

Upper Elementary

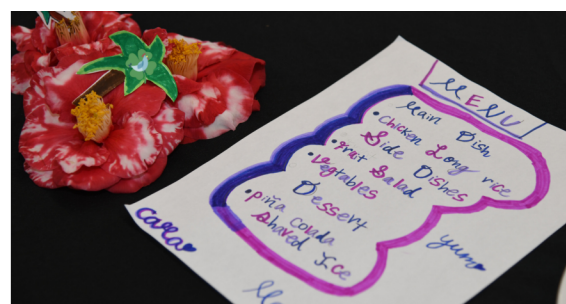
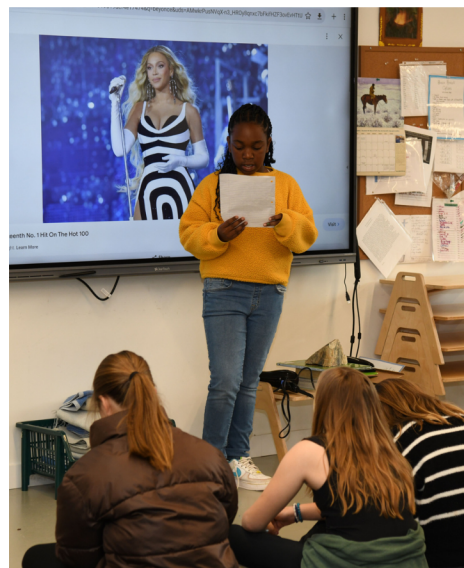
By Eleanor S.

This month in our Upper Elementary class, we have had a lot of activities. For our community lunch, we had chicken pasta, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, and virgin pina coladas. Some students said this was our best community lunch yet.

We have also been doing our Black History Month research on many different famous African Americans. Speaking of research, we are starting history on ancient civilizations such as Mesoamerican Civilizations, Kingdoms of Kush, Aksum, and the River Valley Civilizations.

We have an amazing project for this year's auction for you! We have also worked with the Lower Elementary students to make some funny and exciting student films for the auction. Be sure to buy your tickets for the auction and get some astounding items made by MSC students themselves.

Please be sure to return your child's Camp Thunderbird forms by March 15th. We hope to see your child there for an exciting overnight stay with all their school friends and teachers.



Find
10 lucky
chickens
throughout
the pages!

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March 2024



A Monthly Look Into the Montessori School of Columbia

Montessori Matters

Development News

MSC's "A Night at the Oscars" Auction event is just over a week away!

Please join us on **Friday, March 15th from 7 to 11pm** in the **Club Lounge at Segra Park**. Follow the link in the QR code below to purchase your ticket (and/or a teacher ticket) to the A Night at the Oscars today!

You could be a winning bidder on:

- The basketball signed by legendary USC Women's Basketball Coach, Dawn Staley
- Tickets to an indulgent Low Country Boil with open bar with beer and wine
- An all-inclusive birthday party for your child
- A special treat for yourself - a dinner out, jewelry, workouts, art, pickleball package...
- And much, much more!

Answers to Auction FAQ:

- This event is **not limited to MSC families and staff** and is **adults only**.
- All the money raised during the annual auction goes directly to benefit our students' education! The funds are used to purchase classroom materials, pay teacher salaries, and provide tuition assistance.
- Included in the general admission ticket price is a **full dinner** (customizable to fit your dietary needs) and **free mocktail, beer, and wine service**. Cocktails will be available *for purchase*.
- The dress code for this year's event is **formal or celebrity attire**. Our photo backdrop will offer a great opportunity to update your profile pics!
- General admission, VIP, "Treat a Teacher", and "Wish I Could Make It" ticket options available.



Scan the QR Code to the left or visit linktr.ee/montessoricolumbiasc to access MSC's Linktree for purchasing auction tickets, sponsoring the auction, and more. Email Michael Drennan at development@montessoricolumbia.com with any development questions. 🍀



Primary

Over on Primary campus, we are all happy to know the groundhog did not see his shadow and spring is on the way! If you were to visit Primary during recess you would watch as the children free from their layers and enjoy the warmer afternoons. These warmer afternoons invite us to work in the garden, admire the sprouting plants that were hiding under the leaves and clean up the playground. We had the best time at our Valentine's Day celebration, though we are still finding tiny hearts every day- a way to remember the happy moments but also to be mindful of how what we bring outside that isn't nature cannot stay outside.

Primary students are also excited about the upcoming auction- though many are curious, if not put off, by the "adult only" concept. All the same, they are doing their best to prepare beautiful projects to showcase and are inspired to know that their efforts will be rewarded as a benefit for their school. While the students may not be invited to dress up for the auction event, the 5k will have the opportunity to dress up on the morning of March 15th when they will be going on a field trip to the Koger Center to see a ballet. All children will soon have the opportunity to take the stage themselves as we prepare for the spring concert. Many of you have heard snippets as the children have come home singing the songs they've learned at school, teachers too hear them in the middle of the school day but are looking forward to the culmination of their practices on Tuesday, April 23rd. 🍀



Palmetto

Students in the Palmetto Class continue to work well together, with third year students assuming increasing levels of responsibility and sharing their knowledge and experience with younger peers. In recent weeks, we have been spending time with some quality works of literature. We have now completed our read-aloud of Kate DiCamillo's *Because of Winn Dixie*, which also served as a springboard for reflecting writing. Second year students have started their own study of *Saving Winslow* by Sharon Creech. This story of a young boy's compassionate care for a sickly donkey is providing more opportunities for us to practice our writing skills. The children have been looking forward to extending our study of the Timeline of Life by starting to learn about our earliest human ancestors. We have enjoyed several shared lessons with students from the Magnolia Class and are beginning to use books and other resources to begin our own research. Third year students will soon begin their own literature study of *Maroo of the Winter Caves*, a novel by Ann Turnbull that tells its story from the viewpoint of a young ice age girl. Palmetto students are developing new handwork skills as they work on producing our class project for the upcoming school auction. The children's carpentry and pottery skills will be featured – stay tuned for more details. We look forward to seeing you soon at the auction!

"There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of different 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



Magnolia by Jo and Wallace

In February, the Magnolia room started the Third Great Lesson, The Coming of Humans, with the Palmetto class. The early humans that we have learned about so far are Homo erectus, Homo ergaster, Homo habilis, Australopithecus robustus, Australopithecus africanus, Australopithecus afarensis and Ardipithecus ramidus. We put a chart of their heights on the wall so we can compare our height with the early humans. This year, we have replicas of some of the fossil skulls from the hominids. Each grade started learning about literature with a novel study. The third graders started reading the novel *Maroo of the Winter Caves*. It is about people in the most recent ice age in Europe. The second graders are reading *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World*. In the book, Justin learns about the history of his family. The first graders read *Pearl Learns a Lesson*. The third graders have started practicing the decanomial layout. It is an array of bead bars showing all the multiplication facts from 1x1 to 10x 10. The second graders are multiplying two digit numbers on the large bead frame. It has a lot of steps. The first graders are exploring fraction addition with some equivalent fractions. We had a lesson on the "Fundamental Needs of Humans". We learned about the material needs that everyone needs to survive and the spiritual needs they can get when their material needs are met. On February 14th, we had the Valentine's Day dance and exchanged Valentines.

