

# MCH News

## December 2019

*Winter has come...*

Dear Families,  
We were quite busy before the break began: making cards and holiday projects, decorating gingerbread cookies for our snack. This time of year can start to feel quite hectic with extra activities, shopping, and festive meals. While we enjoy preparing for the holidays at MCH, our hope is that the classroom will continue to be a place of peace and concentration amid those preparations. We also strive to recognize and value all the various traditions that may be represented in our community. On our shelves are books and activities to reflect three major holidays that might be celebrated this month: Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. We also talk about the change of seasons, the shortening of days, and all the observations of the natural world that help us find meaning in the world around us. It has been a short but meaningful month!

Our study of birds and the continent of Europe has begun, and will continue into January due to the long break this month. We have been learning what makes a bird a bird, as well as the names of many interesting feathered friends in our neighborhoods and beyond. Thanks to a visit from Arcadia Charter School students on their



experiential learning day, we made bird treats and suet cakes to hang in the yard. We truly enjoyed having them come and share this activity with us. Experiences like this give the children an opportunity to practice showing grace and courtesy skills and act as hosts in the classroom.





finished the 6th book. We begin each reading session by reviewing what has already occurred and predicting what they think will happen next. We worked on fact families and graphing this month and will move on to learning numbers to 100 when we return in January. In music, we continued our study of the instruments of the orchestra by listening to "Peter and the Wolf" by Sergei Prokofiev and playing instrument lotto. The children are really developing their ears as they learn to hear what various instruments sound like! The children have formed a strong community and we are looking forward to welcoming Elle, Anna, and Jude to our group in January.

## Extended Day

Even though this is a short month with the holiday break, we managed to accomplish a lot in the last few weeks and enjoyed some holiday fun!

We began our study of Europe by learning about all the fairytales, folktales, and fables that originated in Europe and found that we have some budding actors and actresses in our midst. They really enjoyed putting on the play of Goldilocks and the Three Bears for each other. We did more than one rendition with everyone switching up roles. I was amazed at the level of cooperation and confidence from them.

In language, we finished our study of individual letters and sounds and began combining sounds together to form words. You will see more word lists coming home once school resumes. Please take a moment at the end of the day to have your child sound out and read the words to you. They continue to enjoy listening to the Magic Tree House books and we have just



## Birthdays

Dec. 2 - Grace Gettings  
Dec. 21 - Daniel Yang  
Dec. 25 - Evelyn Aylward, Shubha Kinny  
Dec. 29 - Taylor Moyer

## Calendar

Jan. 6 - School resumes

Jan. 16 6:30 - Extended Day informational meeting

Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday



## THANK YOU

We are grateful to all of you for your support of our program.

\*Thank you to those who donated materials to the classroom from our Giving Tree program with Montessori Services' For Small Hands catalog!

\*Thank you to Heather Candels for her continued dedication to reading at lunch time!

\*Thanks to Jude's parents and Luke B's grandparents for their donations of straw bales to keep our chickens warm and the sledding hill safe!

## Sad News

Most of you have heard by now that our dear pet rabbit Rose died after a long illness last week. We shared the news with the children on Thursday. She had lived a long life and was a beloved pet for our children. Each classroom had a conversation about this and the children had discussion and were free to ask questions. We are including some links below for you to use if you would like further resources on how we discuss death in the Montessori environment. Your child may continue to have questions and want to talk about it as they think about it over time.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about this.

**We hope you enjoy your long break spending time with family and friends, celebrating the holidays, and sharing the gifts of the season with those you love!**

## Happy Holidays

*From Shana, Lisa, Emma, Caroline, Lindsey and Shubha!*

Resources for continued conversations with children about death and dying:

<http://www.carolynsmontessori.com/death-dying.html>

[http://www.babycenter.com/0\\_how-to-talk-to-your-preschooler-about-death\\_65688.bc](http://www.babycenter.com/0_how-to-talk-to-your-preschooler-about-death_65688.bc)

Here are some children's books that may also be helpful:

<https://www.amazon.com/Fall-Freddie-Leaf-Story-Life/dp/0943432898>

<https://www.amazon.com/Lifetimes-Beautiful-Explain-Death-Children/dp/0553344021>

This book also looks like a good one that's simple and talks about emotions:

[https://www.amazon.com/Goodbye-Book-To-Go-Bye-Parr/dp/0316404977/ref=pd\\_sim\\_14\\_12?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=T765NJZ7BHAZXRPK8QF5](https://www.amazon.com/Goodbye-Book-To-Go-Bye-Parr/dp/0316404977/ref=pd_sim_14_12?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=T765NJZ7BHAZXRPK8QF5)

