

Upper Elementary

By Gigi Guzman & Darcy Phelps

The Elementary classes went to Camp Thunderbird on May 2-3. We took part in activities including fishing, nature arts, low ropes challenge, aquatic ecology, dance party, campfire, and skits. During the campfire, we had a debate about how to make a s'more- with a burnt marshmallow or golden brown. We are on the burnt side, but one of the amazing counselors, Kyung-soon, was on the golden brown side, to our disappointment. Our meals at camp were as great as camp itself. There, they have something called the "food waste challenge". MSC has never lost this challenge, not even when Mrs. Erin was a student here. How it works is you try to eat all the food you serve yourself because if there is a big chunk of, say, lasagna on your plate, they will put it in a bucket and weigh all the school's leftovers. If you get under two pounds, then you wait till the next meal. We won the Golden Plate once again and will continue this victory forever!

On Grandparents and Special Friends Day, we invited guests to tour the school. When they arrived, they could have coffee and fruit skewers and muffins (prepared by Upper El!) while they waited. The school put together a concert for the guests to see, and it was absolutely amazing. After that, we did some activities. There were three different color wristbands to differentiate which activity you would do: blue, green, and red. Blue's first activity was to tour the classroom. Greens did crafts, and reds saw the art show. Each activity lasted 30 minutes.

All the 6th years went on a trip to Atlanta, Georgia. We went to the Georgia Aquarium, the King Center museum, and the Atlanta Botanical Garden. We had so much fun with every activity we did. We walked everywhere, which was good exercise. Once or twice, we took the MARTA bus; however, they only took cash, and we had pre-paid cards, but the kind bus driver let us ride a round trip to the botanical gardens and back to our Airbnb for free. We cooked lunch and went out for dinner, then came home to watch Hamilton's amazing storyline on the small screen. We can speak for all of us when we say that we had an amazing time!

There are just two weeks left of school. On Friday, May 17, we will have Field Day. That's when the students are divided into rainbow color groups and participate in many activities. A few days after Field Day, the 6th graders will present their graduation speeches to parents and teachers. Then, we have our last day of school, when we can bring devices to take pictures, watch movies, go outside, and sign yearbooks.



May 2024



A Monthly Look Into the Montessori School of Columbia

Montessori Matters

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 16th- Upper Elementary trip to Caraway Park

Friday, May 17th- Whole School Field Day 9:30am - 12:30pm

Tuesday, May 21st- Kindergarten Bridging Ceremony, 1pm

Wednesday, May 22nd- 3rd Grade Flying Up, 11am

Thursday, May 22rd- 6th Grade Graduation, 12pm

Friday May 24- Last day of school, pickup from 11:30am-12pm



Find ten MSC chickens enjoying a popsicle in this issue of Montessori Matters!

Development News

Midlands Gives & Annual Fund

Thank you to everyone who donated during Midlands Gives! We really appreciate your support of the Annual Fund and helping us to reach our goal so we can keep tuition affordable and enrich the learning experience for the students. If you haven't made your Annual Fund gift yet, it is not too late to make a donation that is meaningful for your family. You can donate by scanning the MSC Venmo QR Code or by delivering cash or check to the MSC front office. More information about Annual Fund can be found on our website.



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, or more! Use the Parent Portal to find all this information and more in one convenient place!



Primary

Hello, Everyone,

We hope you are enjoying this beautiful spring weather. The children are starting to explore more nature at school. We have been making cool scientific observations on the playground and when we go on our walks. The atmosphere here at MSC is thriving, and so are our children.

Last month was filled with so many great events. The kindergarteners had an amazing time at Lake Wateree. We fished, played in the lake, and had a park tour with the park rangers. We also had a picnic lunch there! Grandparents and Special Friends Day was a great success. Thank you to all who came out to share this special day with us and to the parent volunteers that helped make it special. We also had the opportunity to have Wild Wonders come out and visit all three of the Primary classrooms. It was fun and exciting to see and hear the animals that were on display. Everyone had a great time.

Thank you for your continued love and support of our community here at MSC. Have a great summer break!

“Perhaps a great future leader or a great genius is with us and his power will come from the power of the child he is today. This is the vision that we must have.”

Dr. Maria Montessori



Palmetto

Students of the Palmetto Class celebrated Earth Day by collecting litter in a section of our Rosewood neighborhood. Two teams were formed, with each team working a different side of the street. Two students managed collection bags for each team – one bag for trash, and one bag for recyclable materials such as cans and plastic bottles. Our work with Green Steps helped us to identify the materials that can be submitted for recycling.

We have been thinking like scientists in our class, observing the world around us during the beginning of Spring. A pair of robins that built their nest above the ceiling fan on our back porch are now feeding their pair of hatchlings many times each day, to the delight of our students. The children have been careful to allow the birds plenty of space and a peaceful environment for raising their young. We have also been noticing other signs of Spring such as butterfly eggs laid on tree leaves and a profusion of tadpoles in our school pond.

The children have also stepped up in their care of our classroom environment, with a renewed enthusiasm for cleaning, organization, and maintenance of shelves and materials. We hope some of this enthusiasm will be carried home to benefit our home environments as well.

“The absorption of the environment is an intellectual activity. It is a psychic necessity that the child explores the environment; it satisfies his spirit. After he has had the satisfaction of observing one thing that interests him, he goes on until he is attracted by something else. In this way the child can walk for miles.”

- Dr. Maria Montessori, The 1946 London Lectures (p. 134)

Magnolia

The 23-24 school year is zooming to a close. Magnolia class has been busy learning many lessons before summer. We finished the last two Great Lessons: The History of Written Communication and The History of Numbers. Students are enjoying exploring ancient systems of writing and counting. Some students are trying to write in Ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Babylonian. A few have tried to do their math in older number systems, but the Hindu-Arabic numbers are the easiest.

The Magnolians have also delved deeper into botany with lessons on the needs of plants, the variety of roots, and different types of leaves. We have started weeding and planting tomatoes and kale in some of the raised beds. We are studying the importance of water by observing the way water creates rivers and erosion. We have read books on the importance of water and the struggles that some people have to get clean water.

For Earth Day, we picked up trash in our Rosewood community as part of the schoolwide effort to reduce litter. We enjoyed a visit from Dr. Siddique to discuss the Islam religion with information on Ramadan and Eid.

Students are continuing to hone their reading and math skills. They are excited to finish a variety of reading books and SRA colors and enjoy sharing their accomplishments with the class. Students made goals that they are trying to achieve before the end of the year. The Magnolians are continuing to explore plane figures in geometry. The first and third graders are using the Constructive Triangle Boxes. The first are learning to make and identify shapes formed by the triangles. The third graders are discovering the relationships of congruency, similarity, and equivalence with the same triangles. Other third graders are figuring out the area of rectangles, parallelograms, and triangles. Second graders are learning about polygons.

We are looking forward to finishing the school year strongly and also looking forward to SUMMER BREAK! Thank you for keeping up with us this year! We can not wait to share with you again in September!

The Magnolians of 2023-2024

