



MCHL News



Montessori Children's House of Loudoun

October 2023

OFFICE NEWS



We have exciting news to share!

MCHL is no longer using the ProCare app. You should have received an invite from "Brightwheel", our new software app. An email was sent to all of our families last month asking you to download the app. Families are also required to enter their billing information via Brightwheel.

Please install the app and sign your child **in and out** each day using the QR codes on the entry doors.

If you are experiencing difficulties using the app, please let us know.

WHAT IS MONTESSORI?

The programs at MCHL are designed to meet the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive needs of each child. Children are encouraged to develop good work habits and share in the responsibility of their learning. They work at their own pace and on their own level with gentle guidance from dedicated teachers. The Montessori materials are designed to appeal to the child's natural desire to learn. They are divided into the following areas:

Practical Life – Activities in this area are designed to give children opportunities to practice the skills necessary for everyday life. Children get great satisfaction in the simple tasks that allow them to pour, spoon, scrub and sweep. Not only is the child working towards independence, but the activities help in developing concentration, coordination and a sense of order. Children are taught how to care for their own environment and are given lessons in grace and courtesy.

Sensorial – The sensorial materials provide the children with opportunities to explore colors, shapes, smells and sounds. Children learn best when allowed to touch, feel, hold, smell, listen and taste. These materials are designed to refine the senses while also preparing the child for further learning in math and language.

Language – The verbal skills of the young are stimulated every moment at MCHL through conversation and exposure to high quality children's books. Reading and writing are intimately connected and integrated strategies are offered to ensure success. The tracing of sandpaper letters provides the tactile, phonetic foundation for later reading. A variety of fun and enriching activities are available to facilitate the child's emerging writing skills, beginning with the early scribbling stage to keeping a daily journal.

Mathematics – A basic tenet of Montessori education is that understanding is often a matter of seeing and touching. Special equipment helps the child to absorb abstract concepts through the use of concrete materials. A broad spectrum of activities in the room allows one child to count sets of five or six buttons while next to him a child is adding four digit numbers through the use of manipulatives.

Culture – Art and Music activities are an integral part of the curriculum and available to the children every day. Lessons in geography are enriched through songs, crafts, and guest speakers from the region being studied.

In future issues you will read about different types of Montessori materials, methods and enrichment programs available at MCHL.

 IMPORTANT DATES 	
October 4	MCHL PTA Meeting 5:00-6:00 MCHL Gym
October 9	Indigenous Peoples' Holiday MCHL Closed
October 17	Field Trip Kindergarten and Elementary Great Country Farm Sponsored by MCHL PTA
October 24	MCHL Pumpkin Patch
Nov. 7, 8 and 9	Picture Days

IMPORTANT SAFETY PROCEDURES RELATED TO ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL



1. The traffic flow at MCHL is one-way only, clockwise around the building.
2. There is NO PARKING in front of the building. Parents are asked to be considerate and park in the outer parking spaces. Please observe the safety rules in our parking lot. Parents are required to supervise their children during arrival and dismissal at MCHL.
3. Please be **ON TIME** for dismissal. Children have difficulty waiting. Late arrivals can upset the children. It is imperative you pick up your children at their designated contract time.
4. Please refrain from talking on your cell phone during drop-off and pick-up. MCHL is a no cell phone zone.



IMPORTANT HEALTH NEWS

Thank you for calling the office to report when your child is ill. Please remember that your child must be free of any symptoms (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or debilitating cough) for a full 48 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 home until they are well enough to go out. 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.

LUNCHROOM NEWS

PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES!

Please pack nutritious foods for your child. Also, label your child's lunch box on the outside so the staff can find it quickly, and use a thermos or ice pack to keep your child's food at an acceptable temperature. Parents are asked to send their child's lunch ready-to-eat. Do not send in food that requires heating for lunch – Hot Pockets, ravioli, frozen foods, etc. Candy is not permitted at MCHL. Also, please make sure your child has his/her lunch and snacks each day.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES



All holidays are celebrated at MCHL in a child-appropriate way. Your child's teacher will send home more information in their class newsletter.

It is MCHL policy children do not wear or bring costumes to school.

