



# MCH News January 2019

*"If help and salvation are to come, they can only come from the children, for the children are the makers of men."*

*-Dr. Maria Montessori*

## CLASSROOM NEWS

After a holiday break from the school routine, it was so lovely to come back in early January and observe the children return with such eagerness to work in the classroom once again. By this point in the year, they are relaxed and very familiar with each other, ready to explore the opportunities in the environment and more confident to try some new things that would have seemed too daunting back in October. They are truly enjoying all aspects of the classroom and are choosing work with renewed purpose. The children have enjoyed extending a warm welcome to

two new students downstairs, Valentina and Henry.



In the first part of January, we continued our study of birds. We try to keep the feeders in the front and backyard well stocked to encourage as many visitors as possible and invite the

children to try to identify which birds are still around this time of year.



Our continent of study has shifted to Asia and materials in Practical Life and the Art areas also reflect this theme. The children are learning to count and greet each other in Chinese, and they are learning some simple songs. We have also incorporated the Asian

theme in our cooking classes with Tea Eggs, ramen noodles, and Fried Rice. Keep your ears open for word of our Chinese New Year Celebration in February. We will also open a tea table in each classroom, which is a graceful place for conversation and making tea with a friend.

We began the study of Ocean Life this past month in our Science area and the children are learning the names of fish and other creatures that call the ocean home.

In celebration of Martin Luther King, we read a book about his life and talked about being peacemakers and getting along with each other. We have identified a peace table and introduced the Peace Rose to help the children learn conflict resolution using words to listen and talk out difficulties with friends. We have discussed the art of the apology and how important it is to extend a proper apology when necessary. This will help support successful relationships and we will be celebrating that as well in the coming month as we recognize Valentine's Day and share our love for one another.

Hopefully, the Polar Vortex is finished visiting us and we can return to school and recess back outside in the abundant snow in the backyard. Thank you for continuing to send your children prepared to enjoy spending time outdoors on a daily basis. Please remember to send extra mittens and socks if your child spends the full day with us.



### Extended Day Update

The Extended Day class continues to be busy and occupied with many interesting activities. On Mondays, we often do a science-related exploration and this month we had a lot of fun with winter science, conducting our own experiments on how ice is formed and melts. We enjoyed a field trip to River Bend Nature Center to explore their interpretive center and bird feeding station. Many thanks to Aaron Wills and Ms. Emma for driving.

We have also enjoyed learning more about the instruments of the orchestra through listening to "Peter and the Wolf" and playing instrument lotto, where we had to identify an instrument simply using our ears.

Our writing work on Fridays has included discussions about what inspires us and what we are curious about. Authors often use ideas of what inspires them to form a story. We read about "Snowflake Bentley" and how he was so fascinated by snow that he spent his whole life studying it.

Due to MLK day and weather, we did not have very many Mondays for art exploration this month. We added ocean life drawings to our sketch books. We also read the book Ish by Pete Reynolds and discussed the idea that everyone's art is unique, and the goal is not perfection. We even made our own "Ish" paintings.



Keep your ears open for news of the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, also coming up in February. The Extended Day class will have some special activities on that day, including an invitation for an activity the whole school community can share in. How happy we are to enjoy the opportunities we have to work and grow together, sharing the joy of life in a Montessori classroom.

### **Open House**

On February 2nd MCH held a public Open House to open enrollment for the coming school year. As in past years we offer advanced enrollment to current students and their siblings. We hope families will let us know their re-enrollment plans as soon as possible so we know what we can offer to new families who will be visiting. A re-enrollment form came home to you last week. Please return it

promptly and don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions about the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you, parents of four year olds, for looking at the information about the important third year in the Montessori classroom. We are pleased to be a vital choice for early childhood education in the Northfield area. We thank all of you families for your support and your help in spreading the word about Montessori Children's House. Please tell your friends and neighbors who might be interested in the Montessori approach but don't know much about it to call the school for an appointment to visit. Next month will have our second Visit School Night, which is a time for your own family to visit and have a little mid-year tour from your resident Montessori student.

What a pleasure it is to speak with parents about our Extended Day/K class. The presentations we have always lead to thoughtful and intriguing discussions about the program and education in general. If you would like to view the information or meet with your teachers, please send a request via e-mail. Here's a little taste from one of the videos:

### Why Montessori?

**Parent Library** - books on Montessori-check 'em out!



### Web site reminder

Don't forget to visit our [web site](#) community page to view newsletters and calendar updates.



**Birthdays** we celebrated in January:

**Rowan** - January 11<sup>th</sup>

**Easton** - January 28<sup>th</sup>

### Valentine Exchange



We will be celebrating Valentine's Day at school on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. If your child would like to bring valentines for his/her classmates, we ask that they be signed by the giver but not addressed to recipients by name—this helps

immensely in the "delivery" process.



### Field Trip

We're going to the ZOO! We will visit the aquatic areas of the Minnesota Zoo on Friday, February 15th. This should be a rewarding trip while we are learning all about creatures of the sea this month. Look for the permission slip coming home to you soon and please consider coming along as a chaperone for this fun outing - if you do not have a **zoo membership** there is an entrance fee☺.

<http://www.mnzoo.com/>

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

March 21st—Visit School Night

March 25-29—Spring Break- no school

April 1<sup>st</sup> - Parent/Teacher Conferences - no school

April 2<sup>nd</sup> - School resumes



### Calendar

February 1—re-enrollment for 2019-2020 School Year begins

February 2—MCH Open House 10-12

February 8th—Chinese New Year of the Pig Celebration

February 14th—Valentine's Day Party

February 15th—All School Field Trip to the MN Zoo