



A Monthly Look Into the Montessori School of Columbia

# Montessori Matters

## Upcoming Events

- **Friday, February 14** - Celebration of Friendship Day, 10am-12pm
- **Tuesday, February 18** - Upper Elementary Spanish Field Trip
- **Friday, February 28**- Garden Gala, 7-11pm, Riverbanks Botanical Garden
- **Thursday, March 6**- Montessori Odyssey, 5:30-7pm, More details TBA

## Development News

### MSC Auction

Join us for the Garden Gala annual silent auction fundraiser and party on February 28 from 7-11pm in the Magnolia Room at the Riverbanks Botanical Garden. This is a fun event for adults, so book the sitters and buy your tickets today! If you would like to help with securing items for the auction, decorating, or set up, please contact Michael Drennan at [development@montessoricolumbia.com](mailto:development@montessoricolumbia.com) or (803) 888-1755.

### Celebration of Friendship Day

We are looking forward to the annual whole-school MSC Celebration of Friendship Day on Valentine's Day this Friday, February 14th from 10am to 12pm. We'll have a DJ with dancing, crafts, pizza, and sweet treats. Thank you to the volunteers who have signed up to help facilitate this day of celebration for the students.

The 2024-2025 Annual Fund is underway! Please make a donation that is meaningful to you to support MSC students. We love to have all families participate in the Annual Fund, which is critical in bridging the gap between tuition revenue and the true cost of a Montessori education. You can donate by scanning the Venmo QR Code or by delivering payment to the MSC office. All donations are tax deductible.



## Upper Elementary

by Eden Karemera & Lauren Moody

MSC's Upper Elementary students will be organizing a second Little Pantry Food Drive during the weeks of February 10th and February 17th. Donations can be dropped off in the morning car line. We would appreciate donations, if you are able. Things that can be donated include:

- Canned goods (fish, soup, SpaghettiOs, beans, corn, etc.)
- Dry goods (pasta, ramen noodles, snacks- goldfish, Cheez-its, crackers, etc.)
- Microwave meals, MREs
- Drinks- Juice boxes, etc.
- Toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, soap, deodorant, band aids, lotion, feminine hygiene products, etc.
- Diapers, baby wipes

This week, we will have our annual Valentine's Day party (February 14). This year, the Valentine's Day party will take place on a Friday and after the activities (dance, sweet treats, crafts, and photo booth), we will eat pizza for lunch! Upper El will then go to art and music after all the fun we'll have.

We have four literature studies going on right now. Everyone signed a contract saying that we can't read ahead, spoil the book, and must always be prepared for our meetings. The four books are *Kit's Wilderness*, *Pax*, *Sophia's War*, and *Watership Down*. Each student got to choose which literature study they wished to participate in.

The six graders are planning their annual 6th Grade Trip. This year they are going to Point Pleasant, West Virginia. They planned out all the details of the trip, from where they were going to stay and what they have planned to do, to the budget and meals. The sixth level will go hiking, visit the Mothman Museum, and eat breakfast at Tudor's Biscuit World! We hope to see lots of pictures from the trip! Safe travels!

In history, we are learning about Black people who did inspiring things, such as Ona Judge, a slave of Martha Washington, the president's wife. Class members have been completing mini research for African American History Month, including Mary Prince, Josephine Baker, Crispus Attucks, Mathew Carey, and Osbourn Dorsey. Also, we are coming to the end of our book, *Black Heroes of the American Revolution*.



## Primary 2

Happy Chinese New Year, Primary Two Families.

There are many great things going on in our classroom this month. We are studying the world's largest continent, Asia. We learn about the people, weather, animals, languages, foods, and some of Asia's famous places.

We will be learning about Dr. Martin Luther King for Black History Month. "As we celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, we focus on the dreams he shared with Dr. Montessori. Both believe that all children deserve an education that develops empathy, compassion, and strength of character that comes with moral values. The opportunities afforded by a true equitable education could, they believe, change the world. Dr. King taught the importance of inclusive learning experiences in guiding an understanding that accepts diversity of all kinds. Dr. Montessori said, "if we truly want to achieve equality and harmony among human beings, we must not neglect the time in life when the social, idealistic and linguistic differences which separate groups do not yet exist."-Montessorian Christine Lowry, M.Ed., M.A.

Thank you all for attending Conferences; I truly enjoyed our time together and hope you did as well.

On Wednesday, February 12, we'll also enjoy Primary Watch Me Work Night, where parents can observe their child working in the Montessori classroom. It's a chance to see your child's daily activities as they independently choose and complete their work. On Friday, February 14, we'll celebrate Friendship Day with dancing, crafts, treats, and pizza lunch. There will be no valentines or candy exchanged. Each student is allowed two treats, and MSC will provide a pizza lunch. Please send your child with a full water bottle or an alternative drink in their lunch box.

Thank you, as always, for partnering with us to support your children in their educational journeys.



## Primary 1

We hit the ground running after Winter Break and made the most of January. It was rewarding to see the physical and emotional growth of the students and to experience them bringing on a level of maturity back into the classroom. Our classroom has "normalized" and we have been enjoying new works and responsibilities. The Kindergarteners attended two field trips last month: We went to The Koger Center for a "Rhythm and Beats" presentation by Columbia's *Love, Peace, and Hip-Hop*. The students enjoyed creating music as a group with students from Richland One. Our second trip was enjoying lunch at Sun Ming to learn about and celebrate the Lunar New Year while discovering new foods to love.

Here at MSC, we are eager for what February will bring. I always enjoy meeting one on one with you all for Conference Days. One of the privileges afforded us with the three-year cycle of the Montessori classroom is the opportunity to build a strong bridge between the classroom and home. The students are all looking forward to welcoming you into their space for our Watch Me Work night on the 12th. Thank you for signing up to attend with your child. They are also very excited about our Friendship Celebration happening on Valentine's Day. We will be limiting our Primary One celebration to our schoolwide event and will not be passing out Valentines in our room. Please be reminded not to send candy to school with your child.

Thank you all for your continued support,  
Ms. Sunshine

**"Within the child lies the fate of the future."** -Dr. Maria Montessori, *The Secret of Childhood*, p208

## Primary 3

Hello, MSC families,

Our dreams, wishes, and prayers for snow came true! Weather in Columbia, like any given day on Primary campus, is unpredictable, and I've enjoyed this unprecedented season with Ms. Tristin and the children in our cozy Children's House. As the daffodils bloomed in our garden, snowflakes continued to fall, creating a beautiful contrast between the dreary weather and the vibrant beauty of nature. This blend is something I always cherish, and it's a perspective that the children's eyes constantly remind me to embrace.

In our classroom, we stay busy—much like any home—washing dishes and wiping up spills. But these everyday tasks aren't mindless or repetitive. In fact, they allow the children to notice the smallest details. The children are taking it all in, and as adults in their space, if we pause and meet them where they are, we can see their minds at work. They're calculating, articulating, and processing what they observe. The sensorial works, in particular, support this deep understanding. (*While they may not recognize the math equation in the trinomial cube, they've experienced its essence, and they understand it*).

The kindergartners had a phenomenal time on their field trip to see "Love, Peace, and Hip Hop" and also celebrated the Lunar New Year as a kindergarten family. I love that the Montessori curriculum inspires a love of learning about the world and cultures around us. Lunar New Year is a beautiful way to start new, even after the first of the calendar year. Often in the Children's House, Ms. Tristin and I remind the children that it's never too late to make a good decision or start their day fresh. We can always start again. The first month of 2025 has come to a close, but we will continue to start new anytime we need to, grounding ourselves in the beautiful details of the natural world and the routines of our bustling Children's House.

We are decorating for February, looking forward to the warmth and love of Valentine's day together. While we will not be exchanging cards from home, we will be creating and sharing love with each other. We are busy working on our auction project. The children know that they are taking part in an important project and are putting their hands and souls into it. I look forward to seeing you for our many February happenings. If your child shares a special detail that pulls at your heart strings or tells you a funny story from school, I'd love for you to pass it along to me. <3





## Magnolia

The Magnolia students have jumped back into work after the Winter Break. We have started work on the next Great Lesson, *The Coming of Humans*. We have looked at the length of time from the creation of the universe to the arrival of humans on Earth with *The Long Black Strip*. We are starting to learn about and compare different hominids. We are also exploring the *Fundamental Needs of People*, looking at our material and spiritual needs. This has been paralleled with our Economic Geography curriculum where we have covered: "Where does our Bread Come From?" and "Where does our Meat Come From?" Through these lessons, we have explored the idea of interdependencies within our society.

Our hydroponic tower is in full production. Students work in groups to help keep the nutrients balanced and to harvest greens and herbs. We harvested basil and made pesto sauce with pasta for everyone to sample. We are looking forward to cooking with our other herbs and growing bunches of kale for our spoiled rabbit, Gordon.

Students are continuing to make individual progress in reading, language, math, geometry, and handwriting. Several students have completed and presented their animal research accompanied with a diorama.



## Palmetto

Palmetto class has had a wonderful start to 2025. We are spending some of our time working on our class auction project. Students are learning all about the world of woodworking. We look forward to awarding our beautiful project to the highest bidder on February 28th!

Students have been exploring various biomes of the world and completing mini-research projects to present to their peers. They are looking at the physical geography, political geography, and various aspects of human geography for each region.

We wrapped up our unit on the *Timeline of Life* a few weeks ago and began our study of human history with Maria Montessori's Third Great Lesson- *The Coming of Humans*. Within this unit, we will explore the fundamental needs of humans, human migration patterns, and begin working with ancient civilizations.

We've spent the last few weeks reading Tomie dePaola's second memoir, *Here We All Are*. Students have really enjoyed learning about ways to make our life experiences into stories. We are looking forward to the many wonderful things that await us as we head into Spring!

Thank you to our 2025 Auction sponsors...

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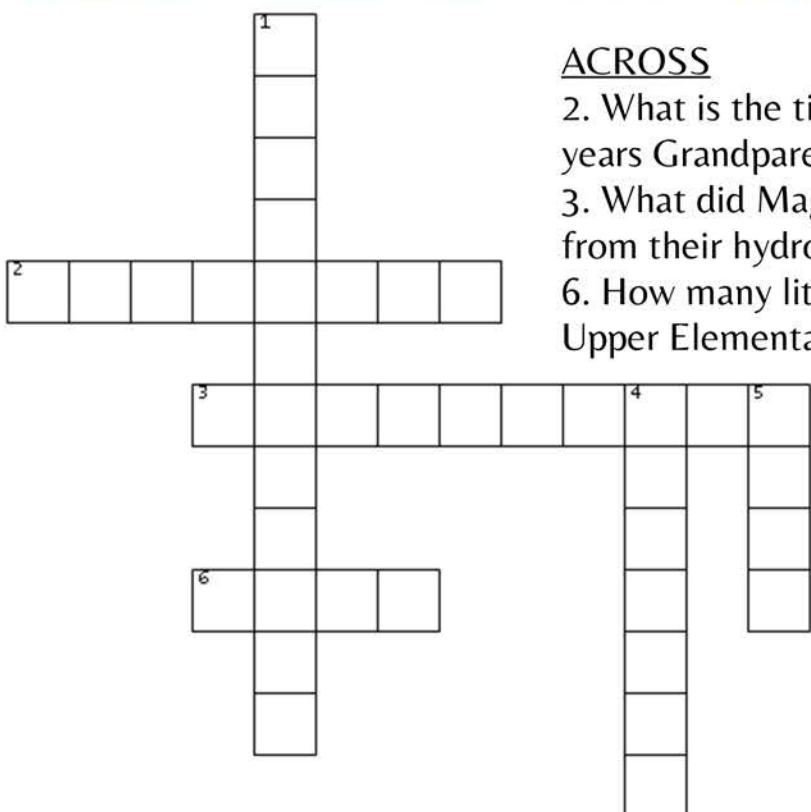
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# Enrichments



### ACROSS

- 2. What is the title of the telenovela premiering at this years Grandparents and Special Friends Day?
- 3. What did Magnolia make and sample after harvesting from their hydroponic tower?
- 6. How many literature studies are currently happening in Upper Elementary?

### DOWN

- 1. Palmetto Class just completed reading the second memoir of what author?
- 4. Where did the 5K students venture to celebrate the Lunar New Year?
- 5. What continent is Primary Two studying this month?

Continued on next page...

# Enrichments continued...

## Spanish News

This semester kicks off with a whole lot of excitement in Spanish class! Our Primary students are learning all new songs at circle time. The 5k classes are learning the names of shapes and are further expanding their abilities to express themselves. Lower Elementary classes are learning indefinite articles and filming short pieces to show at Grandparents and Special Friends Day. The Upper Elementary class is learning about demonstrative pronouns and preparing to film their very own telenovela. *The Heist* will also premier at GSFD! Stay tuned to see your stars meet the silver screen!



## Music News

All classes and Choir are hard at work prepping their music for the end-of-year performances. Upper elementary and choir have been putting together some tricky harmonies on their music. Lower elementary is working on blending their sound and controlling their musical dynamics. Primary is learning a song that will feature sign language, and one of our primary classes is composing a rhythmic song that they hope to perform for the Valentine's celebration!

