



# MCH News

## November 2018

### CLASSROOM NEWS

The dinosaur, rock and fossil work has been very exciting in the month of November here at MCH. We have really enjoyed learning about these subjects and it is so fun to hear all the information the children know. Pronouncing the names is a great feat alone. Singing "My Name is Stegosaurus" for three weeks does tend to get that one into the vocabulary. A family field trip to the Science Museum in St. Paul would be, I think, a fun and satisfying activity when you have the time for it. The dinosaur skeletons are, of course, amazing.



Throughout the school year we will be learning about customs that are practiced by people all over the world. Our recent cultural geography emphasis has been North America. The shelves will now change to carry

objects and activities from Europe and some of the languages spoken there. We begin with German and Spanish (with some flamenco dancing on the line) and we will learn to yodel (a skill I'm sure you will enjoy at home). We will practice some other European dances, light candles for Hanukkah and decorate a small Christmas tree. Please let us know if you would like to share any European expertise with the class-- language, games, songs, traditions. Many of our activities on the line reflect the cultural geography area and this is an enjoyable way to participate in the life of the classroom.

Winter dressing for outdoor play has gone well. As a reminder, all articles of clothing should have your child's name printed on the tag in permanent ink. We do go outside every day and hats, scarves, snow pants, waterproof gloves or mittens and boots are a must. In the event of a winter weather school closing or delay by the

Northfield Public Schools, Montessori Children's House will also be closed or delayed (only full day students come when there is a delay). Tune in to WCCO for school closings or go to the NPS website.



We began this month with an opportunity for parent-teacher conferences, which are a valuable and helpful time for teachers and parents to share information, updates and questions about your child's work and life at MCH. Thank you for taking the time to meet!

By this time in the year, the classroom routine has become more settled and the children are happy and determined in their work. It is a joy to see them engaged and independent. Our study of dinosaurs, rocks, and minerals, as well as that of North America, has been exciting. We have sung, discussed, and explored our way through the many materials on the science shelves. Ask your child for their version of "Dinosaurs Lived Long Ago" and you will hear one of our line time favorites from this month.



Cooking classes continue on Thursdays and we have made herb bread, dinosaur shaped cookies, and cranberry-orange relish just in time for Thanksgiving! Rolling and grinding, stirring and measuring skills are practiced but an additional benefit of cooking together is to give the children the chance to develop a love of preparing food with friends. Each week there are numerous requests before Thursday arrives of, "Is it cooking day today?"

Our weather observation song, "What's the weather like today?" helps us keep an eye on the outdoor environment and track the weather patterns now developing as we turn to winter.

As we continue to develop relationships in the classroom, the children have been talking further about the 3 main ground rules we have established: taking care of our classroom and materials, taking care of ourselves, and taking care of our friends. This conversation gives us a framework for deciding what behavior works and what doesn't in the classroom. We can use both our words and our actions to follow these guidelines and the children are eager to find ways to make the classroom run more smoothly.

The final week this month was full of discussions about what we are grateful for and how Thanksgiving has been celebrated. Learning "Over the River and Through the Woods" gave us a song to sing as we left for the break, ready for celebrations with family and friends.

Some of you have expressed an interest in gift suggestions for your child that reflect the Montessori philosophy. One of the catalogs listed below has a nice olivewood nutcracker that is perfect for young children. Nut cracking has been quite popular in the practical life areas at our school and this would be a nice extension of the school environment to your home. In the past, we have participated in the Small Hands/Montessori Services school promotion that earns points for our school to purchase materials for the classrooms. Next week you will receive more information about ordering from their catalogs if you would like to participate in the promotion or in our school giving tree—with wish list items from the teachers for their classrooms.



[Small Hands](#)

[Montessori Services](#)

[Michael Olaf](#)



## EXTENDED DAY



Our Extended Day class has been so busy in the month of November! We completed a unit on Native Americans during which we built a totem pole for the outside of school, made coffee can drums, fringed vests, and jingle bell anklets. The children learned a Native American song used for a children's rock-passing game and we also practiced a dance to go along with it.

Carolyn has been working with the students on teen numbers and ended the month with an introduction to the Golden Beads, which are used for place value exploration.

Art explorations have continued with Emma, making use of nature elements from our outdoor environment.

Last week we visited the Northfield Public Library to collect books for the classroom. Thank you Aaron for helping to chaperone! From now until the end of the year we hope to have an outing once a month so stay tuned for the next opportunity to chaperone. We enjoy exploring community resources together. Our next trip will be to the River Bend Nature Center.



## CALENDAR

**Dec 20th--Winter Break (no school)**

**Jan 2nd-----School resumes**



**Birthdays** we celebrated in November—

**Brooklyn – Nov. 7th**

**Finn – Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>**

**River – Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Lindsey – Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Sophia – Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Sidney – November 27<sup>th</sup>**



Thank you, volunteers, for being guest readers, for working in the classrooms, for cooking with us and going on hikes. Thank you for Scholastic book fair purchases that award our school free books.

Thank you, also to our wonderful staff at MCH. You make the world go around!

We want to express our gratitude--at this time of year and always—for your support of us here at school. We are truly thankful to you, the families, of our Montessori Children's House community.

This video is for you--

[Thanksgiving](#)