



## OFFICE NEWS

The first two months of the school year have been a success as our teachers and children have settled into their daily routines and schedules. They have helped to establish the rules for their class. The rules encompass respect and care for self, others and our school. The children have really become great friends with each other. We are proud of each child's accomplishments and enjoy watching them grow!

We need to remember children learn through play and interaction with their peers and adults. Consistency and continuity is extremely important in the development of each child. With consistency, a child learns routines, rules and expectations. We try our best to provide this each day. Attendance plays a big part in the day and life of a child to maintain that continuity. **Please try to arrive "on time" each day.**

We were also very busy during the month of October. The children were enthusiastic to learn about the different parts of a pumpkin and enjoyed the many "pumpkin" activities at MCHL. We also had a great time at our Halloween celebrations. Never a dull moment!

*"Earlier is not better. All children accomplish milestones in their own way, in their own time."*

*Maria Montessori*



Parent-Teacher Conferences are ongoing during the month of November. If you have not already contacted your child's teacher to set up a time/day to meet, please do so as soon as possible.

The purpose of the conference is to acquaint you with the Montessori approach to education and child development. This also gives new parents an insight into their child's beginning adjustment and reactions to the school.

Do not miss this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher. This is the time to learn about your child's progress and express any concerns you may have.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



All families should be using the Brightwheel App to sign their child in/out daily.



If you received an access card, please use it.



If you anticipate you will be late for pick up, please contact us so your child can avoid waiting in the hallway for dismissal.





Please remember to take home all bedding (crib sheets and blankets) each week to be laundered. Infants are required to take their bedding home daily.



Your child's lunchbox should be sanitized on a regular basis. Soda, candy and gum are not permitted. Please read the labels of the many popular "natural" food and snacks – many are loaded with sugars and additives.



The weather is often unpredictable, so please dress your child in "layers" to allow teachers to make adjustments for changes in weather.

 <u>IMPORTANT DATES</u> 	
November	Parent Teacher Conferences
November 6	The Great Zucchini 9:30
November 7	MCHL Spirit Night Chik-fil-A 3:00-8:00
November 11 – 15	Scholastic Book Fair
November 14	Pajama Night
November 20	Sterling Pediatric Dentistry 9:30 – 10:30
November 27 - 29	Thanksgiving Holiday (MCHL closed)
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	Winter Break (MCHL closed)

## CASCADES CLUB Upper Level

The Cascades Club meets every day from 3:00-6:00. Each class has a short Circle Time for stories, songs and attendance. The activity of the day is introduced to the children and they are asked if they would like to participate. If a child is not interested in participating, they are always free to choose from a different activity, game or work that appeals to them. We have classrooms full of Montessori materials, games and toys.

Your child's class will spend time outside on the playground, weather permitting. There is also a scheduled gym time and we take advantage of this time when the weather is too cold or severe to go outside.

We have been offering simple cooking projects for the children. The preparation is fun but the eating is even better. If your child has allergies, please send in a special treat for your child to keep on hand at school.

There will also be art projects as the children love art! These projects include paint, markers, chalk, collage work, play dough, pin punching and sewing. Many children will participate but some may prefer to play games or play with the toys. No pressure!

MCHL also offers Soccer, Dance, Piano and Ukulele afterschool options.

One last note – please remember to sign your child out on the Brightwheel App.

There will be an assortment of age-appropriate books on display for you to purchase. A portion of the proceeds will go directly to the MCHL PTA.

In conjunction with the Scholastic Book Fair, The MCHL PTA is hosting a Pajama Story Time on Wednesday November 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00. Students and alumni are invited to come in their pajamas and slippers to hear their teacher and/or guest readers read stories. Parents will be able to shop at the fair while the children enjoy story time.

Pizza will be available for purchase from 5:00 – 6:00.



The Great Zucchini will join us on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> for a special In-House Performance! He is a professional children's entertainer who specializes in performing for children ages 2 to 6 in the Washington Metropolitan Area. According to the *Washington Post* he is "Washington's top preschool entertainer" and "just stupendously great with kids." The performance will start at 9:30 in the MCHL Gym.



Sponsored by the MCHL PTA  
November 11 - 15

The MCHL PTA will host a Scholastic Book Fair the week of November 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to support our school while also doing some holiday shopping or an opportunity for your child to select a book for the MCHL Holiday Book Exchange!



Sterling Pediatric Dentistry will stop by MCHL on Wednesday, November 20. They will talk to the children about the importance of caring for their teeth.

UPPER LEVEL	9:30 – 10:00
LOWER LEVEL	10:00 – 10:30

# MONTESSORI 101

The core of the Montessori curriculum is rooted in the area called “Practical Life”. The exercises in this area of the curriculum are designed to foster independence, self-confidence, coordination, self-control and a sense of order – characteristics that play a critical role in subsequent intellectual growth. Color-coded items and their location on the shelf help categorize the materials needed for tasks of everyday living for the child. The activities in this area of the classroom include the dressing frames, spooning, pouring and a wide variety of activities designed to encourage small motor skills (use of tweezers, small screwdrivers, tongs, etc.). The key ingredients of each activity are order, beauty, demonstrated sequence and precision and, on the child’s part, repetition. Order, exactness and detail cultivate aptitude for logic, mathematics and science. Repetition allows for extended concentration, more accurate eye-hand coordination and a feeling of success.

Each exercise includes precise set-up and clean-up routines. Many of the materials include an apron for the child and a small mat to define the space needed for the activity. As part of each lesson, each set of materials is returned to the shelf, cleaned and ready for someone else to use.

Regardless of a child’s age, this is an area that appeals to all of our students and where all of the children feel a sense of accomplishment (“I can tie my shoe!”). The materials are sequenced from very simple to those involving more steps so that there is something challenging for every level.

Our Practical Life materials are frequently changed throughout the school year to complement seasons, units of study and the needs of the children in the class. Not only is it the core of our curriculum but an ever-changing, popular part of the room.



## HALLOWEEN PHOTOS

If you haven’t already done so, please request to be added to our private Facebook page. We would like our families to post photos of their children in their costumes on our private Facebook page. It’s always so much fun to see how creative the costumes are!

[www.facebook.com/groups/mchlparents/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mchlparents/)

