

April 2025



A Monthly Look Into the Montessori School of Columbia Montessori Matters

Upcoming Events

- **Friday, April 11, 8:30am to 11:30am:** Grandparents and Special Friends Day
- **April 14-18:** Spring Break
- **Monday, April 21, 28:** *Anxious Generation* Book Club, led by MSC Parent, Jodie Watson
- **Thursday, April 24:** 5K Field Trip, Lake Wateree
- **Thursday, May 1:** Whole School Concert
- **Friday, May 16:** Elementary Play, details TBA

Development News

Midlands Gives, May 6, 2025

This is a great opportunity to support MSC. You may increase the impact of your donation by helping us secure matching donations and potentially win prizes. Midlands Gives is an initiative of Central Carolina Community Foundation, which raises money and awareness for local nonprofits in 11 Midlands counties. MSC has participated since its inception in 2014.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

We look forward to welcoming grandparents and special friends to the MSC campus on **Friday, April 11 from 8:00am to 11:30am!** Registration begins at 8:00am, and the program starts at 8:45am. The day will feature a light breakfast and beverages, a student concert, a classroom tour, a make and take project, and an art show and telenovela video. Each guest will receive an MSC bag with an agenda for the day, a map of the campus, an MSC magnet and information about the Montessori method. With your permission, grandparents and special friends are welcome to sign their student(s) out after the event.



MSC is partnering with EdVenture by collecting clean recyclables in the totes at Building D and in Upper El for the EdVenture A-Ha! Maker Space. Note that they *cannot accept styrofoam or glass items.*

DONATE these CLEAN items to

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

MSC's Strategic Planning Event brought together Board and Staff members to collaborate on our shared vision and future goals for MSC. We're looking forward to finalizing the Strategic Plan, sharing it with community, and working together on implementation.



Upper Elementary

by Rory P. Boroughs and Collin E. Griffin

Upper Elementary is always learning and exploring new subjects and having new experiences! Here are some of our recent experiences:

March was Women's History Month, so Upper El encouraged students to create mini researches on historically important women. Our goal was to have one presentation every day of the month, so we could remember and honor women who helped shape history. These researches included Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Sacagawea, Emily Warren Roebling, Donna Reed, Amanda Gorman, and more.

Between March 24 - March 28, Ms. Mary Graham-Grant taught the 3rd through 6th level students how to create sweetgrass baskets. Every day we would work on our sweetgrass basket sewing between 10:00-11:30. We had to finish them up on Friday.

We recently went on a park trip to Rosewood Park with the other Elementary classes. We ate lunch at the park and played games like the Hook Game. We traveled in groups of two during the 1.8 mile trip, there and back. It was a great opportunity for the 1st through 6th level to get to know one another more! We had a great trip to Camp Thunderbird, near Lake Wylie, South Carolina.

We will share more information next month!



Primary 1

March was packed with our first Odyssey, the AMS Conference, and an Author visit. The Odyssey was a rich opportunity offering an inside look at how the works of the Primary classroom serve your child in this space and bridge into the next level. At the AMS conference, there were so many wonderful sessions offered. I was very excited to share what I learned and implement new things in our classroom like more Purposeful Movement Works. I thoroughly enjoyed the quality time of the Movie Nights, my teacher experience auction item, with the students that participated. Thank you for your donations to MSC. Wrapping up the month, we had a local author visit to read her book to our Primary community. Elizabeth McKenna is a neighbor in our community and a former kindergarten teacher. She was inspired by her daughter to write her book, *Hooray for World Down Syndrome Day!* Her book celebrates diversity and helps educate our youth in understanding and inclusion. This was a beautiful opportunity that our students thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to those of you that ordered her book or already had a copy.

Moving into April, it is easy to focus on Spring Break; however, we have so many things to look forward to in the days we are at MSC this month! We are all looking forward to our Grandparents and Special Friends Day. In preparation, we are working hard to ready our new garden space by building beds and tilling the ground. We have each decorated and signed a river rock to go at the base of our beds before the soil is added to be a permanent part of our garden as it grows above. During this month, we are reading *Boy* for our afternoon chapter book. It is an autobiography of sorts written by Roald Dahl and is lending us a window into his life as a child in the early 1900s. We are finding that so very much has changed since his time and ours. We are also finding some similarities between characters and places of his fictitious writings and real people and places of his youth. We also have an exciting Kindergarten Field Trip coming up on April 24 to Wateree State Park. This was a favorite from last year, and we are excited to take 5K students for a fun-filled day of exploring the lakeshore and learning to fish. We hope that you all have a fun and safe Spring Break!

Thank you all for your continued support,
Ms. Sunshine

“Movement of the hands is essential. Little children revealed that the development of the mind is stimulated by the movement of the hands. The hand is the instrument of intelligence.”

- Dr. Maria Montessori



ANSWERS: DOWN 1. THUNDERBIRD, 3. SWEETGRASS, 5. LOOFAH, 6. THEME, ACROSS 2. SPHAGNUMMOSS, 4. AMAZON, 7. ROALDDAHL

Primary 2

Happy Spring, Primary Two Families! Bees are buzzing, and pollen is everywhere. If you look around the Primary classrooms, you will see that a lot of work has been done, especially in our vegetable garden. We planted all kinds of great foods in our garden: tomatoes, cucumbers, and carrots were the most popular to plant. As we watered the gardens, we noticed that the squash, tomatoes, and cucumbers had already sprouted. The children were so happy to see that their seeds were growing. This month we will focus on our flower gardens.

We are now studying the continent of South America, with a special focus on the Amazon rainforest. South America 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 South America.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day is **Friday, April 11, 2025**. The children have been working hard preparing for this day. We hope you all enjoy the surprises that have been set in place! Spring Break is almost here. From **April 14 to 18**, MSC will be closed for Spring Break. The children are super excited about all the fun things you have planned for them. Please take pictures so that your child can share them with the class.

Please make sure that the clothes that you send to school are appropriate for the warmer weather and that your child has two sets in case of an accident.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child’s educational journey.

Respectfully,
Ms. Tonisha and Janeta

“A child has need of simple things, and complicated objects are frequently more of a hindrance than a help to his development.”

- Dr. Montessori, *The Secret of Childhood*

Primary 3

Spring has sprung! The mourning doves have returned, and we’ve enjoyed watching the trees blossom while listening to the sounds of nature as we go about our days. Ms. Tristin has worked with the students to grow our own loofahs. We wash our dishes with one in class, and we thought it would be lovely to grow our own. It also looks like the tea from our Aerogarden will be ready to repot into our garden beds soon. We have been working hard to clean out and prepare our beds so new plants have room to grow.

I am always surprised by how quickly the school year goes by- especially in the Spring! In April, we look forward to celebrating Earth Day and being grateful for all the natural beauty surrounding us. We will dedicate extra time to being outside, working and growing alongside Mother Nature. However, we are still busy as bees in the classroom. Some students have been extra excited by new math works lately, and it's been a joy to watch them so engaged. Many children have been creating their own maps, which we'll use for decorating for Grandparents and Special Friends Day. This is the exciting time of year when the older students get to finally work with the lessons they might have been waiting years to explore.

We are all looking forward to Grandparent's Day, and the children are excited to introduce their grandparents and special friends from home to their friends at school and to show them where they spend their days. We are still welcoming listening ears to come and listen to our emerging readers. With the weather so lovely, if you have an hour or so a week that you could come and listen to a few children read one at a time on our porch, we would greatly appreciate your time. As we look toward the end of the year, I would like to invite any parents who would like to schedule an end of year check-in to please reach out so we can make time to meet. While I know Spring can be particularly busy with recitals, programs, and parties, I hope that you are able to make time to slow down and smell the roses.

All my love and gratitude,
Ms. Corey



Magnolia

Dear Magnolia Friends,

March blew by us so very quickly; it is hard to believe that over 31 days passed so quickly. Let us share our adventures since last month's newsletter.

With the changing of Winter into Spring, Magnolia students studied the Spring Equinox and discussed the effects of the Earth's axis and the angle of the Sun's rays as we revolve around it and how that influences the increase of temperatures.

Naturally, we segued into a deep dive of Botany and the Needs of Plants. Students have studied parts of a flower and were able to take part in flower dissection and presented a variety of projects connected with the lesson. We also have covered the Parts and Body Functions of Moss Plants. Quite a few Magnolia students chose to follow-up the lesson by creating their own Sphagnum Moss Terrariums.

We've enjoyed the past few weeks getting in our raised garden beds. We plan to cultivate: watermelon, cucumbers, squash, zucchini, kale, and carrots (for Gordon, of course!).

Our rising Magnolia Second, Third, and Fourth Graders are truly working diligently, so late in the year. We will be happy to share with you all of our updates next month.

Best,
Magnolia Room Community

"We must study the correlation between life and its environment. In nature everything correlates. This is the method of nature. Nature is not concerned with the conservation of individual life: it is a harmony, a plan of construction. Everything fits into the plan: winds, rocks, earth, water, plants, man, etc."

Dr. Maria Montessori, Citizen of the World, p. 22

Palmetto

Spring has sprung in Palmetto class!

Students have spent a great deal of time working with plants- both in class and in our garden. We've recently covered the parts of the plant, root, and flower. Students have used this knowledge to create beautiful art work and develop care plans for our new peace garden and our revitalized garden beds. Students have thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the land and getting their hands dirty.

We have continued our shared reading of *Because of Winn Dixie* and students have done an amazing job writing about the theme, plot, and characters of the book. We have been so pleasantly surprised by how much students' writing has developed in just a few short weeks. We are looking forward to completing our read aloud soon and reviewing our writing to see how far we've come.

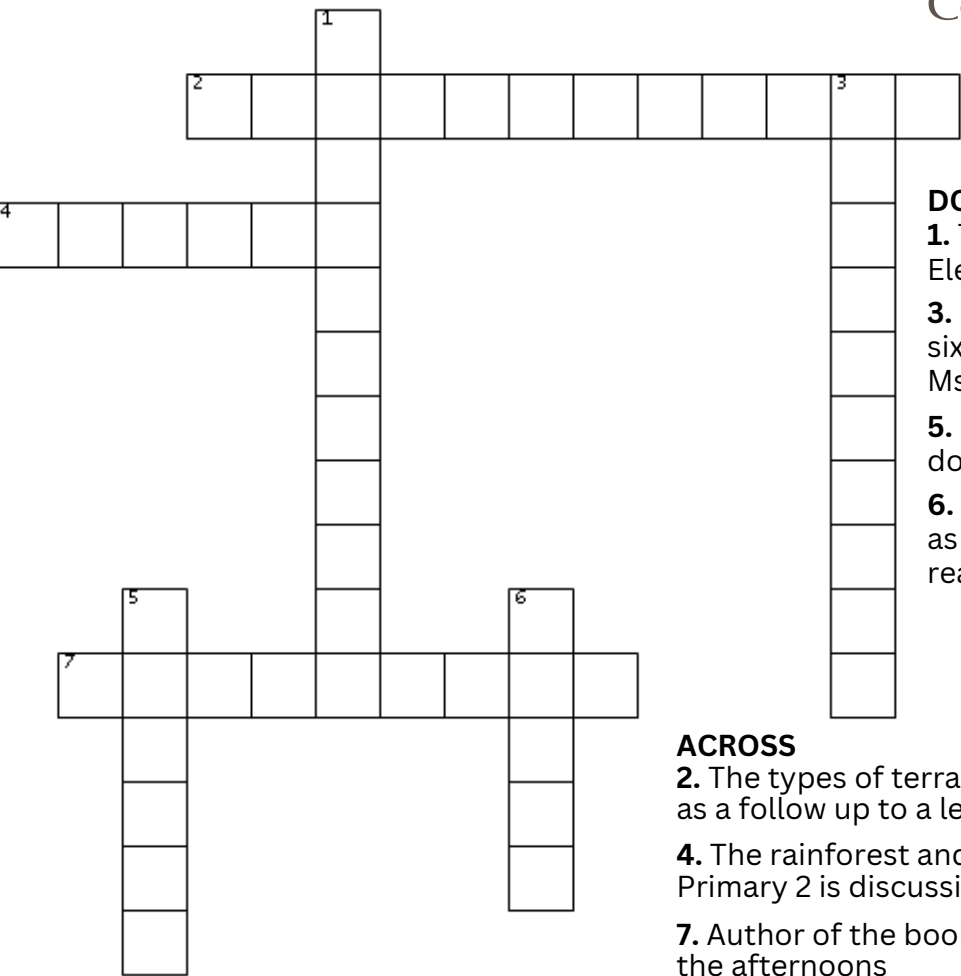
Palmetto students had an amazing time at Camp Thunderbird, where they participated in team building activities, learned how to build fires, tested their knowledge of pioneering, and enjoyed many laughs. We are already looking forward to next year's trip!

Palmetto Class

Enrichments



Continued on next page...



- DOWN**
- 1. The camp attended by many Elementary students on April 3-4
 - 3. Baskets woven by third through sixth graders under the direction of Ms. Mary Graham-Grant
 - 5. Plant being grown in Primary 3 that doubles as a sponge in their classroom
 - 6. Palmetto students wrote about this as well as characters and plot when reading *Because of Winn Dixie*

- ACROSS**
- 2. The types of terrariums made by Magnolia students as a follow up to a lesson about moss
 - 4. The rainforest and region in South America which Primary 2 is discussing this month
 - 7. Author of the book "Boy", being read by Primary 1 in the afternoons

Enrichments continued... Spanish News

March has brought Spring to Columbia and to MSC Spanish classrooms! Primary classes are learning two new spring-related songs and expanding their conversational skills through Grace and Courtesy lessons. Lower Elementary classes are learning garden and animal vocabulary while reviewing rules for nouns, articles, and adjectives. Upper Elementary has finalized their telenovela, begun translating early readers, are writing paragraphs using new vocabulary, and are reviewing grammar lessons. They will finish the year with grammar lessons on possessive pronouns and regular -ir verb conjugation.



2025 MSC SUMMER CAMP

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Week 1: June 9-13, GARDENING | Week 1: June 9-13, CHESS |
| Week 2: June 16-20, RAINFOREST EXPLORERS | Week 2: June 23-27, COOKING |
| Week 3: June 23-27, CAMPFIRE | Week 3: July 7-11, WOODWORKING |
| Week 4: June 30- July 3*, COMMUNITY HELPERS | Week 4: July 21-25, ART |
| 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 | |



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

