



# MCHL NEWS



Montessori Children's House of Loudoun

December 2024/January 2025

*Tis the Season . . .*



Winter Break is almost here and there is a great deal of excitement in the air at MCHL! The children are 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 has sent 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 [www.certifikid.com](http://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/>

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

<https://dullesmoms.com/dmcalendar/list/?tribe-bar-date=2024-12-01>

<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>	
December 4	Peter McCory The One-Man Band
December 20	Last day of classes
December 23 – January 3	Winter Break (MCHL Closed-Classes resume January 6)
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (MCHL Closed)
January 27	Chinese New Year Celebration
January 28	Rising K and E Presentation 5:00 & 6:00
January 30 & 31	Music Performance

## OFFICE NEWS



It is almost Winter! 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 2025. 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](mailto:info@mchl.org).

### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

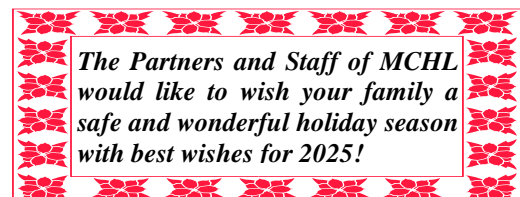
MCHL will use Fairfax and Loudoun County public schools as a guideline for delays and/or closure due to inclement weather. We may choose to open sooner than the public schools since we do not have to deal with bus transportation issues. Therefore, we would request that everyone check the Brightwheel app or call the office to see if we are open. This information will be sent via the Brightwheel app and answering machine by 6:30 am.

If, during the course of the day, roads are expected to become extremely hazardous, and Fairfax or Loudoun County schools opt to 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, but it is your responsibility to check the Brightwheel app on days of inclement weather. Also, be aware that it is your responsibility to keep us informed of your correct email address for our Google group.

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.



*The Partners and Staff of MCHL would like to wish your family a safe and wonderful holiday season with best wishes for 2025!*

## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



The Year 2025 is the “*Year of the Snake*”. The Snake represents wisdom, elegance and mystery. The snake is often seen as a symbol of transformation and adaptability.

On Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Lisa and the Mandarin students will perform for the students with a parade and songs in the MCHL Gym!



## MUSIC PERFORMANCE



Ms. Jessica is hosting a Winter Wonderland Music Performance on January 30 and 31 in the MCHL Gym. Parents are invited!

<b>Jan. 30, 2025</b>	<b>Room 4 / 9:00-10:00</b>
	<b>Room 7 / 10:00 -11:00</b>
<b>Jan. 31, 2025</b>	<b>Room 2 / 9:00-10:00</b>
	<b>Room 8 / 10:00 -11:00</b>
	<b>Kindergarten and Elementary 11:30-12:30</b>

## 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 2025-2026 school year. We would like to ask parents of these children to join us in the MCHL Gym on Tuesday, January 28<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 assemble in Room 8 and are team taught by Montessori certified teachers. These afternoon classes are designed to prepare the children for the transition into 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and field trips.

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 Tuesday, January 28<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 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 Music and Spanish twice a week as well as Art, Yoga, Movement and typing/coding with a computer. 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.

## **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS** **OFFERED AT MCHL**

*If you enroll your child in an afterschool program,  
please inform the office.*



Happy Feet Soccer is for children between the ages of 2.5 – 9. Class is every Monday in the MCHL Gym. Please stop by the office for more information.

### **Piano Keys 4 Kids**



Piano Keys 4 Kids is on Tuesdays. Enrollment is limited to 5 children (ages 4 – 11) per session. A new session will start in January. Enrollment forms will be located in the office. For more information, please email Donna Hancock at [donna@pk4kids.com](mailto:donna@pk4kids.com).



Dance class is on Thursday afternoons for children between the ages of 2.5 – 9. This class will continue until May 29<sup>th</sup>.

The teacher for MCHL is Ms. Catherine Bacha; she has been teaching for over 25 years and is amazing! Her bio is on the website.

Register Now:

[www.mercierschoolofdance.com/register](http://www.mercierschoolofdance.com/register)

## **MONTESSORI 101- SENSORIAL**

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

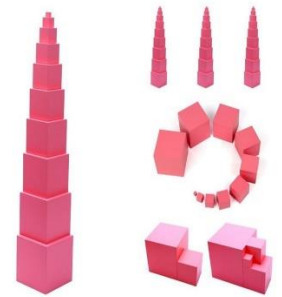
Other Sensorial materials include smelling bottles, which children enjoy matching various scents, baric tablets, which vary in weight, and tasting activities which focus on salty, sweet, bitter and sour. Collectively, the Sensorial materials provide a variety of ways for children to learn about their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



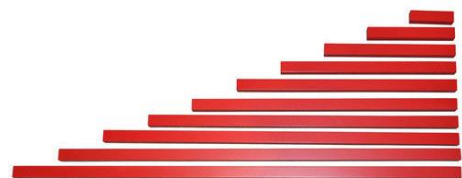
***Pink Tower***



***Color Tablets***



***Geometric Cabinet***



***Red Rods***



***Brown Stairs***



***Smelling Bottles***



***Baric Tablets***