



MCHL NEWS



Montessori Children's House of Loudoun

March / April 2020

Spring is *almost* here. It is March and there is anticipation for sunny days, no coats, and nature's rebirth. Yet, for the teachers at MCHL, it is a bittersweet time. As we look forward to the new faces that will join MCHL, we are faced with saying good-bye to our graduating kindergartners.

All of us at MCHL call this the "Montessori Explosion". Suddenly, at age 5 or 6, the child's exploration of his Montessori environment, his manipulation of the materials, his interactions with teachers and peers reach fruition. For the kindergartner, there is this moment of "Aha! I know how to do things. I can do things by myself." Math concepts become clear, letters become words to read, and friendships become important. Children learn to work within a group, sharing information and ideas, and they realize that they are part of a larger community, in a world of similarities, as well as differences. All of this is the magic of your child's kindergarten year at MCHL. Parents, thank you for believing in the Montessori philosophy and allowing your child to complete the cycle.



All families should be using this feature on a daily basis. If you are experiencing any issues, please stop by the office to have your account re-set.

RE-ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Recently, re-enrollment forms were distributed to all currently enrolled children at MCHL. If you haven't already done so, please return the form as soon as possible. We have begun placing children from our wait list into classrooms.

Contracts will be distributed later this month. The first installment is due on June 1, 2020.

OFFICE NEWS



Our Tax I.D. Number is 54-1748774. If you need a tuition receipt for tax purposes, please call or email the office.



Please update the office with any changes to your email address/home/work/cell phone numbers. It is imperative that we are able to reach you in the event of an emergency.



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.

IMPORTANT DATES	
March 17	St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Week of March 23	Scholastic Book Fair
March 26	Pajama Night
April 2	Peter McCory – The One Man Band
April 10	Teacher Workday MCHL Closed
April 21	Picture Day Room 2, 4, 8 and Class of 2020
April 22	Picture Day Room 3, 7, 12
April 23	Picture Day Room 1, 9, 10, 11
April 24	MCHL PTA Spring Fling and Silent Auction 5:30-8:00 pm MCHL Gym
May 11	Kindergarten Field Trip "Magic School Bus" George Mason University
June 11	Kindergarten Graduation Horizon ES 7 pm

SPRING IS IN THE AIR



The first day of Spring is March 19th. Here are a few basic reminders:

-  Check the weather report daily.
-  Fresh air is healthy for children.
-  Please "layer" your child's clothing.
-  Update your child's change of clothes in their cubby for the warm spring weather.
-  If your daughter wears a skirt or dress to school, please have them wear shorts underneath.
-  Remember to put your child's name on clothing, lunch bags, etc.
-  Please send your children to school with appropriate and safe shoes. No flip flops or Crocs, please.
-  Please sanitize your child's lunch box on a regular basis.

RAINBOW BENCH

MCHL PTA



Many thanks to the MCHL PTA!!! They recently installed "Rainbow Benches" on our playgrounds. They give our students a safe place to sit during recess if they are feeling lonely or do not feel like they can ask other kids to play. When a child sits on the bench, it sends a signal to the students they would like to play. Many times children do not have the words when they need a friend and this is a way to say it without saying anything.

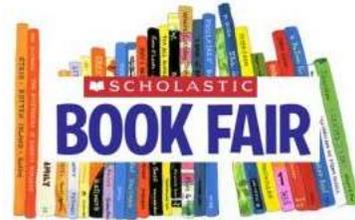
The One Man Band



Peter McCarty, "The One Man Band" will join us for a performance on Thursday, April 2nd. He will be playing music kids and parents love – lively renditions of familiar songs, folk songs, novelty numbers. The children especially enjoy his amazing "light show".

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Sponsored by the MCHL PTA



The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the MCHL Lunchroom March 23 - 27. Please stop in to take a look at the vast selection of books. If you cannot shop at the Book Fair during the hours posted, an on-line fair will be held throughout the week and you can order books to be delivered to MCHL or your home.

PAJAMA STORY TIME

Sponsored by the MCHL PTA



In conjunction with the Scholastic Fair, the MCHL PTA is hosting a "Pajama Story Time" on Thursday evening, March 26th from 6:00 - 7:00. Pizza and beverages will be available for purchase.

Students and alumni are invited to come dressed in their pajamas, bring their favorite stuffed animal and listen to teachers read stories. Clifford the Big Red Dog might join us for a photo session.



Parents will be able to shop at the Book Fair while the children enjoy story time. If you plan to stay with your child during story time, please refrain from using your cell phone.

MONTESSORI 101

THE MONTESSORI MATH

EXPERIENCE

The purpose of the math curriculum in a Montessori classroom is to allow children to experience and explore mathematical concepts such as length, width, depth, quantity, distance, weight, time and measurement. The teaching materials are concrete tools that help the child understand an abstract idea.

For instance, the child is first introduced to the concept of quantity. The red and blue rods (10 rods graded in length and segmented) are used to show the child a very visual, tactile representation of the quantities 1 to 10. The child can easily see the difference in the length of '3' compared to the length of '7'. There are many different activities in the classroom that help the child grasp the notion of quantity. It is only after a child works with various quantities that they are introduced to the numerical symbol and are able to associate the two.

As the child moves through the math curriculum, they will encounter several math functions. Working with the counting rods, the bead stair or the spindle boxes allow the child to gain an understanding of numeration and quantity 1 to 10. Next, a child is exposed to the teen numbers and begins to understand the concept of linear counting as they learn to use the bead chains and the hundred board. Older children are introduced to place value as well as the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Again, all of these operations are initially performed with concrete, manipulative materials. Colored beads are used when adding and subtracting. A combination of beads and blocks are used when learning about place value. The child is again able to feel and see the differences between a single bead, a bar of 10 beads, a square of 100 beads and a cube of 1000 beads.

A child uses these concrete tools until they can internalize the abstract numbers and concepts.



Picture Days

(We will start promptly at 9:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, April 21

Room 2

Room 4

Room 8

Class of 2020

Wednesday, April 22

Room 3

Room 7

Room 12

Thursday, April 23

Room 1

Room 9

Room 10

Room 11



Wear your best smile!

*March winds
and April showers
bring forth May flowers.*

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS



It is hard to believe that your children will be leaving MCHL in the near future. We will miss them but they will definitely be ready to move on to the next stage of their lives.

To help them with that transition, we are offering a Summer Program so they will not have to make any changes in their daily schedule until they begin 1st grade. Stop by the office for additional information.

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/>

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