Tis the Season . . .

With only a few short weeks until Winter Break, there is a great deal of excitement in the air at MCHL. The children will spend the next few weeks learning about holiday traditions around the world. If you are interested in sharing your holiday traditions and customs, please contact your child’s teacher. Each teacher will send home information about class holiday parties.

If you are looking for some “family oriented” adventures, the metropolitan DC area has many exciting events scheduled during the holiday season.

Please visit, https://www.certifikid.com/, it is a “Groupon for Kids” website with awesome discounts.

Also, check out these websites for more family fun.

https://nationalzoo.si.edu/events/zoolights
https://www.restontowncenter.com/holidays-rtc/
https://thelightupfest.com/ Dates TBD
https://dullesmoms.com/chanukah/
https://dullesmoms.com/historic-leesburgs-christmas-holiday-parade/

OFFICE NEWS

MCHL will provide tuition receipts upon request for tax purposes in January 2020. Our Tax I.D. Number is 54-1748774. If you have any additional questions, please contact the office by phone or via email at info@mchl.org.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

MCHL will use Fairfax and Loudoun County public schools as a guideline for delays and/or closure due to inclement weather. We may choose to open sooner than the public schools since we do not have to deal with bus transportation issues. Therefore, we would request that everyone check their email, 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, 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December TBD</td>
<td>Angel Giving Tree</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by MCHL PTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>Movie Night @ 5:00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by MCHL PTA</td>
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<td>December 20</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<td>December 23 – Jan</td>
<td>Winter Break</td>
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<td>(MCHL Closed-Classes resume January 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr.</td>
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<td>Holiday (MCHL Closed)</td>
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The classrooms at MCHL, as in all Montessori classrooms around the world, have an area devoted to Sensorial education. Simply put, the Sensorial materials are designed to help the child in discriminating among sizes, colors, shapes, smells, textures and sounds. Our youngest children are drawn to the Knobbed Cylinders and the Pink Tower. Each of these materials allows the child to explore size on a very concrete level. As in all of the areas of the classroom, the materials in the Sensorial area are sequenced from simple to more complex. Initial lessons are given to the children with minimal language – for example, we present the Color Tablets (a box containing the three primary colors in pairs) as a matching activity before we give the names for each of the colors.

We encourage all of the children to work with the Sensorial materials – to feel the cubes, listen to the different sound cylinders, trace the various geometric shapes in the Geometric Cabinet, well before we provide the language of “this is the smallest” or “this is a cube”. As in the area of Practical Life, the Sensorial materials are also designed to foster concentration and coordination. All of the teachers have enjoyed watching a child intent on balancing the smallest cylinder on top of a tower of ten, or thoroughly engrossed in grading the various shades of blue from darkest to lightest that are provided in the Color Tablets.

In addition to refining the senses and encouraging concentration, the Sensorial materials provide the foundation for math. Before a child can understand quantity on an abstract level, we guide them to the red rods, or the brown stair, where they can actually see and feel rods or prisms increasing in size by a given unit of measure.

Other Sensorial materials include smelling bottles, which children enjoy matching various scents, baric tablets, which vary in weight, and tasting activities which focus on salty, sweet, bitter and sour. Collectively, the Sensorial materials provide a variety of ways for children to learn about their world in a way that is both inviting and age-appropriate.

_Do not tell them how to do it. Show them how to do it and do not say a word. If you tell them, they will watch your lips move. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves._

Maria Montessori
ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS OFFERED AT MCHL

Sign up for a free demo in the office!

Mother’s Morning Out

This unique class offers children (18 months – 3 years) their first experience in a classroom setting with activities such as story time, songs, dancing, circle time, art projects, recess and free play. MCHL staff will guide your child through these activities while your child also gets the opportunity to socialize with other children their same age.

Class is in session Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 11:30 / $35 per morning or monthly at a discounted rate ($25 per morning).

Happy Feet Soccer continues each Monday. The cost is $65 per month. You can register online at www.happyfeetsoncer.com.

Piano Keys 4 Kids

Piano Keys 4 Kids is on Tuesdays. Enrollment is limited to 8 children per session. Enrollment forms are located on the table outside of the office. For more information, please email Donna Hancock at donna@pk4kids.com.

Mercier School of Dance is pleased to be offering onsite dance classes for the 2019-20 season! We offer Creative Dance/Story Ballet for the youngest age group (2.5-3.5) and Pre-B ballet/Jazz for the older age group (4-6).

Dance class is on Thursday afternoons starting at 2:50pm. Our registration is all-online and classes are $60.00 a month with a $20 enrollment fee.

The teacher for MCHL is Ms. Catherine Bacha; she has been teaching for 23 years and is amazing! Her bio is on our website.

Register Now: www.mercierschoolofdance.com/register

Play-Well TEKnologies offer LEGO and DUPLO classes!

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 long.

Please visit their website, www.play-well.org for more information. Class size is limited to 14 students.

DEMO CLASS IS NOT AVAILABLE