

Upper Elementary

By Lauren Moody and Lucille Ureda

This month in Upper Elementary we celebrated Pi Day with a community lunch! Pi Day falls on March 14th which is the same value as the mathematical calculation for Pi. We made pie dishes to eat. We ate chicken pot pie along with three dessert pies: key lime, mixed-berry, and Oreo! It was delicious. We even arranged our circular tables to represent Pi. We lined up three circle tables in a row.

The month of March is also Women's History Month. Everyone did a presentation on a woman. These presentations have ranged from Eleanor Roosevelt to Sasha Colby.

Spring has sprung on campus. We have started to weed our above ground flower beds for planting. On March 26th, Mr. Chip, Silas's grandfather, came to our class. He prepared little containers so we can make a pollinator garden. We put four types of seeds into the pods that were inside the container. Some examples are: tomatoes, Cosmos, Sunflowers and Nasturtium. The containers have a green vent on the top that controls the humidity inside. We learned that we want the containers to stay humid, so we don't have to water them often. We hope to see growth of our seeds soon.

We want to help our greater community as the year comes to an end. We made a social media post offering to help people in the neighborhood. We got some responses and we look forward to working with our neighbors after Spring Break. On our monthly park trip, we will go to the Rosewood Orchard and help out there. On campus, we are offering to help with Grandparents Day. We will help set up the chairs and bake the snacks. We look forward to seeing all our special friends and Grandparents!



Find 10 little chickens smelling fresh, spring blooms in this issue of Montessori Matters!



A Monthly Look Into the Montessori School of Columbia

Montessori Matters

Information & Dates to Remember

- **Friday, April 12:** Yearbook Order Deadline
- **Friday, April 19:** Grandparents & Special Friends Day
- **Tuesday, April 23:** All School Concert, 6-7pm
- **Thursday, April 25:** Carolina Wildlife visits Primary
- **Friday, April 26:** Upper Elementary Play, April Information Session
- **Thursday, May 2- Friday, May 3:** 1st-6th Graders to Camp Thunderbird
- **Friday, May 3:** Summer Camp Registration & T Shirt Order Deadline
- **Tuesday, May 7:** Teacher Appreciation Day, Midlands Gives Day
- **Friday, May 17:** Field Day for all students

The MSC Parent Portal is now open! This serves as a "one-stop-shop" for event dates, sign ups, virtual newsletters, and more. To access the portal, go to montessoricolumbia.com, click the 'Parents' tab, and enter code 'chickencoop2324'.

Development News

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

Friday, April 19, 2024, 8:30am - 12:00pm

Registration begins at 7:30am. **If you have not yet, please RSVP your adult guests.** Guests can be grandparents, other family members, or close family friends. You can find the RSVP form for this event on MSC's LinkTree as well as the Parent Portal. The day will feature light breakfast snacks, a student concert, a classroom visit and more.

MSC Auction

Thank you to all of the guests, bidders, and volunteers who made the MSC auction such a success! If you have not yet picked up your items from the office, please do so as soon as possible. We are already looking forward to next year's auction!

Annual Fund

Thank you to the many MSC families who have already donated to the 2023-2024 Annual Fund! If you haven't made your gift yet, please make a donation that is meaningful for your family. The Fund is critical in bridging the gap between tuition and the true cost of a Montessori education. You can donate via MSC Venmo or by delivering cash or check to the MSC office. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!



Scan the QR Code to the left or visit linktr.ee/montessoricolumbiasc to access MSC's Linktree with links for donating to the Annual Fund or accessing our Venmo, Instagram, Facebook, website, and more!

Other News

- Students learned about and observed the Solar Eclipse April 8th. Generous parent, Laura Ybarra Kane, donated eclipse glasses for ALL students to view the eclipse from school.
- Our after school STEM trial classes for Elementary students have begun. All registration, payment, and questions should go directly to STEM KIDS SC.
- MSC Parent, Lani Siddique, will be visiting our students in April to talk about the traditions and history of Ramadan.
- In recognition of Earth Day, students will be partnering with Keep the Midlands Beautiful in a neighborhood litter pick-up on **April 22nd**. We're looking forward to giving back to the Rosewood Community!
- MSC community member, Vanessa Collier, will come to campus **May 14th** to engage students in a mini-concert, discuss her experience as a professional musician, and delve into the history of Blues music and song writing.



Primary

We hope that everyone enjoyed their time off with family over Spring Break. We are excited to come back into the classroom to begin the last stretch of our school year. The children have all grown and developed so much since August and are enjoying bigger works and responsibilities in the classroom.

Before the break, March was an eventful month for MSC. Many of the teachers attended the AMS conference in Florida where we came together with other Montessorians to learn, share, and help keep our passions for Montessori education alive in our hearts. It was wonderful to see so many parents at the MSC Auction. We are very grateful for the funds raised there to ensure the success of our students in the years to come.

Our Kindergarteners had a busy March as well. They enjoyed the Alice in Wonderland Ballet at The Koger Center, welcomed friends from Lower El into their classrooms to share their Primary experiences, and visited those new friends in their Lower Elementary classrooms where they got a glimpse of a day in elementary.

We are looking forward to all that awaits us in April. The solar eclipse was very exciting for many of us. Kindergarteners will be taking an educational field trip to the Wateree State Park soon as well. The children all look forward to welcoming their grandparents and special family friends to the school for Grandparents' Day. And, we have all been practicing for our annual MSC Concert.

Lastly, Primary playground has a new beautiful sun shade. It's a great addition before it gets too sunny and hot.

As always, thank you for your continued love and support of our community here at MSC!



Palmetto

Dear Families,

We are so thrilled to share about the visit of our rising 4th years to the Upper Elementary world. The children made some great connections with other students, experienced what a day in Upper Elementary looks like, enjoyed some work, and were so proud to write that work down in their plans. Some even mentioned that they are ready to join Upper Elementary now! Some of our first and second years also had a chance to visit our wonderful primary classrooms and connect with our rising 1st graders. All the children did an amazing job supporting each other and were patient and courteous with their visitors. So many wonderful things happened during each visit.

Our classroom is a very busy working environment. We enjoy observing children accomplish their work, offering lessons, guiding them through the day and supporting them in their growth. It is a joy to see the children so proud of their accomplishments, big and small.

Many students took a deep interest in the biomes last month. The song "Five Themes of Geography" has been helpful to the children to keep track of their work and organize their research and follow ups. Maybe they could sing it to you at home! The children have also been enjoying taking good care of the classroom; working on flower arranging, doing their jobs, tending to the chickens, etc. We always look forward to each wonderful day with the children and dive deep into making connections, learning together, and working on our projects. So much to be thankful for!

Respectfully Yours, The Palmetto Class



Magnolia

by Connor and Sol

The Magnolia class has studied a lot of botany this month and we are planning on starting our garden. The first and second graders got a lesson on the First Knowledge of Plants and are working on plant identification, while third graders are learning about the Plant Kingdom and their classifications. As a class, we are all learning about the Needs of Plants. Third graders have been doing the Decanomial Layout, using it to learn about squaring and cubing numbers. They've also been studying congruency, similarity, and equivalency along with calculating the area of polygons. Second graders are continuing to learn their parts of polygons and first are burning through their Constructive Triangle series.

Thirids have completed their novel study of *Maroo of the Winter Caves*, a fiction story connected to our Early Humans lessons. The second graders with some firsts went over to visit the kindergarteners in their classrooms. The kindergarteners came over to lower elementary for a visit to the classrooms, lunch and recess. We are looking forward to having them join us next year. For the MSC Auction, we made paper mache flower lanterns.

