



MCHL NEWS



Montessori Children's House of Loudoun

December 2023

Tis the Season . . .



There are only a few short weeks until Winter Break and 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 [certifikid.com](https://www.certifikid.com), it is a "Groupon for Kids" with awesome discounts.

<https://www.certifikid.com/deals/popular/sterling-va>

Also, check out these websites for more family fun:

<https://dullesmoms.com/holidayfun/>

<https://www.funin Fairfaxva.com/dc-winter-lantern-festival-virginia/>

<https://www.funin Fairfaxva.com/holiday-lights-northern-virginia/>

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/events/zoolights>

<https://www.leesburgva.gov/departments/parks-recreation/events/holidays-in-leesburg>

IMPORTANT DATES	
December 20	Last day of classes
December 21 – January 1	Winter Break (MCHL Closed-Classes resume January 2)
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (MCHL Closed)

OFFICE NEWS



Winter has arrived! Before you leave home, please check the weather report. Temperatures often drop during the day, leaving children uncomfortable outside. The children will still continue to have daily outdoor recess (weather permitting), so please dress your child accordingly. Mittens are preferred unless your child can put on gloves without assistance. Also, please put your child's name on all of those nice new jackets and coats!



MCHL will provide tuition receipts upon request for tax purposes in January 2024. 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 everyone check their email/Brightwheel app or call the office to see if we are opening on-time or if our opening will be delayed. Our decision will be made no later than 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 / Brightwheel app on days of inclement weather. Also, be aware that it is your responsibility to keep us informed of your correct email address.

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.

MONTESSORI 101- SENSORIAL

The classrooms at MCHL, as in all Montessori classrooms around the world, have an area devoted to Sensorial education. 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.

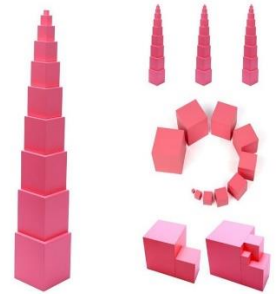
Other Sensorial materials include smelling bottles, which children enjoy matching various scents, baric tablets, which vary in weight, and tasting activities which focus on salty, sweet, bitter and sour. Collectively, the Sensorial materials provide a variety of ways for children to learn about their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



Knobbed Cylinders



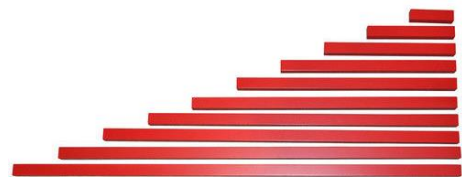
Pink Tower



Color Tablets



Geometric Cabinet



Red Rods



Brown Stairs



Smelling Bottles



Baric Tablets

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

A heartfelt thank you to all who made our book fair such a success! We could not have reached our goal without the hard work of volunteers and the strong support of all the families who purchased books. Thank you so much!!!



This month's article will focus on supporting very young writers. Preschool children love to write – they're always in search of a marker or crayon. Those early scribbles are an important step on the path to literacy. You can support a young writer's efforts in some very simple ways. And it's never too early to start!

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/supporting-very-young-writers>

PARKING LOT SAFETY ISSUES

We would like to address some safety issues regarding our parking lot. We all need to heed to safer parking lot behavior. An extra few minutes and consideration for others will provide everyone with a safe arrival and departure from school.

If everyone practices safer driving and walking through the parking areas, we will give the children a good and safe example of their future behavior. Please notify anyone who is responsible for drop off and/or pick up of your child.

Some things to remember:

- **No Phone Zone.** Parents should never be using their phones when dropping their children off or picking them up. It is unsafe while driving and walking in the parking lot. Plus, they should give their child the courtesy of attention during this 5-minute process of dropping off/picking up.

- **Traffic goes one way (clockwise) around the school.** Please obey the **ONE-WAY** signs and arrows indicating the direction of traffic flow. It is unsafe to drive against the direction of traffic, particularly in areas where people enter and exit the school. It also causes the potential for a head-on collision. Although it may be tempting to take a shortcut and drive into the front lot against traffic, it is a hazard for everyone. Follow the loop around the school with the proper traffic flow. Also, remember we have 3 entrances.

- **Drive slowly and with great caution.** Drivers must be especially careful. Children can pop out between cars, shake loose from holding hands and can be unpredictable about which direction they may run. Keep the speed to a minimum in the parking lot. Please do not speed up the hill if you are running late. It is hard to see a car coming too fast until it is right upon you in front of the building. If anyone, children or adults, is walking in the parking lot, do not continue to drive near or around them. Give them a chance to get out of harm's way. We do not want anyone to be bumped by a car.

- **Hold onto all children at all times** while in the parking lot. Children should never be unattended or walking without an adult. Because children can be unpredictable, it is suggested to hold their hands at all times for their own safety.

- **No parking in the front spaces of the main entrance.** Please use one of the many spaces available around the perimeter of the school. It is unsafe to park directly in front of the school during arrivals and dismissals. The handicap spaces are for cars that display the handicap sign in their windshield.



www.facebook.com/groups/mchlparents/

