

May 2025



A Monthly Look Into the Montessori School of Columbia

Montessori Matters

Upcoming Events

- **Friday, May 16:** Elementary Play, 12 pm at the UUC (2701 Heyward St, 29205)
- **Friday, May 23:** Field Day
- **Monday, May 26:** Memorial Day, No School
- **May 27-29:** End of School Ceremonies
- **Friday, May 30:** Last Day of School, All students dismiss 11:30am-12pm



Field Day

Friday, May 23, 2025, 9:00am - 12:30pm

On Field Day, students work together in teams to tackle a series of fun cooperative physical challenges that build community. We would love to have your help setting up and/or guiding the students through the challenges. More details about Field Day and your student's team colors will be sent to you by email. Scan the **orange QR Code below** to access the Sign Up Genius to volunteer.



Development News

Midlands Gives

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.

Annual Fund

If you haven't made your gift yet, **there's still time to give!** Your support helps sustain and grow MSC's vibrant Montessori program and campus.

Every donation directly enriches student learning, supports a safe, welcoming environment, and advances our school's long-term goals.

Your gift—*of any size*—makes a real difference. Donate via the MSC Venmo QR code (to the right) or bring cash/check to the front office. Contributions may be tax-deductible, and we hope every family will take part in the Annual Fund.



Thank you for helping build a brighter future for our students!



Upper Elementary



Written by Connor Johnson and Vivek Manchikalapati

On April 3-4, we went to Camp Thunderbird located on the shore of Lake Wylie, South Carolina. Some of the activities that we did were making a campfire, low ropes course, team-building, and pioneer life. For the campfire activity, we got to eat s'mores at the end, and later that night, we performed skits, after which we got to eat s'mores again! Staying overnight in a cabin together was very fun. We even got to read by flashlight after 'lights out'.

Some of our class went on a field trip on Sunday, April 27, to the International African American Museum (IAAM). At the museum, we saw African American quilts. In history, we have learned that these quilts could have been used as maps. There were exhibits on the Gullah Geechee and their sweetgrass baskets. There was even a room where you could research your family history.

On April 29th, we began whole Elementary play practice. It went very well! In addition to practicing the play, we have formed committees such as backdrop, props, costumes, and playbill. We will be performing the 'Timeline of Life' at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia (2701 Heyward Street) at noon on Friday, May 16, 2025.

In history, we recently started learning about the Civil War and Reconstruction. We have also been preparing for our community meal. We are having ramen, egg rolls, Boba tea, and Mochi ice cream. Summer is right around the corner, and we look forward to the next school year!

Other dates to keep in mind:

Field Day . . . Wednesday, May 23, 2025

Last Day of School (Half-Day) . . . Wednesday, May 30, 2025



Primary 1

April seems to have flown by, along with the rest of the school year. We enjoyed welcoming everyone from Grandparents & Special Friends Day into our classroom. We were lucky to have a beautiful day to explore our new garden space with our guests. We are finishing Roald Dahl’s *Boy* for our afternoon chapter book. A lot has changed in the 100 years between his childhood and ours. We have had great discussions around similarities and differences between characters and places in the fictitious writings versus lived youth of Roald Dahl. Our 5K had a blast exploring the woods, playground, and lakeshore of Wateree State Park. Learning to fish was a highlight for many of them. While it rained during our lakeshore exploration and fishing time, overall, we had beautiful overcast weather that made for a fun and comfortable day.

We kicked off May with our School Concert. This night held its own vibe and was a beautiful experience for us, despite sharing the same songs as Grandparents Day. We are all looking forward to Field Day on May 23. This is an event that comes with a lot of excitement for all involved. Please be sure to send your child in comfortable clothes and shoes and apply sunscreen and/or bug spray to your child before drop-off. As always, your child will also need a filled water bottle. As this school year is finishing quickly, our Kindergarteners are looking forward to their Bridging Ceremony on May 29 at 1pm on Oceola Street. Each Kindergartener may have two guests in attendance for this event.

I want to take a moment to share my appreciation for all the support in all its forms that you have provided this school year. Together, we create our safe and loving community supporting the growth and development of our students. The partnerships we build over the three year cycle are such a beautiful privilege that Montessori affords us. I am so thankful for my role here at MSC and for the time I spend with your families. Please have a safe and fulfilling summer break!

Thank you all for your continued support,
Ms. Sunshine

“Adults must defend children. We adults must see the real humanity in children, the humanity which will take our place one day, if we are to have social progress. Social progress means that the next generation is better than the one before.”

-Dr. Maria Montessori
The 1946 London Lectures, p. 140



ANSWERS: DOWN 1. BOOKCLUBS, 2. PERSEVERANCE, 3. TEACHERS, 4. NASHVILLE, 5. GARDEN, 6. MARIAGOLDS, 7. MAPS, 8. MONTERREY

Primary 2

Hello Primary Two Families!

I feel like the school year just started, but it is May, and this school year is about to end. It’s hard for us to believe that this is the last month of school. Let me be the first one to say that it has been an honor to work with you and your child. I am the guide, but they are the teachers. We have had the privilege to watch our students learn and grow into mini Montessorians. This experience is one that we can never forget.

Our vegetables in our garden have sprouted. We planted all kinds of great foods in our garden. Tomatoes, cucumbers, and carrots were the most popular to plant. As we continue to water the gardens, we see that the carrots, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, and cucumbers are all growing! The children love taking care of our garden, and I look forward to seeing them this summer when I come out to water and weed the garden displays.

We have all kinds of fun events in May. This week was Teacher Appreciation Week. Field Day is Friday, May 23, 2025, and the children can’t wait. The 5K Primary Bridging ceremony is Thursday May 29 at 1pm. We are limited to two guests per student. The children are working hard preparing for this day. We hope you all enjoy the surprises that have been set in place! Friday May 30th is the last day of school and is a half day. Again, thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child’s educational journey.

Love,
Ms. Tonisha and Ms. Janeta

Primary 3

April Showers bring May flowers, and with that, plenty of weeding and watering. As we’ve been continuing to prepare the garden beds, it seems at times that all we see are the roots, the rocks, and the acorns from little squirrels over the long months of winter. I’ve reflected on how sowing seeds, much like small hands sewing cardstock in our classroom, is big work. It takes more than time-- it takes conscious, consistent effort, that does not give up, especially the last month of school!

The word ‘perseverance’ came up recently during a birthday celebration when an adult commented to a child that they had shown ‘perseverance’, and the child responded “what does that mean?” I explained, “you know how all of your friends have said how they like how you keep trying and don’t give up? That is perseverance!” Now, I tell myself that is what May is for: spring flowers, but really about intentionally coming each day as if it is the first. For many of us, it is our last of firsts, and if I just rush to the finish line, I will miss them. I’ll miss all the last ‘first moments’ this sweet time of year has to offer: Like last time the 3k are our new little ones. They’ll come back next year as the bigger, wiser ones. Or the last first time I invite a 5k to lead the way for a younger student, and even the last time we learn a new song together in Spanish with Ms. Sarah. I want to present for each new moment. I hope that in this busy time of year, you and yours are also able to persevere, be present for each little moment, and hold them close.

I know we still have many happy moments to look forward to, including Field Day and our 5k Bridging ceremony. I am feeling humbled and hopeful knowing that these moments are only possible because of the beautiful community we have here at MSC. Thank you, each of you reading this, for making this community a place that we can all learn, grow, and persevere together. I am already looking forward to next autumn’s harvest season and the many little siblings and new friends that will be joining our fold.

All my love and gratitude, Ms. Corey

“It is only the power of love that can enable the adult to come close enough to the child to understand him. Love and humility will unlock for us “the secret of childhood” and enable us to understand the inner significance and true meaning of Dr. Montessori’s work.”

- Margaret E. Stephenson



Magnolia

The end of the year is speeding toward us! The Magnolia class has squeezed as much learning out of the weeks of April as possible. We also enjoyed a week off for Spring Break. Students are continuing to work through the reading, language, and math curricula at their own pace. We enjoy celebrating the completion of an SRA color, reading book, or word study series as each child meets their personal goals. Students look forward to getting and practicing new math, grammar, and sentence analysis lessons. We are proud of how far they have each come this year.

The Magnolias extended our botany study into the gardens. We cleared and weeded the garden beds and planted a few marigolds to repel pests. We started cucumbers, carrots, kale, squash, and watermelons from seeds before the break. Many seeds are sprouting! We will plant them in the beds soon. We also have a few volunteer tomato plants that sprouted from a previous year. We just cleaned our Lettuce Grow tower and restocked it with some new plants. We added some flowers this time. We are hoping to observe the blossoms as part of our botany study.

In history and geography, Mr. Sidney continues the *Fundamental Needs of People* through the ages. We compare the different ways people have met their material and spiritual needs during different times. Ms. Misty taught the *Fourth Great Lesson, The History of Written Communication*. The children are exploring the changes and development of writing and alphabets through history. We will get to the *Fifth Great Lesson* in May, *The History of Numerals*.

We are very excited to put together a whole Elementary play. Magnolias are working with the Palmetto and Upper Elementary classes to act out scenes from the *Timeline of Life*. We will create backdrops, props, and costumes. We are looking forward to this time of whole elementary collaboration.

“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

Students in the Palmetto Class recently welcomed Kindergarten friends from all three Primary classes for a preview of first grade. This was a great opportunity to renew some old friendships and start making new ones. They were able to show our rising first graders some of the works that they enjoy in Elementary.

We have started with our Spring grade-level book clubs. First year students are reading *The Chicken Squad* by Doreen Cronin. Second graders are reading *Saving Winslow* by Sharon Creech. Third year students have started a study of *Maroo of the Winter Caves* by Ann Turnbull. The children always look forward to our book clubs, which provide excellent opportunities for them to explore big themes in literature by reading longer books together with support from their teachers. After each session, we do some writing about the most recent chapter.

We have introduced Dr. Montessori’s *Fourth Great Lesson, The Story of Written Communication*. The children have had opportunities to learn about the different kinds of writing systems that people have used through the ages. In the next few weeks we’ll explore another important human invention when we tell *The Story of Numbers*.

Enrichments



Enrichments continued...

Spanish News

¡Aprendimos mucho en abril! Our Primary students focused on learning all four verses of *Los Pollitos Dicen* and *De Colores* to share with their visitors on Grandparents and Special Friends Day. Lower Elementary students are dipping their toes into conjunctions and pronouns: the building blocks of sentence building! Upper Elementary students translated early readers from English to Spanish, copying illustrations and binding new Spanish versions for the classroom. Also, their letters to our Monterrey-based pen pals finally arrived after 7 months! (We decided not to wait for a response and will send another letter before summer break.)



Continued on next page...

2025 MSC SUMMER CAMP

Week 1: June 9-13, 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

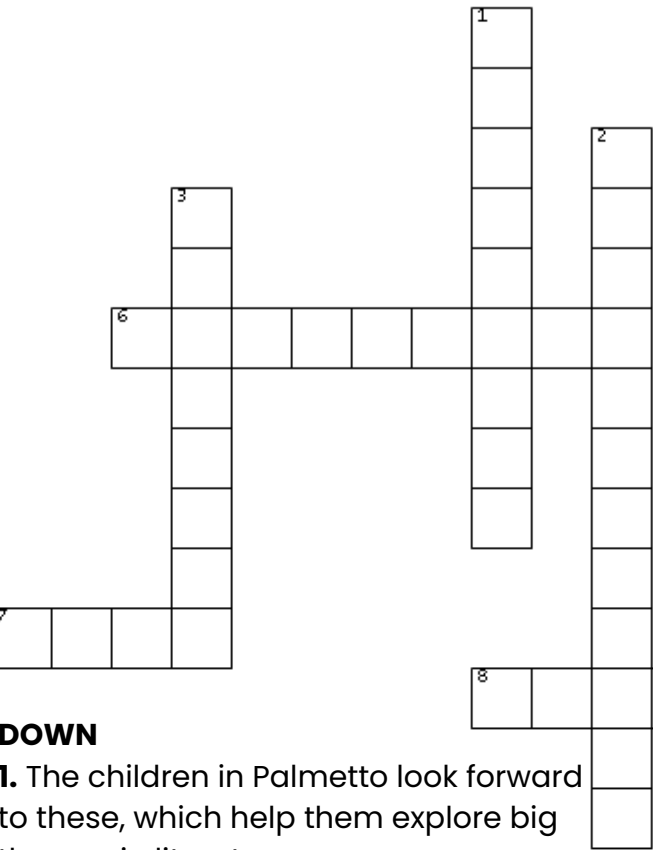
Week 3: July 7-11, WOODWORKING

Week 4: July 21-25, ART

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

Don't forget to pick up your camp shirt if you ordered one, and register soon for camps, as they are nearly at capacity!

This year's concert was bittersweet for all, as Ms. Cat, who has significantly enhanced and refined our music program during her time with us, will be moving to Nashville following the end of the school year. We offer Cat our gratitude and best wishes for her future musical endeavors.



- DOWN**
- 1. The children in Palmetto look forward to these, which help them explore big themes in literature.
 - 2. This word was taught to Primary 3 when a student asked what it meant during a Celebration of Life.
 - 3. Ms. Tonisha and Ms. Janeta of Primary 2 believe that they are guides and the students are these.
 - 4. This is the city to which Ms. Cat will be relocating.



- ACROSS**
- 5. The students of Primary 1 explored this new space with their guests on GSFD.
 - 6. These were planted in the garden beds by Magnolia class to repel pests.
 - 7. The quilts seen at the IAAM, visited by Upper El, were also used as this.
 - 8. This is where the Spanish-speaking pen pals for Upper El are based.