



Tuckahoe Montessori School

Monthly Newsletter

March 2013

This Month

[Soccer Returns](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Continent Day Information](#)

[New Living Visitor](#)

[Weaving in the Studio](#)

[A Note from Ms. Elizabeth](#)

[Spanish Vocabulary Video](#)

[Book Reviews for Toddler and Primary Students](#)

[Montessori in the Home](#)

[Music Month](#)

[Special Dates](#)

[From the Toddler Classroom](#)

[From the Primary Classroom](#)

[From the Elementary Classroom](#)

[Art at TMS](#)

[Spanish at TMS](#)

[Chinese at TMS](#)

Quick Links

[School Homepage](#)

[School Video Page](#)
(password: soundbox)

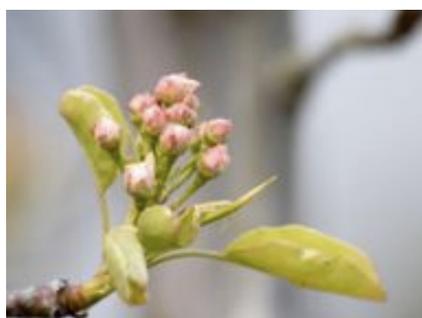
[Parent Portal](#)
(password: pinktower)

[Calendar](#)

[Scholastic Ordering](#)

Reminder

There are no **Afternoon Classes on March 29th.**



March is the month when the word "look!" becomes a welcome refrain.

As small signs of the transition to spring begin to emerge -- the initial buds on trees, the splash of bright color amid the brown as crocuses and forsythia bushes begin to brighten the outdoors -- children remind us to slow down

and notice these changes.

Each day in March, we experience those hints of blossoming to come. It's the perfect time for simple activities that bring you and your child closer to nature.

Create a construction spot for natural sculptures or fairy houses. Designate an outdoor space -- beneath a tree, the corner of a porch or patio -- the Construction Spot. Here, children can keep all the natural treasures they pick up as they go through their day. Are you finding the area around your child's car seat filled with rocks, feathers, and acorns? Periodically, those items can be relocated to the Construction Spot. Here, children can put together natural sculptures, make up games where the pieces are strangely shaped sections of bark and sticks, or [assemble fairy house villages](#)

Plant a small container garden together. Now is the time to get seeds started or to begin planning little pots of color or edible delights. Containers are manageable for children (and garden averse adults!) and can be shaped around a child's interests. Do you have a fan of [strawberries](#) living in your house? How about [pizza](#)?

As small children, our sense of change is largely shaped by the shifts that come with the seasons -- getting to wear shorts and sandals, picking flowers, swimming in the ocean or a lake, gathering leaves, carefully saving snowballs in the freezer. As we age, that

School Delays and Closings

TMS announces weather related school delays and closings on

WRIC [Channel 8](#).

Dressing for the Season

The word in weather circles it that more cold weather is on the way!



We will be outside so please dress your children appropriately and label gloves and hats with their names.

March Birthdays

Toddler

March 2nd: William's Birthday!
March 25th: Jackson's Birthday!

Primary

March 24th: Spencer's Birthday!

Elementary

March 21st: Stella's Birthday!

Staff

March 8th: Ms. Charlene's Birthday!
March 16th: Ms. Amanda's Birthday!
March 31st: Ms. April's Birthday!

Volunteer Opportunities

*** Plants for Primary:** In conjunction with the Primary discussion of germination and the needs of plants, we are looking for **parent volunteers to bring in two plants for each room** so the children can participate in an experiment to determine the positive effects of sunlight and

understanding deepens, and as it does, so too does the knowledge that with change can come joy or sadness. It is with a combination of both that we announce the coming departure of two TMS staff members.

Anna Tisdale will be leaving to join the graduate ornithology program at Appalachian State University. After receiving word that she has been awarded a grant and field position studying the Golden Wing Warblers that arrive in the Appalachians in April, Anna will be leaving earlier than she expected. Good luck, Anna!

Elizabeth Macharia, the lead teacher in the TMS Toddler Program, who with wisdom, energy, and loving kindness has given our youngest students such a beautiful start to their school journeys, will be leaving at the end of the school year to begin a new and wonderful chapter in her life. Her powerful influence will continue to be felt in the years to come at TMS, and even as we miss her daily presence, it will be with such admiration and gratitude that we celebrate her joyful future.

As the seasonal changes begin, I wish you all a month of many discoveries.

- Ms. Amanda

A Note From Ms. Elizabeth



As many of you know I got engaged at the beginning of the school year. My fiance lives in Chesapeake, VA and we have decided that I should be the one relocating.

It was a bittersweet moment for me because I love this school and all of you (the children are especially my favorite). I came here six years ago under the direction of Lauren Rogers, an elementary parent, and I fell in love with the school and got hooked on Montessori. Amanda took me under her wing and become not only my boss but a mentor. It is, therefore, not an easy thing for me to do but I know that I can always come in and visit my extended family.

So please give me a hug in the coming months as I embark on the new changes in my life and because I know I will need it.

I would like to say a huge thank you to each of you for your confidence in me as your child's teacher. Again I love you all and I will miss this place a lot. Thank you.

New Spanish Videos

Below is the first two in a series of videos being created to supplement the TMS Spanish program. The first video, featuring this month's Primary Vocabulary and Directions, will be followed by many others in the upcoming weeks. Future videos will feature vocabulary as well as Spanish songs.

This month's vocabulary, Animals, will be on the shelf in the Primary classrooms during the month of March. Parents of Ms. Holly's students will see these words and images coming home as books, while parents of Ms. April's students will see them in the form of flash cards.

water.

* **Egg Hiders:** If you would like to help hide eggs for our TMS Egg Hunt on March 29th, please arrive at one (or more) of the times below.

Toddler Hiders: 9:50 am
Primary Hiders: 10:50 am
Elementary Hiders; after drop-off

* **Sharing the Music:** If you play an instrument and would like to share music with the students during our month-long celebration, please contact the office.

* **Primary Easter Baskets:**
March 26th or 28th 9 - 11
This month there is a new volunteer opportunity. In conjunction with our Easter Egg Hunt we will be decorating Easter bags to collect our eggs. Interested parents please email Amanda or Stefani.

* **Gardeners:** Spring planting is just around the corner. We would like to fill the tire planters with flowers and get the beds ready for planting.

* **Playground Beautification:**
We would like to hammer down the pegs, rake the mulch, clear out the leaves, and make our playground beautiful for the Spring. Please let the office know if you are interested in volunteering your time for a one-day weekend project (probably a Sunday afternoon close to month's end).

Thank You to Group Time Readers!

Sophie Friedman and Avery Edmondson (Elementary), and Morgan Shigley, Violet Julien, Judah Weinstein, Tenzin Sutton, and Mackenzie Edmondson (Primary) all shared the gift of their reading skills as they read a Dr. Seuss classic to the classes at group time.

Thank you, readers!

The Return of Soccer!

Soccer begins March 7th.

If you have registered, please



TMS Spanish -- March Vocabulary: Animals



This video requires password: soundbox

Book Reviews for Toddler and Primary Students

As part of their Library Day experience, the Elementary Program students have begun reviewing books for their friends in the Toddler and Primary programs.

They are so excited that parents will be sharing their video with their children!



Any videos featuring children are password protected. The video password is "soundbox".

Montessori in the Home

remember to send your child in clothing and shoes that are appropriate for running. .

Calendar

Please Note: The [online version of the TMS Calendar](#) contains all updated scheduling information.

Continent Day Information

In anticipation of a South America Day activity, we ask that **Primary students bring one light colored pillowcase** (used is fine) with their name on it.

If you have any **South American artifacts** to share, please send them to school **care of Julie Hottinger**.

South America: Hottinger, Gallagher, Paris, Porter, Whitlow, Bove, & Bazianos

Australia: Clark, Coffey, Downs, Hamilton, & Martin

Dates of future Continent Day planning meetings are listed in the TMS Handbook.

New Living Visitor

We have found a Woody Bear Caterpillar on the grounds which we hope will become a Isabella Tiger Moth. We will keep the school community abreast of his development.

Weaving in the Studio

Primary Students have been working collaboratively on weaving tapestries. The results are quite remarkable!



We look forward to sharing the finished products with you!

The Questions: "What does it mean to be a Montessori parent?" "How can I help my child develop an independent spirit and a love for learning."

The Answer: Montessori in the Home: The Toddler Years

Come and join us for a coffee chat on March 19th at 10:15am.

We will be talking about integrating the philosophy of Montessori into your daily homelife.

Music Month in the TMS Primary Program!



Every March, TMS traditionally studies classical composers. This March we will still explore classical music but we will expand beyond classical to include other styles of music, as well. So in addition to Beethoven and Vivaldi, the students will learn about Winston Marsalis, Ella Fitzgerald, Woody Guthrie, Bob Marley, and many more.

There is a wealth of children's literature to complement our studies so look for the book titles we share with the students in weekly updates throughout the month.

The first week of march we will highlight classical composers. The second week will feature jazz and blues innovators. During week three, American folk troubadours will take us on musical journeys. And for the last week of March we will bring to the rhythms of reggae to TMS.

If your child has a favorite song in one of these genres please and have them bring a copy in for show and tell.

And finally, if **you** play a musical instrument and would like to arrange a day and time to share your music with the school we would love to have you for a visit!

Please call Amanda to schedule a day and time.

Special Dates This Semester: Conferences, Break, and Family Events

Here is an overview of the next few months of events that may require special planning: conferences, Spring Break, and Family Events where a parent or caregiver is asked to attend.

Friday, March 15
Staff Development Day
School is closed.

Friday, March 29
12:00pm
School Closes Early Noon

Monday, April 1- Friday, April 5
Spring Break

Tuesday, April 23
11:30am
School-wide Picnic for students and families
Afternoon & Elementary classes will resume following picnic.

Monday, April 29
Parent Teacher Conferences: No Classes for students

Friday, May 10, 2013
End-of-Year Family Field Trip
No classes

Friday, May 24, 2013
11:00am
School Closing Ceremony: All Classes

From the Toddler Classroom

Spring is coming soon!



To give the Toddlers a chance to experience the process of germination, they will be growing beans this month. They will experience the process of planting, waiting, and finally watching and celebrating as the first sign of the seedling emerges from the soil!

We will be learning about reptiles this month, as well as weather. The children will make weather books in which they document each day's weather.

South America will be our Continent of the Month.

From the Primary Classroom

The natural world is awakening and the classrooms are abuzz with the anticipation of Spring!



The classroom topics of study this month will include the continent of South America and the distinctions between Reptiles and Amphibians. We will be finishing up our rocks and minerals study which includes the opportunity for students to make their own cave with Stalactites and

Stalagmites. In preparation for our school visit from the Parrots of Paradise program, we'll be studying tropical birds.

In Food Preparation, we will be highlighting the holiday of St. Patrick's Day by making pots of gold.

Many of the Practical Life activities will incorporate the shamrocks, hats, and gold coins of St. Patrick's Day. In the weeks leading up to Easter, the students working in Practical Life will be opening and closing eggs, building rabbit towers, and tweezing chicks.

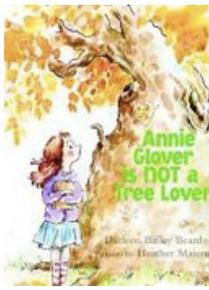
We also have lots of wonderful visitors this month. In conjunction with our Month of Music, we will be visited by The Richmond Academy of Music as well as the Richmond Symphony Quintet. As mentioned above, a new visitor to TMS this year is the Parrots of Paradise educational program. It features some beautiful tropical birds for the students to see, hear, and perhaps touch!

Parents of Afternoon students should have received their invitations for the **Afternoon Program Showcase** on **March 27th at 6pm**.

This will be a wonderful evening during which we highlight all the learning the Afternoon students have been doing over the last year at TMS.

This program is limited to Afternoon Program students and their parents.

From the Elementary Classroom



The Elementary students are in a wonderful and productive groove of work and discovery. In addition to all of their individual work, their group read-aloud time is a daily delight! Recently they finished *The Candymakers* by Wendy Mass and are nearly finished with *Annie Glover is NOT a Tree Lover* by Darlene Bailey Beard. Everyone is looking forward to seeing what Ms. Ali and Ms. Amy share next!

In addition to the pleasure of listening to a story as a group, Individual reading is a regular and much enjoyed part of the classroom experience. If you happen to walk past the classroom at 11:15 on a typical day, you can't hear a sound. But a glance inside will show you why. Every nose is in a book! Mysteries and poetry are still very popular with the students.

As part of our History explorations, we have been reading the *Story of the World* by Susan Wise Bauer over the last couple of weeks. Several of the students have been taken with the Ancient Egyptian time period and were able to convey their research findings in a brief play for their classmates.

In the coming weeks, we will be studying Frida Kahlo in Art, discovering circuitry using robotics and legos, and measuring the heart rate of Daphne, the microorganism, using our new classroom microscope.

Reminder: Elementary Spanish Research Presentation: Friday, May 17th @ 1:30 p.m. Details can be found below in "Spanish at TMS" section.

Art at TMS



The Elementary students' study of Frida Kahlo has inspired a flurry of portraiture!

The young artists in the Primary Afternoon Program have been hard at work as well, all in anticipation of the Afternoon Student Showcase. They are so excited to share their work!

Spanish at TMS



At the Primary Level, we will be learning new vocabulary from the topics "Family Members" and "Animals." This vocabulary will also be integrated into the Toddler Classroom on a daily basis with Ms. Teresa.

At the Elementary Level, we will review these same topics, as well as "Feelings." A "Practice Spanish in the Home!" vocabulary sheet will be coming home the first week of March. We will also be reading, "La Gallinita Roja," and singing "De Colores," "Cinco Patitos," and "Tres Gatos."

The Elementary Spanish students are hard at work on their Spanish research projects! Each student has spent several weeks researching a country in which Spanish is spoken as one of the primary languages. After writing a paragraph highlighting a facet of their research, they will work with Sra Stefani to translate and present their work in Spanish! The presentation will also feature an art project and an interactive activity they can share with friends, teachers, and visitors. Parents are encouraged to come!

Elementary Research Presentation: Friday, May 17th @ 1:30 p.m.

Chinese in the TMS Elementary Program



This month, the experienced Chinese students are going to learn from the Monkey King Chinese Book 2. Lesson 1 is about family, including: father, mother, brothers, and sisters. Students will learn how to introduce their families.

The beginning Chinese class students are going to learn about the body: head, ear, mouth, nose, hand, and foot. They'll also learn the song "If You're Happy and You Know It" in Chinese.

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to shelbydriskill@gmail.com by director@tuckahoemontessori.org | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Tuckahoe Montessori School | 4103 Monument Ave. | Richmond | VA | 23221