

## Puffin Class News May 2018



Dear Parents,

Happy May! We're in the home stretch before our summer program starts. Between the high spirits of soon-to-be-elementary students and the amazing weather we're finally enjoying, it's a wonder we're getting any work done. And yet, as you'll see from the pictures attached, we definitely are.

We've welcomed even more new children to our class. Claire, new to the school, just started in mid-April, as did Vienna, who moved up from the toddler class. As our newest classmates settle in, they're busy making new friends, getting lots of new lessons, and learning the culture of the class.

We've opened the garden back up for business. I'm an avid gardener, but I have to admit something to you: I can grow just about anything in the ground, but I'm not the one for plants in pots. If you see something alive and thriving in our classroom or in our garden, it's because the children took charge. Cucumbers and peas are in handmade paper pots and the patio planters, a tomato and a muscadine are waiting to be planted, and marigolds and sunflowers are coming as well.

The entire class is learning a set of continent-themed songs for the end-of-year celebration, and the older children are gearing up for their play. They've learned lines, are learning where to be on the stage as I write, and will make props and elements of their costumes. Some child asks me every day whether today is the day for the celebration. Not yet, of course, but it's coming, on Friday, May 18 at 10:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

A quick reminder: the summer program, which starts May 29, is NOT just two months of crafts and extra playground time. I will be at school mornings only, and Montessori work will continue apace. There will be some frivolity: The theme for this summer is Continents, and each week (two for North America, since it's our home) we'll rotate out new materials relating to the continent, and the younger children will enjoy on-campus field trips. In the afternoons, the tenor of the classroom will shift as the older children do theme-related projects; the 5-year-olds will take off-campus outings each week as well. Please do keep coming on time so your child can participate fully!

### Calendar:

**May 5:** Spring Carnival, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**May 18:** End of Year Celebration, 10:30 in the gym

**May 25:** Last Academic Day

**May 28:** Memorial Day — School Closed

*NOTE: While school remains open during regular hours through June and July, May 29 will mark the start of half-days for Montessori work. Please make sure to continue to come on time so your child can enjoy a full morning of Montessori activities each day!*



We welcome Claire to the class — showing off for the camera here as she prepares to put the beading work away.

Below: Josie listens carefully to a pair of bells from the diatonic scale (the ones you can normally see on the bells table). Our children learn pitch, and how to write and read music.



Above: Vienna, new to the class in mid-April, practices the screwdriver activity.

## Congratulations to our graduates!

**Collins** (shown at age 3, below) and **Suri** (shown at age 4, below right) both turn 6 this summer and are headed to first grade in the fall.

