Richland Library.



Left: Palmetto students are taking great care of the chickens.

Primary



Autumn is an exhilarating time on Primary Campus. As the seasons shift, we notice a shift within ourselves as well. We are paying attention to the nuances of everyday experiences. Being an adult in the Children's House gives us the opportunity to relive "first experience" moments with a new appreciation. While the children work together on occasion, they are enjoying their own space and rhythm during this sensitive period for independence. It's a joy to see a Primary-aged child choose a work, complete it, put it back, and repeat on their own accord. If you were to take a peek at the morning work cycle, you would see children care for us-- the adults and each other-- through washing dishes, sharpening pencils, and lots of hugs.

This season, we will focus on gratitude by reading books and having discussions to aid us in recognizing the details around us that bring us joy and support us. We will also have conversations about how we can express gratitude for even the smallest of these, and our community will develop and nurture an appreciation for their environment and each other. September helped us to reflect on how MSC is more than a school, but a community of learners (parents, children, and staff) who enjoy living life, growing, and reaching for the harvest moon together.

We began October with the 5K students enjoying a walking field trip to Rosewood Market to purchase different types of apples, which we brought back and prepared for a tasting experiment. We are eagerly looking forward to their first off-campus field trip this year to Clinton Sease Farms on Friday, October 13th. They will learn how pumpkins are grown and have the opportunity to pick their own pumpkins. We enjoyed meeting with each of you during Conference Day and appreciated the opportunity to further our partnership to love and support your children. As always, thank you for investing in your children's lives and our school, and thank you for being part of this community.

"The thought struck me that through some human instinct, children would rather acquire knowledge than be engaged in senseless play, and I reflected on the grandeur of the human mind". Dr. Montessori, the Discovery of the Child p. 248

Jane Hiller, our SC Green Step School Coordinator, educated Primary on what to recycle. Here is the song she wrote:

Recycling Song: "Be Nice, Use It Twice"

Lyrics by Jane Hiller, EEASC / SC Green Step Schools

(Leader sings and class repeats.)

Leader: Paper here *(*hold out left hand*)* and paper there *(*hold out right hand*)*

Leader: Stacks of paper everywhere *(*alternate hands to build a stack*)*

Leader: Put it in a recycling bin *(*hold out arms to look like a recycling bin*)*

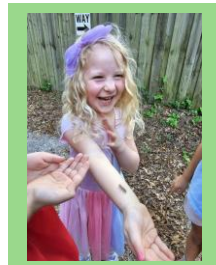
Leader: Use that paper over again *(*roll hands around in a circle*)*

Leader: Advice *(*hold up index finger*)*

Leader: Be nice *(*cross hands-on heart*)*

Leader: Use it twice *(*hold up two fingers*)*

(Repeat for other items: plastic, metal, glass)



Palmetto Room

"Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which the child engages and try to understand them."

— Dr. Maria Montessori

Students in the Palmetto class recently heard the Fourth Great Lesson: the Story of Written Communication. We are introducing all five of Dr. Montessori's Great Lessons relatively early this year as a way to give the children an overview of our entire cultural curriculum and will revisit each of the lessons again in greater detail throughout the school year. The Fourth Great Lesson is especially relevant to us as we continue to help students become more comfortable with the process of writing. Journaling, responding to literature, and recording scientific observations are just a few of the ways students are putting their writing skills to use each day.

We have almost completed our read-aloud of *Stuart Little*, by E.B. White. The premise of a human family whose younger son is a mouse is silly and fun, and it's a book that is filled with such a rich vocabulary that we often find ourselves taking a pause from the action of the story to explore new words. As you are reading with your child at home, consider sharing a read-aloud of some of your favorite chapter books from your own childhood.

Students are continuing to grow in their ability to care for the classroom environment. On Mondays, every child signs up for his or her choice of job for the week and is then responsible for that task for the week. Children like to be helpful, and giving them a specific task with clear standards for success is a good way to nurture a spirit of independence.



Magnolia

Our paper mâché solar system is complete and hanging from the ceiling of the Magnolia classroom. The older children chose NASA images on which to base the paint colors of their planets. We are continuing our study of vertebrate biology. Our first graders are looking at external parts of amphibians and reptiles. The second graders are checking out the body functions of fish and amphibians. The third graders are comparing and contrasting the body functions of the five vertebrate classes. Tracing and coloring maps is popular with the Magnolia students. They are learning to create beautiful maps, adding interesting detail like capitals, flags, oceans, land and water forms. The Magnolia class took their first field trip adventure on the MSC bus to the Richland County Public Library. The librarian read several new books and shared a puppet show with the class. The students were able to check out their own books from the library and ask the librarians endless questions. We ended the day with a picnic and playtime at Earlewood Park. We also took a walking trip to Rosewood Park with our Palmetto and Upper Elementary friends for a picnic lunch, playtime, and SnoBall treats.

The Magnolians are working daily to expand their knowledge. Our first graders are working hard to develop their reading and comprehension skills while expanding their math works. Our second and third graders are working through the curriculum to find new lessons and connections.