



Find ten MSC chickens preparing for Fall in this issue of Montessori Matters!

Upper Elementary

By Milan Greene & Lauren Moody

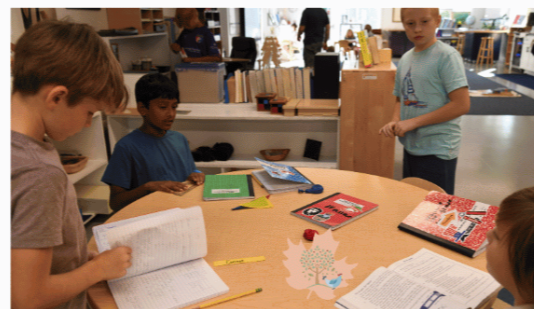
At the start of the new year in Upper Elementary, we welcomed 13 new students! We played a getting-to-know-you game which involved rolling a ball and introducing yourself. We also played a game of “This or That”. This involved the class moving from one side of the rug to another when asked a question, such as, “Pancakes or waffles?” “Pizza or burger?”

Later in the week, we started our first read aloud, *Sees Behind Trees*. The book ties in with our history curriculum and teaches us about the established North American indigenous tribes and civilizations before Columbus. We also started the history book *Before Columbus*.

On our first full week of school, we met for our initial P.E. class, led by Coach Elliot and Coach/Ms. Gabby. For the 4th level, P.E. was a little bit different. We began by playing a memory game of what we did this summer. Later, at the end of the first week, everyone started their research on topics such as Native Americans before Columbus, corn, mummies, and Carbon 14. Carbon 14 is a Carbon archaeologists use to date skeletons and organic matter.

During the second week of school, we had our first Spanish class with Ms. Sarah Barnett. We learned about a Mexican pen-pal program that we will be starting.

This has been an awesome school year so far!



September 2024



A Monthly Look Into the Montessori School of Columbia
Montessori Matters

Upcoming Events

September 12- 5K Field Trip to Lexington County Muscadine Farm

September 19- Merch Order Deadline

October 7 & 8- Elementary Watch Me Work. Details TBA

October 11- Parent Conferences; No School. Childcare available during your conference

October 16- Primary Watch Me Work. Details TBA

October 18- Montessori Mile and Fall Festival

October 19- Fall Book Fair at All Good Books

October 22, 23, 24- Individual and MSC Sibling photos. Volunteers needed. If interested, please contact Virginia Postic at virginia@montessoricolumbia.com

October 25-26- Rescheduled Elementary Community Experience at Sesqui

Development News

Montessori Merch

MSC's Fall Merch Pre-order is open until Thursday, September 19 at 11:59PM. For sale are Montessori Mile t-shirt, Special Edition 1983 MSC shirt, and MSC Logo t-shirts and hoodies. Orders are pre-order only; no extras! Place your order today via the link on Parent Portal.

Montessori Mile & Fall Festival

The Montessori Mile is quickly approaching on Friday, October 18th. Donation forms will be sent soon. We appreciate everyone who participates and raises money to support the students and the school! The Fall Festival will take place following the Montessori Mile on the Elementary playground. A full dinner will be available for purchase and there will be free face painting, dancing, festival games, and more. Mark your calendars so your family will be able to attend!

Book Fair

Join us Saturday, October 19th from 10am - 12pm at All Good Books in Five Points (734 Harden St). Buy a book for your student's classroom, books for your family, or both! 10% of all sales at All Good Books on the 19th will be donated to MSC.



Make your gift to the 2024-2025 Annual Fund now! The Fund is critical in bridging the gap between tuition revenue and the true cost of a Montessori education. Our goal is for all families to participate. Please make a donation that is meaningful to your family. Donate by scanning the QR Code to the left or by delivering cash or check to the MSC office. Donations are tax deductible.

Primary 3

Welcome back to school, MSC community! It is delightful to be back together in the Children's House. Primary 3 has enjoyed welcoming our new students in August. At the beginning of each year during circle time, I like to read the story *Treaty Words*. When the word "treaty" is said, we bring our peace fingers together and make a big circle. As we sit in a circle together, it is a reminder that each of us plays an important role in our Montessori family. This helps highlight how important it is that we do our part to make our community run smoothly. Montessori places a great deal of emphasis on independence, which allows us to become *interdependent* as we function in service to one another. We also talk about our interconnectedness with the physical world around us.

Nature has brought two examples to Primary 3; one in the form of a sweet mourning dove that is nesting on our light under our awning, and the second came in the form of a wasp that was insistent on building her nest on our porch. We removed the nest and were able to safely observe it in a jar. This idea of togetherness also comes up in how we all help to clean the environment. This includes indoors (putting away dishes, rolling work mats, emptying pencil shavings), outdoors (picking up trash, putting away toys), and how we care for plants (allowing them to grow). When a child brought butternut squash for snack, we saved the seeds and children worked with Ms. Tristin to plant them in the garden!

The Kindergarteners are embracing their move into their year of leadership. Though they recognize their new responsibilities, they also enjoy the fun privileges such as going to the park on Fridays and look forward to off campus field trips. Our first field trip will be to a farm in Lexington on September 12th where we'll learn about and harvest muscadines. The Kindergartners have started reading our first novel of the year, one of my favorite books, *Around the World in Eighty Days*. This story is full of adventure, new vocabulary, geography, and concepts of time.

It feels like there is never enough time in the day as our mornings quickly turn into afternoon. We are all extra tired from adjusting to new routines and the excitement of school life. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and kindness as we adjust to a new normal which Autumn brings. 🍁



Primary 1

We have had a beautiful start to our school year. I am grateful to our returning families for doing a wonderful job of welcoming and supporting the new families as they joined our MSC Primary community. I would also like to thank our new families for all of your patience and efforts to ensure a smooth transition into the school year. The children have worked hard to learn and implement our classroom procedures and routines. Our Kindergarten students quickly settled into their leadership roles of helping our new students feel at home. It has made my heart smile to see them take such care with each other and responsibility for building community in their classroom.

On September 12th, our Kindergarten students from all three Primary classes will go on their first field trip together. Many of them will be riding a bus for the very first (and very exciting) time. On the 5th, we were grateful to have our first Lunch Break of the year. This is something that our students look forward to each month.

As we begin Fall, we will focus on respect and gratitude. We will read books and have classroom discussions to aid us in recognizing the details around us that bring us joy and support us as well as how we can acknowledge and express gratitude for even the smallest of these. Our community will develop and nourish an appreciation for their environment and each other.

Thank you all for your support,

Ms. Sunshine

"The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, 'The children are now working as if I did not exist.'" - Maria Montessori

Primary 2

Hello, everyone! This new school year is off to a great start. Our new students are beginning to adapt to the rules and expectations of our classroom. Everyone has had at least three new presentations. Our class is beginning to thrive. Each month, we will study a different continent. This month, we are learning about North America, with an emphasis on the US and South Carolina.

We have pumpkins growing in our garden. Our pumpkin plants grow bigger every day. We hope to have a pumpkin patch later this Fall. Next week, we will be planting sweet potatoes. If anyone wants to donate sweet potato plants, we will gladly accept them. There are a few reminders I would like to offer:

Important Dates for September

- 5K MSC Library Day is every Thursday
- Show and Tell is every Friday
- Kindergarten Field Trip to the Muscadine Farm is on the 12th (5K only)
- First day of Fall is on the 22nd

Brief Reminders

- All Primary students should keep two clean changes of clothes at school. If soiled clothes come home, please send a clean set the following day.
- Please make sure your child has enough time to start and finish breakfast prior to arrival at school. Classroom snacks are small and are not meant to be a meal.
- Please remember to send a full water bottle to school with your child daily.
- Shoes and clothing are very important. Please make sure that the shoes and clothes your child is wearing are easy for them to take off and on. They get frustrated when they cannot perform these tasks on their own. Our goal is to set them up for success!

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's educational journey. We look forward to working together as a team. Maria Montessori said, "The goal of education should be to develop the potential of each child."

Magnolia

Dear Friends of Magnolia Room and MSC,

We are excited to share with you some of the things that we have done to start off our 2024-2025 school year. We are very happy to welcome the newest members of our community: five first graders, one second grader, and one third grader. All of our returning second and third graders provided wonderful support as our new friends settled. In celebration of our new cohort, we are taking up a flag project that will represent our Magnolia Room. We're eager to share with you our finished version in the next newsletter.

We've done engaging lessons which have led to a variety of follow-ups and independent studies. To kick-off our Cosmic Education, we presented the First Great Lesson: The Creation of the Universe. As an extension, some students are studying the solar system and are getting their hands on science experiments involving the three states of matter. We have also begun reading creation stories from other cultures from the book *In the Beginning: Creation Myths from Around the World*.

Students in all three levels have started lessons in geography, geometry, math, grammar, zoology, botany and word study. They are building autonomy more and more each day.

Our Magnolia Room community has spent much time over the past few weeks discussing expectations of each other as we journey the school together. After multiple rounds of debating and editing, we finalized our 2024-2025 Magnolia Room Bill of Agreements:

We, the members of the Magnolia Room, agree to:

- Treat each other with kind words and help and support the community
- Respect the playground and classroom materials and use them properly
- Gracefully move around the classroom and value the natural world
- Be truthful even when no one is looking
- Keep trying when something is hard
- Balance our time around the classroom

We'll be ready to share with you next month all of the new discoveries and growth we're continuing to share with each other. Be well!

- The Magnolia Community



Palmetto

Palmetto students and teachers have been thrilled to be back at MSC for a great year! Students have been working diligently to get back into the swing of things after the long summer break. We are happy to continue to welcome our new first years into the Elementary program and assist in their transition.

We have spent the first few weeks of school focusing on building our classroom community while learning how to incorporate peace and mindfulness into our daily lives. In our cultural areas, we are studying geology and geography after completing The First Great Lesson. We've spent time working with the layers of the Earth, rock types, and the history of our universe.

Together, we've celebrated Maria Montessori's birthday by reading a biography about her life and discussing what made her such an amazing educator. Students are also working through comprehension works, grammar, sentence analysis, and large operations with various math materials. Recently, we covered the geometric hierarchy of numbers. Be sure to ask your student what the largest number is!

We are all looking forward to another amazing year learning, growing, and playing together in the Palmetto classroom.

