

Maine Mountain Children's House

Dear MMCH Families,

The holidays are upon us! Thanksgiving has come and gone, and Christmas break will be here before we know it. We have spent a lot of time this Fall talking about what it means to be grateful, and encouraging each other to think about what we are thankful for in our lives. Our lunch song (see lyrics below), reminds us to be grateful to the earth for the food it provides. With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the Earth is just one of the many things we can remind ourselves to appreciate each and every day!

In the spirit of the holidays, we have a few fun events in December that are opportunities to be grateful. On Saturday, December 5th we will have our **Annual Day of Care**. This is a unique opportunity to give back to our community and spread holiday cheer with a multi-age group of children. For more information on this day of giving (and a Saturday child-care opportunity!), please see "The Spirit of Giving" below.

On December 16th, we will be creating a "Stone Soup" based on the book, "[Stone Soup](#)", by Jon J. Muth. During the school day, the children will get to act out the age-old tale and prepare the vegetables by cleaning and chopping them. We then invite all families to join us at MMCH on December 16th at 5pm to share the soup with your child(ren)! If a parent is unable to join us, we encourage your child to invite a special adult (grandparent, babysitter, aunt/uncle) to join us for this school-wide gathering. Read "The Spirit of Giving" for more information- and don't forget to sign up in the cubby room!

With the cold weather approaching, we want to remind everyone to pack warm clothing for your children to wear here at school. Mittens, hats, and jackets are now staples for outdoor play, and we encourage you to send your child prepared! Please see "Colder Weather" below for important notes on changes to our morning schedule.

Peace, love, and Happy Holidays!

Bethany, Emily and Ashley



Upcoming Events

December 5th 9:00am-3:00pm
Day of Care at Webster Hall

December 16th 5:00-6:00pm
Stone Soup School-Wide
Dinner

December 23rd – January 3rd
Christmas Break- No School

January 18th
Martin Luther King Jr Day- No
School

January 28th 4:30-6:30pm
Bring a Parent Night

Upcoming Snack:

Nov 30-Dec 4: Aliyah

Dec 7-11: Miles

Dec 14-18: Molly

Dec 21, 22: School

Thank you to all of the families who provided snack throughout the months of October and November. The children have taken great pride in preparing snack for their friends!

Colder Weather

With this colder weather, we will be starting our mornings inside. Before care is available as usual from 7:30am until 8:30am. Beginning by 8:15/8:30am, we will start to set up the classroom with the children who are present. They will do different jobs to prepare the classroom for the day such as hang bathroom towels, set up the snack table, and fold laundry. Circle time will begin at 8:45am, so we ask that all families plan to arrive by that time so their child(ren) can be present for the start of the day. Arriving at 8:30am allows your child a few minutes to settle into the day before starting circle time and the morning work period, which is very important for children's sense of order. If you do arrive after 8:45am, we ask that you enter the classroom quietly to allow for the children working in the classroom to continue to concentrate. Weather permitting, we will still be outdoors from 11:30am-12:00pm and the majority of after school care.

In addition to the change in schedule, the cold weather produces the ever-present battle of clothing! Children never seem to want to wear their coats and mittens, even in the coldest of temperatures! While we encourage independence and choice in this process, there is also a point to which warm clothing is required for safety. On these below freezing days, we will ask that children wear what their parents provide for them. If you would like to see your child(ren) wearing hats, mittens, and a warm jacket, please send those with them. Although we do have a few extra hats/mittens, they are limited and don't always fit right so it is best to send your child prepared! If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please feel free to chat with us.

The Spirit of Giving

We are excited to take the time this busy holiday season to create meaningful experiences for the children as we learn about the joys and pleasures of sharing with others. It is all too easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and forget to celebrate what really matters—love, kindness and the spirit of giving. Here are some of the things we'll be doing in our classroom to help keep the spirit of the holidays alive!

Giving Back: Each December, MMCH offers **Day of Care** as a way to raise money not only for MMCH, but also for a charity of the children's choosing. This year, instead of donating money to a charity, MMCH is organizing a day of community service for our children to take part in. On the morning of December 5th, we will work with the children to create different crafts and baked goods. After lunch, provided by MMCH, we will hop on the bus, generously donated by CVA, and deliver those gifts to the Elderly Housing Units on the West Kingfield Rd. Children may be dropped off in the morning to help create the baked goods and crafts (9:00am-12:00pm), at lunchtime to help with delivery and singing (12:00pm-3:00pm), or stay for both events (9:00am-3:00pm) to see the day through completion! This is a day for parents to take advantage of some kid-free time to do a little shopping, get some work done, or (Gasp!) take some time for yourselves! In exchange, we ask that you make a monetary donation for what you feel the time was worth. Spread the word to other families to help us make this year's Day of Care a huge success!

Stone Soup: "Stone Soup," is an old tale with a fresh spin by author Jon J Muth, in which weary travelers come to a town and ask them to share some food. One person donates a carrot and another some onion, and before they know it they have a delicious soup for all to share. This book and activity are a tradition of many Montessori schools and has been a successful activity at MMCH for many years. **Please sign up for a food item your family would like to share on the sheet in the cubby room!**

In preparation for our communal dinner, we invite you to learn the lyrics to our lunch song. This is the song we sing as a group every day before eating lunch, reminding us to be thankful to the earth for the food we eat. If you don't know the tune- ask your child(ren). I'm sure they will help! 😊

OUR LUNCH SONG

*THE EARTH IS GOOD TO ME
AND SO I THANK THE EARTH
FOR GIVING ME
THE THINGS I NEED
THE SUN, AND THE RAIN, AND
THE APPLE SEEDS
THE EARTH
IS
GOOD
TO
ME!*