

# MCHL NEWS

Montessori Children's House of Loudoun

January/February 2024



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.

Maria Montessori

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE MCHL STAFF



Thank you to our 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.

## 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 9<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**.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



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.



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



Please label your child's belongings with their first and last name.

### IMPORTANT DATES

January 2	Classes Resume
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day MCHL Closed
January 29	Rising Kindergarten Presentation 5:00-6:00 pm
	Rising Elementary Presentation 6:00-7:00 pm
February 2	100 <sup>th</sup> Day Celebration Kindergarten Only
February 8	Chinese New Year Celebration
February 9	Re-enrollment Forms Due
February 14	Valentine's Day Celebrations
February 19	President's Day MCHL CLOSED
March 25-29	Spring Break 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 2024-2025 school year. We would like to ask parents of these children to join us in the MCHL Gym on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:00 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 – 11:30. 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 Montessori certified 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 Spanish twice a week. Computer class is taught weekly. Kindergartners 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.

## **INFORMATION SESSION FOR** **PARENTS OF RISING** **ELEMENTARY**

We would like to invite you to the Elementary classroom on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 for a presentation of the Elementary curriculum. We will have a slide show as well as an assortment of work prepared for you to observe. The Elementary teacher will be available for any questions you have.

All children who have completed Kindergarten are eligible for our Lower Elementary program. Montessori in the Elementary years is unique in its individually paced curriculum that challenges children academically and bolsters their well-being and sense of self. As members of a respectful community, they learn to question, think critically, and take responsibility for their learning—skills that will support them in later education and life.

The Montessori Elementary program expands upon the experiences in the Early Childhood and Kindergarten programs and introduces new challenges appropriate to their developmental progress. Elementary students continue their work with the specialists with Spanish three times a week as well as Art, Yoga, and Movement. Mornings are spent in individual lessons and work in Language, Mathematics, Geography, and the Sciences. In the afternoons, they study History and Science in large group lessons. The multi-age grouping of children ages 6 – 9 provides a mix in which children can collaborate and socialize. These inter-age relationships strengthen the entire community. Older children are seen as role models within the community. They support the growth and development of younger children through socialization, assisting with new work, or teaching skills they have mastered themselves. They can also work with younger students in areas of the curriculum in which they may need more practice, without stigma. Younger children follow the example set by the older students and have peers to work within areas of the curriculum in which they may be more advanced.

This multi-age community provides opportunities for all individuals to learn from each other, at times leading, sharing, or serving as role models. It also develops an appreciation of differences.

The Elementary program is based on the belief that children learn best through movement and work with their hands, and provides cognitive, social, and emotional

support to help them reach their full potential. Children work through the curriculum at their own pace, accelerating during some tasks or taking additional time with others. This includes addressing their needs as they enter a new period of development characterized by a transition from concrete to abstract thinking, a growing interest in socialization, thinking, and memory that is enhanced by creativity and imagination, and an interest in fairness, social justice, and compassion.

## VALENTINE'S DAY



All children are welcome to bring Valentine cards to school on Wednesday, February 14. 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.

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

On Friday, February 2<sup>nd</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.



## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



The Year 2024 is the "Year of the Dragon". The Dragon symbolizes power, nobleness, honor, luck, and success in traditional Chinese culture.

On Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Lisa will make dumplings with her Mandarin students. They will also perform for the students with a parade and songs on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>!



## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Afterschool programs will continue at MCHL. If you would like your child to participate in a free demo, please contact the office. Additional copies of the flyers are located on the table outside of the office.



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