

# MCHL NEWS

Montessori Children's House of Loudoun

January/February 2019

## RE-ENROLLMENT

Re-enrollment forms will be sent home on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Please complete and return it to MCHL no later than February 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions regarding our programs or the re-enrollment process, please call the office.

If you are not returning for the upcoming school year, please return the form, but check the box that indicates "Not re-enrolling".



*We hope the time with your family over Winter Break was filled with lots of joyous new memories. MCHL would love to hear about your family's Winter Break experiences. Any pictures or stories you have to share are welcome. Bringing these memories into class, where the students can see and share them, it builds a great home-school connection.*

**Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.**

*María Montessori*

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE MCHL STAFF TO .....**



all parents and grandparents who volunteered their time during the holidays. The children enjoyed learning new holiday customs and traditions.

Also, thank you for all of the generous gifts given to the staff in celebration of the holidays.

## OPEN HOUSE

MCHL will host an Open House for prospective families on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please share this information with your neighbors, friends and co-workers.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Check the weather report daily. The children should be prepared to go outdoors for recess every day, weather permitting. We prefer mittens instead of gloves and a hat. As always, please label all items with your child's name.



If your child wears boots to school, please send in an additional pair of shoes for your child's comfort.

<b><i>IMPORTANT DATES</i></b>	
January 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday MCHL CLOSED
January 25	OPEN HOUSE 9:00 – 12:00
	MOVIE NIGHT @ MCHL 5:30 pm
January 26	Social Painting 9:00-12:00
January 29	Tim Hall Magician
January 30	Rising Kindergarten Presentation 9:00 or 5:00
January 31	100 <sup>th</sup> Day Celebration Kindergarten Only
February 6	Chinese New Year Parade and Performance
February 7	Kindergarten Field Trip "Pete the Cat" Lisner Auditorium
February 11	Preschool Music Performance Room 3 and Room 2
February 12	Cody and BJ Performance
February 13	Preschool Music Performance Room 7, Room 4 and Room 8
	Re-enrollment Forms Due
February 18	President's Day MCHL CLOSED

# INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS OF RISING KINDERGARTNERS

All children who turn five years of age by September 30<sup>th</sup> are eligible for Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year. We would like to ask parents of these children to join us on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> in the MCHL Gym (9:00 or 5:00) for a special presentation regarding our Kindergarten program and its importance in the academic life of your child. We will have a slide presentation to show you some of the work the kindergarten children do in a Montessori setting. In addition, kindergarten teachers will be available for a "Question and Answer" session to help you make an informed decision about your child's kindergarten year.

Kindergarten at MCHL is an exciting year for children. Students remain with their mixed-age classmates in the morning hours, 8:30 – 12:00. During this time, each kindergarten child is encouraged to complete an appropriate math and language activity. Kindergarten is the year for the "Montessori explosion", when children blossom in all academic areas and demonstrate their independence and self-confidence.

After 11:30, the Kindergarten students are combined into two groups, and each group is team taught by two Montessori teachers. These afternoon classes are designed to prepare the children for the transition into First grade. Every day, during MCHL Kindergarten time, the children focus on one educational concept, whether it is in Math, Language, Science, Geography or Social Studies. The teacher presents the lesson and the children then follow up with a related activity. Children work at their own skill level and the teachers monitor to make sure that everyone has understood the lesson. Additional work and individual instruction are part of this process.

MCHL Kindergarten students also work with the specialist teachers every day. They have Music and Spanish twice a week. Art and Computer class are taught weekly. Kindergartners take three or four field trips throughout the year and also have special in-house educational opportunities.

Children who leave MCHL after Kindergarten are confident, well prepared, and ready for the challenges of a new school. Please consider MCHL for your child's Kindergarten year.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH NEWS



Thank you for calling the office to report when your child is ill. It is helpful for other families to know what symptoms to look for if their child is not feeling well.

Please remember your child must be free of any symptoms (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or debilitating cough) for a full 24 hours before s/he can return to school. If you bring your child back to school too soon, the staff is required to ask you to take him/her home. We appreciate your cooperation.

Children who are too ill to go outside for recess should remain at home until they are well enough to go outdoors. The children go outside every day, weather permitting. If your child needs to remain indoors during recess, you must submit a note from his/her pediatrician.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



MCHL will use Fairfax and Loudoun County public schools as a guideline for delays and/or closures due to inclement weather. We may choose to open since we do not have to deal with bus transportation issues. Therefore, we would request everyone check our website or call the office to see if we are open. This information will be posted on our website and answering machine by 6:30 am.

If, during the course of the day, roads are expected to become extremely hazardous, and Fairfax or Loudoun County schools close early due to deteriorating weather conditions, MCHL may close early.

Should an early closing be anticipated, MCHL will make every attempt to reach you via mass email, but it is your responsibility to check the website, [www.mchl.org](http://www.mchl.org), on days of inclement weather. Also, be aware that it is your responsibility to keep us informed of your correct email address for our Google group.

***In the event of a mid-day closing, please have a back-up neighbor or parent who will be available to pick up your child.***

**NOTE:** There are no deductions in tuition due to days MCHL must close due to adverse weather conditions.

## SOCIAL PAINTING



Social Painting is back! It does not matter if you have not painted before, it is all about having fun and taking home a masterpiece.

Just like last time, there will be acrylic paints, canvas and some paint brushes to share. Our next class will be held on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. We will start promptly at 9:00 am and be done by noon.

*For the class to take place, at least six participants are needed to sign-up.* Feel free to invite friends and family. First come, first served. This event is for adults only.

If interested in attending, reserve your spot by signing your name on the list, located at the main office and by paying \$25 dollars (payable to MCHL PTA).

Ms. Nilsa will be hosting this event. Thank you and let's have fun!

## 100<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL

On Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, the Kindergartners will have a pizza and cake party to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School. Each Kindergartner is required to create a project that demonstrates the concept of 100.

In the past, the projects included 100 Skittles, 100 bunnies, 100 gum balls, 100 warriors, 100 stars, and even 100 spoken languages. The projects will be displayed in the hallway for your enjoyment.



## TIM HALL MAGICIAN



Tim Hall is a nationally recognized entertainer, comedy magician and mind reader. He will join us on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> for two performances.



## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



The Year 2019 is the "Year of the Pig" on the Chinese calendar. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the children will have a parade at school and our Mandarin class will do a presentation for our students in the gym.



# PRESCHOOL MUSIC PERFORMANCE



You are cordially invited to attend a “special” Music class with the preschool children (no kindergartners).

During this time, you will have the opportunity to observe what we do in Music class on a weekly basis. Class will include singing, instrument play, and some free dance. We will meet in Room 5. The times and dates are as follows:

Monday February 11		Wednesday February 13	
10:00 – 10:30	Room 3	9:30 - 10:00	Room 7
		10:15 – 10:45	Room 4
10:45 – 11:15	Room 2	11:00 - 11:30	Room 8

## CODY & BJ



Cody and BJ return to MCHL on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> for a fun and lively show celebrating Valentine’s Day. The theme for the program is **“Be Our Valentine”**. The “kazoo” band will play while Cody & BJ sing. There will be lots of dancing and band playing too.



## VALENTINE’S DAY



All children are welcome to bring Valentine cards to school on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you leave the envelopes unaddressed (blank). Your child’s name should be on all the cards s/he is distributing. Also, please send the cards to school in a bag with your child’s name written clearly on it. More information will be provided by your child’s teacher.

# PARENT EDUCATION RESOURCES



Parents often ask the teachers at MCHL for a recommendation for parenting classes. One local resource is Dr. Rene Hackney, who specializes in child development. Her practice, Family Compass, offers interactive parenting workshops as well as coaching and consultation. Some of the topics discussed in the parent workshops include positive discipline, calm parenting, sleep issues, self-esteem and potty training. For more information, please visit:

<http://familycompass.com/>



# AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS OFFERED AT MCHL



**Happy Feet Soccer** continues each Monday. The cost is \$65 per month. You can register online at [www.happyfeetsoccer.com](http://www.happyfeetsoccer.com).



The next session started on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Enrollment is limited to 7 children per session. If you would like to enroll your child, please contact them at [www.pk4kids.com](http://www.pk4kids.com) or [donna@pk4kids.com](mailto:donna@pk4kids.com).



**Mercier School of Dance** is every Thursday afternoon. Please visit their website for registration information.

[www.mercierschoolofdance.com](http://www.mercierschoolofdance.com)



Play-Well TEKologies offer “Intro to STEM” LEGO and DUPLO classes at MCHL! The next session starts on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

The DUPLO class is for children 3-4 years old and is 1 hour long.

The LEGO class is for children 5 years old and is 1 ½ hours long.

Please visit their website, [www.play-well.org](http://www.play-well.org) or contact Ian Phillips [ian@play-well.org](mailto:ian@play-well.org) for more information. Class size is limited to 14 students.



The next session for Art Enrichment Class will start on January 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:00. This eight-week session is offered for children between the ages of 4½ - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Enrollment forms are located on the table by the main entrance. If you would like additional information, please email Elizabeth Leach at [startingartists101@gmail.com](mailto:startingartists101@gmail.com).