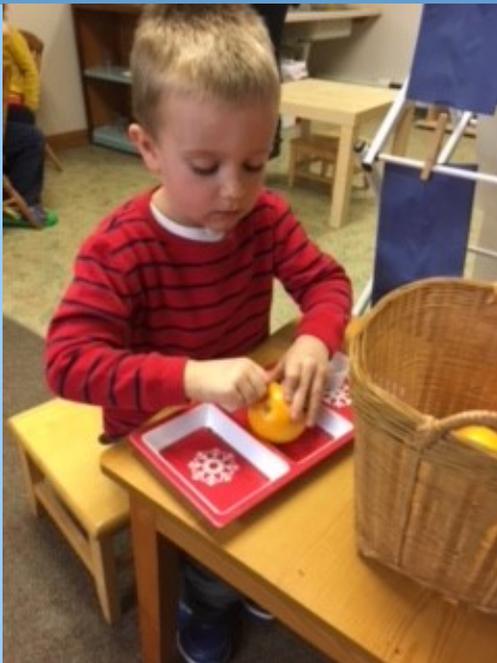




MCH News December 2017

"Of all things, love is the most potent."

-Dr. Maria Montessori



much more spiritually elevated than is usually supposed. He often suffers, not from too much work, but from work that is unworthy of him."



We do, of course, celebrate the season and many of its cultural traditions, but try to keep our classrooms free of most of the hullabaloo surrounding the holidays. Instead, we try to focus on the current wonders of nature; changing weather, migrating birds, shorter days, and longer nights. Why do we no longer see goldfinches in the winter? You may enter our doors and hear the music of the Nutcracker playing as we gather on the line, but we don't feel that the children need us to reinforce the holidays in their classrooms; they need us to create a space of peace, where they can work with focus and concentration, and engage in meaningful activity.

Dear Families,

We were quite busy at school before the winter break with some special cooking projects and gift making. At this time of year, it can feel a bit like a roller coaster ride for everyone with all the parties, feasts and shopping. We hope that our classrooms can be a place of peace and composure during this hectic time. Maria Montessori said, "The child is



In the Primary environment, we bring the world to the classroom through the beautiful cultural materials. Some of these exercises include the Montessori globes, puzzle maps, as well as geography pictures and books that showcase families, clothing and shelter. Other times, group lessons are given on traditional clothing, food, currency or artifacts of a specific continent or country. Sometimes we are fortunate to have parents share with us what it was like to grow up in another country. Each experience is valuable and helps build the foundation for respect and tolerance of others. We plant the seed for exploration of our world in the hopes that one day our children will visit these far off places and be a positive influence in our world.



Amidst the happy preparations of gifts and celebrations with food, stories, song and dance the children graciously hosted some new friends who will be starting in January. Welcome to Taylor, Orion, Maddox and Elle!



The holiday season is a time of plenty for some, and of notable lack for others. Our annual charity gift giving was an easy way to share with those in need, and it gives children the chance to let their empathy for others blossom. We sincerely thank you for your participation in our used toy drive this year. Also, we are excited that some of the gift tags were taken from the Giving Tree. The MCH community is so generous. Thank you for your support.



Happy December Birthdays
 Macey Stanford- 5 on December 22!
 Frances Ekern- 5 on December 26!

Calendar
 January 2-- school resumes
 January 8—author visit
 January TBA—Extended Day info night
 We wish you all a joyous holiday season and hope you had a relaxing winter break. See you in 2018.
 Jingle all the way!
 Warmly,
 MCH