



A Monthly Look Into the Montessori School of Columbia
Montessori Matters

Upcoming Events

- **March 14-17:** Members of Staff Attend AMS Conference in Denver, CO. **No School.**
- **Thursday, April 2- Friday, April 4:** Elementary Trip to Camp Thunderbird
- **Friday, April 4:** Deadline to Pre-order 2025 MSC Summer Camp Shirts

Development News



MSC's **Garden Gala Auction Event** was a huge hit, and a wonderful time was had by all! Thank you to our Auction Chair, David Jones, the many sponsors, parent volunteers, and all of those who donated items and attended to make it such a success. We are so grateful to have the support of the MSC community and are pleased with the turnout.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day
Friday, April 11, 2025, 8:30am - 11:30am

We are looking forward to welcoming grandparents and special friends to the MSC campus on Friday, April 11. Registration begins at **8:00am**. The day will feature a light breakfast and beverages, a student concert, a classroom tour, a craft, a student art show, and a video created by students in Spanish class. With your permission, grandparents and special friends are welcome to sign their student(s) out of school after the event.

Guests can be family or friends, but we ask that parents do not attend as guests. If interested, there will be volunteer opportunities, and there will be volunteers available to be paired with students who do not have a guest. Additional details, registration forms, and volunteer sign-ups are forthcoming.

DONATE these CLEAN items to

EdVenture
 for use in the **A-Ha! Maker Space!**

- Egg Cartons
- Plastic containers
- Lids
- Pill bottles
- String
- Fabric
- Wrapping paper
- Gift bags
- Twist ties
- Vinyl tablecloth
- Paper roll tubes
- Disposable plastic bowls
- Cereal boxes

Please remove all personal information before donating.

MSC is partnering with EdVenture by collecting clean recyclables for the EdVenture A-Ha! Maker Space. Please bring your clean recycled items for donation to Building D or send with your Elementary student to deliver to the Edventure bin in Upper El.



The 2024-2025 Annual Fund is underway! If you have not already, please make a donation that is meaningful to your family by scanning the QR Code and clicking "Donate to MSC on Venmo" or by delivering payment to the MSC office. All donations are tax deductible.



Upper Elementary

By Milan Greene and Haleigh Singletary

This year in Upper El has been very busy. The school purchased a Lettuce Grow Hydroponics plant system, thanks to some grant money obtained by Mr. (Office) Michael. It grows plants very quickly! Also, for our February auction, four different families will receive a salad subscription using vegetables gathered from the Lettuce Grow system.

We recently hosted our annual Valentine's Day Party, including the whole Primary and Elementary classes. We were pleased to see some MSC alumni volunteering to help out!

Since last month was February and Black History Month, we have completed recent research on different people from black history, such as: Ruby Bridges, Byron Lewis, Malcolm X, and many more... In March, we will be celebrating Women's History Month with research on Amelia Earhart, Amanda Gordon, Cleopatra, Helen Keller, and others.

Our monthly community lunch for this month was Chicken Alfredo, salad made from our plant system, and banana muffins, which were all made by the class.

This semester, the sixth graders went on their 6th Grade Trip (6-G-T) to Point Pleasant, West Virginia: They organized all aspects of the trip, including picking out accommodation, creating a budget, and organizing meals. During their visit, they went to Tu-Endie-Wei State Park, Fort Randolph, The Mothman Museum, Meeks Mountain Trails, and many other places...

Other upcoming events in Upper Elementary include sweetgrass basket weaving with Ms. Mary Graham-Grant (March 24-28), a possible field trip to the International African American Museum in Charleston, SC, on Sunday, April 27, and our Elementary play which is scheduled for Friday, May 16, with dress rehearsals on Thursday, May 15. The theme will be the Timeline of Life, and it will include all of Upper Elementary and Lower Elementary.

MSC would like to offer our congratulations to **Rory Boroughs, Milan Greene, Zoe Hartman, and Jo Heckman Minett** on their achievement and recognition in the Mid-Carolina Electric Children's Book Challenge. We are thrilled with their submissions and success. You can find more information about the recognition and prizes at www.enlightensc.org/book/. We hope you will join us in celebrating their success!



Primary 2

Hello, Primary Two Families!

Spring is in the air. If you look around the Primary classrooms, you will see that a lot of work is being done. We have been raking leaves and preparing our garden beds for planting. We are planning to plant a special flower for our mummies for Mother's Day. To help us determine what vegetables we will be planting this Spring, we will make a "My Favorite Vegetable" Chart. I cannot wait to see what we will plant.

This month, we are studying the continent of Africa. Africa is the second largest continent in the world. We will be learning about the flags, climate, animals, languages, people, and some of the foods that come from Africa. We also will be cooking up a tasty dish that originated in Africa.

Please make sure that the clothes that you send to school are appropriate for the spring weather. If soiled clothes come home, please send clean ones the next day. If your child has an accident at school, and he or she does not have a set of clothes, I will have to call you to deliver clothes or pick up your student.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's educational journey. If you ever have questions about your child's time at school, please feel free to reach out. We look forward to working with you and your family.

Respectfully,
Ms. Tonisha and Ms. Janeta

Primary 3

So much happened in February! It is hard to believe everything we accomplished as a school community over the shortest month of the year! The children had the best time making Valentines for elders in our community. Thank you so much to our parent volunteers for delivering our Valentines. As Montessorians, a cornerstone of our pedagogy is peace in practice, and this was a tangible way for us to extend peace beyond our Children's House. It was also so fun seeing parents on Valentine's Day! Then, we had the best time talking about President's Day. The children shared what they would do if they were president, and answers ranged from "making a 25 dollar bill" to "saving all of the sick animals".

The children are proud of their efforts and the resulting auction projects. Creating our paper and terrarium was a meaningful way for them to explore the natural world and for them to see the repurposing and reusing of materials we have around us. From delicately harvesting moss to turning eggshell cartons into pulp (or as I referred to it, "something resembling mud"), it was a soul-nourishing-- albeit messy-- process that we all enjoyed.

We still welcome volunteers to come lend their ears to our emerging readers. Gabriel's Nina and dog, Winnie, stopped by recently to encourage our young readers, and it was so sweet and beneficial for them- thank you!

Now that we've had a truly cold winter, I think we are ready to transition into Spring, and it is aligning beautifully with the 5k's reading of the "Secret Garden". Once we get to the end, I like to take the children to the community orchard at Owen's Field and have a tea party as we read the ending. It's always nice to look forward to this.

I enjoyed checking in with you during our February conferences, and so much will happen between now and May, so please don't hesitate to reach out about another check in. I enjoy bragging on your children and sharing stories from our time together, and I sincerely encourage you to reach out anytime with questions, concerns, or curiosity. In regard to curiosity- thank you to those who joined us for our MSC Odyssey. It was our first time hosting this, and it was a tangible way for parents to learn about the Montessori materials and how we cultivate a holistic education in our environments.

"The Child...feels a special joy, which recalls the enjoyment of the scientist who makes a discovery. Because the enrichment of the mind by taking from the environment is combined with the feeling of pleasure, children are led to multiply their observations-and hence they will further enrich their intellectual capacity, which is already forming in an orderly manner."- Dr. Maria Montessori



Primary 1

February was a month rich with community experience in Primary. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting each of you for our conferences and welcoming you all to a view of your child's working classroom during Watch Me Work. Everyone was excited for and thoroughly enjoyed the MSC Friendship Celebration. Thank you to all that volunteered in any way to help make that a wonderful experience for our students. Another experience that our students enjoyed over the last month was creating the Raised Planter Box for our MSC Annual Auction. They worked together to organize the project, put together the planter using tools and elbow grease, then each painted and decorated the outside. They were very proud of the result of their hard work on this project. Thank you all for making the Auction a successful and prosperous evening!

March is shaping up to be a busy month for all in our Primary Community. We were excited to welcome you to MSC's very first Odyssey where you had the opportunity to explore a classroom at each level and learn more about the works of your child's classroom as well as how they connect to the works of the later levels. I encourage you to reach out for demonstrations of works into which you may want more insight. In February, our class enjoyed reading *James and the Giant Peach* in the afternoons, which we recently finished. We are looking forward to our next chapter book! We are also excited to start our spring gardening with the help of parent volunteer, Patricia Hansen.

Many of the teachers and administrators will be attending classes at the American Montessori Society Conference in Colorado March 14-16. This is always a reinvigorating and motivating experience. I love learning and finding ways to enrich the classroom for students, and we are all looking forward to this experience.

Thank you all for your continued support,
Ms. Sunshine

"The children of today will make all the discoveries of tomorrow. All the discoveries of mankind will be known to them and they will improve what has been done and make fresh discoveries. They must make all the improvements in houses, methods of production, etc. that are to be made. The future generation must not only know how to do what we can teach them, they must be able to go a step further."

- Dr. Maria Montessori, *The 1964 London Lectures*, p140



ANSWERS: DOWN 1. FAVORITEVEGETABLE, 2. ODYSSEY, 3. DOROTHYGALE, 4. WINNIE, 5. POINTPLEASANT, ACROSS 6. MUEVETE, 7. EDVENTURE, 8. CHICKENALFREDO, 9. DENVER, 10. PANCAKES



Magnolia

We are happy to have a full class of healthy children again! The Magnolia Room was rather sickly month. We had many children out with the flu, viruses, and pneumonia. One day, only seven children were in attendance!

We began the Third Great Lesson, *the Coming of Humans* this month. We have looked at the different hominids from Ardipithecus through Homo Habilis and Homo Erectus to Homo Sapiens. Children can explore our card works and timelines. We have skull models of many of the hominids for the children to examine.

The Magnolians have started to explore economic geography and the interdependencies of humans in our society. We have looked at the many different people it takes to produce our bread, meat, and clothes.

One of our parents, Elliot Hong, gave a presentation on the Chinese Spring Festival and their family's trip to China last summer. It was a wonderful connection for our Lower Elementary community to share.

Last but not least, we have completed our read aloud of *The Wizard of Oz* by, L. Frank Baum. Both children and teachers alike were locked into the journey of Dorothy Gale and her companions. The children worked on many literature elements such as: identifying characters, identifying the main problem vs. secondary problem in the plot, summarizing characters and chapters, and identifying solutions.

We look forward to having a healthy March and sharing our growth with you.

Palmetto

"There must be provision for the child to have contact with nature; to understand and appreciate the order, the harmony, and the beauty in nature."

-Dr. Maria Montessori

The students in the Palmetto Class have started a whole-class book study with a read-aloud of *Because of Winn-Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo. While some of us have read or heard the story before, we are taking the book slowly by reading one chapter per day then writing about a different element of the book. So far, we have explored ideas of plot, setting, and character development. We are collecting our daily essays for inclusion in our individual writing portfolios at the end of the year. Following our experience with this book study together, we will look forward to individual grade-level book clubs later in the Spring.

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual school auction and especially to everyone who was interested in our class auction project! We gained some good experience in working with wood and with decorating and finishing our planter box.

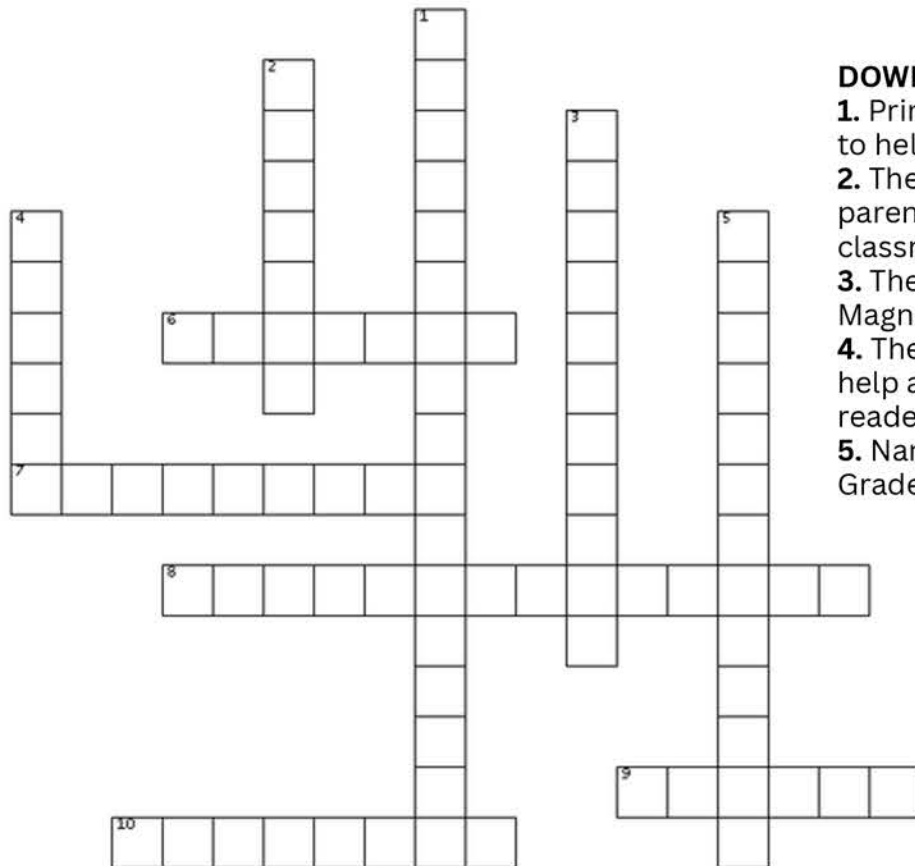
As part of our work with the Fundamental Needs of Humans, we have started a study of the history of bread. On Tuesday, we enjoyed a traditional Mardi Gras treat of pancakes, a simple type of flatbread that has been made by people for thousands of years. As we continue with our study, we will practice making other kinds of bread to enjoy together.

As we approach the official beginning of Spring, we are starting our study of plant life. While we have cared for and studied plants throughout the school year, we are looking forward to more detailed work on the various plant parts and their functions, the fundamental needs of plants, and some of the ways that people depend on plants in our daily lives.

Enrichments



Continued on next page...



DOWN

1. Primary 2 will be charting these preferences to help determine what to plant this Spring.
2. The name of the event hosted at MSC for parents to experience the Montessori classrooms
3. The full name of the lead character in Magnolia's recently completed read-aloud
4. The name of the pet that visited Primary 3 to help a grandparent listen to the emerging readers
5. Name of the town visited by the Sixth Graders for 6-G-T

ACROSS

6. Name of the song and dance game played in Primary Spanish class
7. The other nonprofit with whom MSC is partnering and collecting clean recyclables
8. The central dish of Upper Elementary's February community lunch
9. The city in which the 2025 AMS "Montessori Event" conference is held
10. The first recipe made by Palmetto class in coordination with their study of the history of bread

Enrichments continued...

Spanish News

And... ACTION! Elementary Spanish classes in February were focused on narrative. Lower Elementary classes are reading stories while analyzing and manipulating noun phrases. After learning to Cha Cha on our last Spanish field trip of the year, Upper Elementary classes have begun filming scenes from their telenovela, *El Atraco* (The Heist), and drafting paragraphs using adjective/noun agreement, conjugated verbs, question words, prepositions, and new vocabulary. Primary Spanish classes are learning their números hasta 100 and have learned three verses to *Los Pollitos Dicen Pio Pio Pio* in preparation for Grandparents and Special Friends Day. 5k classes have learned the names of shapes and body parts. See if you can keep up with your child in a round of *Muévete*, the song and dance game played during Spanish class to teach names of body parts, directives, and verbs!



2025 MSC SUMMER CAMP

Week 1: June 9-1, GARDENING

Week 2: June 16-20, RAINFOREST EXPLORERS

Week 3: June 23-27, CAMPFIRE

Week 4: June 30- July 3*, COMMUNITY HELPERS

Week 5: July 7-11, LITTLE SCIENTISTS

Week 6: July 14-18, SPACE

Week 7: July 21-25, AROUND THE WORLD

Week 8: July 28- August 1, LITTLE CHEFS

Week 1: June 9-13, CHESS

Week 2: June 23-27, COOKING

Week 3: July 7-11, WOODWORKING

Week 4: July 21-25, ART



Find more information and links to register on the Parent Portal!