

## How Does Our Garden Grow?

The Montessori curriculum places great emphasis on the study of Botany and the respect and care for God's creatures. Students are presented the many ways that plants provide for our fundamental needs. Spring is a great time to study what plants need and how they grow. Even in the pre-primary classroom, students are learning about Botany with a hands-on approach. Many presentations are given of nomenclature and charts which detail the basic needs of plants, their parts, and the functions of these parts. You will see students taking part in all the steps of growing a garden. Students will plant and take care of a variety of both indoor and outdoor plants. After planting, students will make sure the plant has everything it needs. In the Elementary m, students explore Botany on a deeper level. Many students will learn about each step of photosynthesis and the importance of the plants' chlorophyll.



In addition to plants, Maria Montessori encouraged respect and care of all living things in nature. If your child gasps when you go to step on a small critter, he or she is respecting that living creature.

Especially when we are in nature; we are in their environment or home.

Some other activities that our students practice to take care of the living things and their space include: sweeping sidewalks, raking sticks and leaves, watering plants and feeding birds.



### Upcoming Events:

#### **Billy Dreher Island Field Trips**

##### **Room 2:**

Tuesday, May 7th

##### **Room 1:**

Wednesday, May 8th

##### **Elementary:**

Wednesday, May 15th

#### **Muffins for Mom**

Friday, May 10th  
6:30 - 8am

#### **Library Trips:**

Primary Room 1: TBA

Primary Room 2: TBA

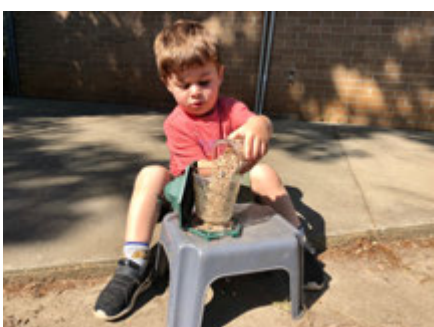
#### **Classroom Wishlist Items**

Lysol Wipes  
Copy Paper  
Toothpaste  
Shaving Cream

## A Look Into Our Classrooms

### **Pre-Primary:**

It has been an exciting month with spring blessing us with warmer weather and allowing for outdoor exploration. We have revisited and explored new lessons which enrich our growth in the care of the outdoors and respect for nature. Our class had a ball spring cleaning the outdoor classroom. We picked up sticks, bagged leaves and swept the sidewalk. Some of our favorite activities have been rock and birdhouse cleaning, bird watching, insect viewing and listening to the many new sounds that come with spring. We also had the pleasure of watching the the process of the life of a butterfly. After our butterflies came out of their cocoon, we released the butterflies outside as our tots intensively watched until they disappeared in the air. Our tots have learned that as daylight hours increase the



temperature changes. The days get longer and the soil becomes warmer, which in turn causes trees to grow and new leaves and flowers to bloom. It has been a month full of celebrations and introductions to wondrous places. We soared back in time through Europe to discover dinosaurs indigenous to the area many years ago. These experiences were a big hit with all of our dinosaur lovers. A surprise visitor, "Sam I Am," stopped by to read several Dr. Seuss books to our friends and the Cat in the Hat brought a delightful snack. The green eggs and ham may have looked strange but it was enjoyed by all.



## Primary Room 1:



This month our class studied the continent of South America. Lessons included physical features, cultures, biomes, countries and flags of the continent. We read The Great Kapok Tree and We're Sailing to Galapagos. We also made flags

and paper tearing maps. Students enjoyed studying the layers of the rainforest.

We studied the lifecycle of the butterfly. Students observed live caterpillars eat and grow for several days before they formed their chrysalis. Then, when we returned from spring break, the butterflies emerged!



## Primary Room 2:

We explored South America, specifically Brazil and the Amazon rainforest. The children learned the different layers of the rainforest and the animals that live in those layers. We've read the book The Great Kapok Tree. Many of the children painted the Kapok Tree and animals that we hung on the wall. We have also been studying the 3 R's associated with earth day, such as reduce, reuse, and recycle.



The children were able to bring aluminum, plastic, paper, and glass to recycle in separate bins. We studied the life cycle of a butterfly with live caterpillars.

Students got to see each process until the butterflies emerged. We also studied the parts of a leaf and different types of leaves. Some of the students went on a nature walk to see the different types, size, and styles of leaves.



## Elementary:



Students in the Elementary house enjoyed a field trip to McEntire Air Force base for a STEM day Air Show. Many students enjoyed climbing into a real helicopter and viewing all of the controls to fly it. Other students made paper airplanes and learned about aerodynamics. There were even snakes and alligators! We also started our botany and animal life cycle units. To begin this study, the classroom got live caterpillars. Students observed the caterpillars' growth each day. They sure grew fast! When we returned from spring break, we had butterflies. Students were excited to release them into the wild and watch them flourish in their natural habitat.



**Lower Elementary:**  
Students are learning how prefixes and suffixes change the meaning of base/root words. Many other students are working on writing short stories and paragraphs with a focused main idea. In math, lower elementary students are developing their multiplication skills. Some students are using those skills to multiply using a 2 or 3-digit multiplier.

### Upper Elementary:

Students are continuing their study on ancient civilizations; including Mesopotamia, Egypt and China. In math, upper elementary students have begun the study of decimals and percents. Many students can calculate sales tax and tip.



## Abner PTO: Friends of Abner

Friends of Abner is a non-profit 501c3 organization designed to help benefit Abner Montessori School and our surrounding community. You can support Friends of Abner in many ways. Choose Friends of Abner from the list of charities when you shop Amazon SMILE. Register our school on your Publix shopping account. You can also donate directly on the [Friends of Abner](#) website.



## 2019 - 2020 Enrollment and Registration

Enrollment is open for all classrooms. Please make sure you have submitted your intent to enroll and paid registration for the 2019 - 2020 school year to ensure your spot.

Also, new for 2019 - 2020 Abner Montessori School is excited to announce a scholarship that will reduce the tuition by 50% for 2019 - 2020 kindergarten students. All students who turn five before September 1, 2019 are eligible.