



# MCH News



WELCOME!

Congratulations to all on completing the first month of school! The children (15 new ones!) have begun the school year well, and the returning students have such great enthusiasm and are excellent role models. Leadership skills are developing as they assume their roles in the Montessori classroom. The children are becoming purposeful in their work with the materials and seem happy to be socializing on a regular basis.

Thank you, for your attendance at the Parent Orientation Evening on September 14th. It was wonderful to formally welcome everyone to Montessori Children's House. Your decision to give your child an early childhood experience like Montessori is an important one. We are very happy you have chosen MCH. We appreciate your support of our work at school – by volunteering,

chaperoning, observing, attending conferences and visit nights, and we appreciate your work in preparing your children for school -- meeting all their needs for rest, nourishing breakfasts, health, and good natured support. Our goals are to offer a quality Montessori education to the young child, a beautiful and enriching indoor and outdoor environment, and a community with successful social interactions. All of our goals strive to "educate the human potential".

Our commitment to building relationships in the community extends to the area schools—we often have college and high school student volunteers come to work with the children and gain experience in a professional and nurturing environment with the youngest learners in our community. The Reading Buddies we have so enjoyed over the years from the middle school started up again in the afternoons. We look forward to including this lovely

program in the day for both of our schools.

Everything seems to be going well with the drop off and pick up routine. If you or your children are having problems with these structures, please let us know. Pretty soon it will all seem routine and easy, but we know the adjustment can be challenging at times. Reminder: the drop off time for Downstairs is 8:15 am and Upstairs is 8:30 am with a ten minute grace period on either side of those times. Same for pick up, thank you for your help in keeping the schedule manageable for everyone. The routines in the classroom (bathroom, snack, recess, etc.) have been absorbed by the children very well already. They are quite independent and very responsible and aware of where they are supposed to be and what ground rules should be followed. These are the "big works" of the first few weeks of school and they have done extremely well with them.



The many activities in a Montessori classroom are difficult to describe in a newsletter. We have tried to capture some moments with the camera. You may access these

photos on the community page of our web site at [www.mchnorthfield.com](http://www.mchnorthfield.com). The photos can provide a perfect opportunity to discuss the school day with your child. Parents are always welcome to visit and observe during class time and we extend this invitation to you now. Please let us know a day or two in advance of your observation visit.



We celebrate the world of fruit with field trips to Fireside Apple Orchard next week where we have a full tour of the orchards, the sorting room, cool storage facility, pie making and the donut machine. Thanks for sending in those permission slips and thanks to those who will chaperone our very first field trips! (Please remember to label your child's car seat).





### **Thanks!**

Many of you have already begun to help provide our Monday snack. It is a nice way for your child to participate in the practical life of the school in a generous and helpful way. We certainly appreciate the contribution on Mondays. We have started a rotational snack duty and you will have a turn a few times during the school year. When your child brings home the "Snack Box" it will be your turn to provide snack for the next Monday (the box will come home on Friday). The rest of the week's snack will be provided by the school. Below are some suggestions for snack--always enough for your child's class, please.

### **Snack Suggestions:**

mini bagels  
fruit slices/pieces  
small sandwiches  
snack mixes—cereal, pretzels, nuts, raisins  
muffins  
vegetables—carrots, celery, etc.  
celery with peanut butter  
cheese and crackers  
cheese  
pretzels  
raisin bread w/ cream cheese  
...anything else you think the children would like. Keep it simple and remember that they

can put the snack together—you provide the ingredients.

Along with the Montessori materials in the classroom, we have begun the year with science and language materials concerning Colors, Fruits and Vegetables. These are appropriate subjects with which to begin the year because they are so familiar to the children and fit naturally into the cycle of the season, harvesting vegetables from our garden and enjoying the bounty of the end of summer.



The children have discovered how much our animals also enjoy the fruits of the garden and they are eager to pick leafy greens or cucumbers for the chickens, rabbit, or guinea pig to eat. Taking care of our classroom pets is an important part of our work together every day. Feeding them is a favorite chore with the children and they eagerly take turns making sure our animals are well-fed.

We have had a lot of fun singing "Pass the Apple" as a way for us to learn each other's names and learning the movements for old favorites like "Ole Brass Wagon". Our line time is energetic and fun, but we have also been practicing the art of making silence. This is a beautiful opportunity for the children to experience stillness in

their bodies and discover the joy of listening to the quiet. This is also something you can try at home to help your child learn self-control and practice listening to their own thoughts.

One of the first topics we cover at line time at the beginning of the year is Grace and Courtesy. This comes in the form of brief lessons that help us practice kind and helpful ways of being together at school. We have practiced moving carefully in the classroom, asking polite questions, handling materials gently, and greeting one another. We have also practiced learning how to share something special from home at line time on Mondays. If your child has something special that they would like to share with classmates (a treasure found on a walk, an item that pertains to something we are studying, a souvenir from a trip) they are welcome to bring it on Mondays and we will make time for them to show it at line time. I suggest that toys are best for sharing on a play date but if they have something that fits one of the above categories we look forward to hearing about it!

Thank you for sending in a piece of fruit with your child for our first cooking class! Making fruit salad together with fruit that each child has contributed is a lovely way to begin what will be a weekly activity for the rest of the year as we explore food preparation skills and sample foods together.

In the geography area we have been learning the names of the continents and the elements that make up the earth - land, air, and

water. Soon we will start learning about the globe continent by continent, including language and cultural aspects of the people who live around the world.



**Extended Day** has had a fabulous beginning to the school year! News for this group will be posted in the all school newsletter so that families can follow the activities of the third year students/leaders in our school community. Thus far, they have been involved in welcoming our new students, demonstrating and modeling our classroom ground rules, and even giving lessons on materials with which they are familiar. This is such a thrill for them, and really serves to bolster their self-esteem and reinforce their own knowledge. The Extended Day friends also help in a big way to bring in the harvest at MCH. At this time of year, we are picking eggplant, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. We even made a batch of pickles last week! The older students are so capable of seeing this kind of activity through to the culmination of a cooking class or a deposit in the composting pile.



**BIRTHDAYS** we celebrated in September:

NOAH-----5 on Aug 15<sup>th</sup>!  
ELLA-----5 on Aug 17<sup>th</sup>!  
JIMMI-----5 on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>!  
ROWAN-----4 on Aug 30<sup>th</sup>!  
BRONSON-----5 on Aug 31<sup>th</sup>!  
NILO -----5 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>!  
DOMINIC-----4 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>!  
PAT -----on the 6<sup>th</sup>!  
SHANA -----on the 21st!



To take advantage of the beautiful fall weather we will have a **photo day** at school on Monday, 10/16. You will receive a group photo of your child's class. Extended Day/K students will have photos taken on that day, as well. All other students are welcome to order individual photos through the school but you will be asked via e mail to let us know of your interest **before** photo day, please. Order forms and proofs will be sent following the photo day.

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We have certainly been enjoying our time on the playground together at recess. We appreciate the help you offer your children in practicing their independence with shoes and coats. Soon enough it will be boots, hats, mittens, snowsuits...but for now-- Happy Fall!

**Dates to remember:**

- October 5 & 6—Fall Field Trips to Fireside Apple Orchard
- October 16—photo day
- October 19--20 No School-MEA
- October 26--Parent Visit Night (your child brings you to school to show you what we do at MCH)
- October 31—Halloween Party at school
- November 6—No School—Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 22--Alumni Visit Day
- November 23-24--No School—Thanksgiving Break