

Montessori Center of Downriver - December Newsletter

We hope you all had a fun and restful Thanksgiving break, and we want you to know just how grateful we are for all of you! We are so thankful that you have chosen to partner with us in your child's education, and we appreciate everything you do to help our community thrive.

Have a wonderful and safe winter break!

- April

Dates to Remember

December 23rd: Last day of school

January 9th: School resumes

January 16th: No school. Parent-teacher conferences. If you have not already responded, please be sure to fill out our survey [here](#).

In the Classroom

Ms Ashley's Room

In December in Ms Ashley's room, the class will be learning about nutrition and the different food groups. The children will have the opportunity to try something new!

Mrs. Dona's Room

In December, Mrs. Dona's class will be studying Europe, the artist Kandinsky, and the different ways Christmas is celebrated. The children will also be making surprises for their families as they learn about the virtue of giving.

Ms Paula's Room

December in Ms Paula's room will be about all things winter and Christmas. They'll be making ornaments and special crafts, like reindeer food, and they'll practice lacing as well.

Mrs. Melissa's Room

In December in Mrs. Melissa's room, they will be learning all about farm animals! They'll be focusing on learning new vocabulary words, reading books about animal babies and their parents, and doing puzzles.

Local Events and Resources

1. Gleaners provides food boxes to any family in need. No registration, ID, etc., required. There are several locations and times throughout December:

City of Woodhaven

23101 Hall Rd

Woodhaven

12/6/2022 9:00am -
11:00am

12/20/2022 9:00am -
11:00am

1/03/2023 9:00am -
11:00am

City of Wyandotte - Yack

Arena

3131 3rd St.

Wyandotte

12/09/2022 9:00am -
11:00am

12/23/2022 9:00am -
11:00am

Ford Community and

Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Ave

Dearborn

12/13/2022 9:00am -
11:00am

12/27/2022 9:00am -
11:00am

2. [The Wayne Metro Community Action Agency](#) has multiple assistance programs for Wayne county residents.

3. Michigan 211 provides referrals for: Food pantries, long-term care options, disability resources, rent/utility assistance, H1N1, housing, volunteer opportunities and more. Michigan 211 puts you in touch with organizations providing health and human services throughout Michigan. Call 211, the call is FREE, and open to all residents.

4. [MI Parenting Resource](#) is a free, online program is meant to support caregivers across the state in strengthening their parent-child relationships and gaining new tools for enhancing positive child behaviors.

5. Joann Fabrics has [free take home craft kits!](#) On December 3rd, stop by a store to get the materials to make a snow globe.

6. JC Penny also offers [monthly crafts for kids](#). Pick up the materials to make a foam gingerbread house on June 10th.

7. The Detroit Institute of Arts is free to Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland county residents and often has drop-in art projects for the whole family. On December 10th and 11th, [you can make note cards](#) and on December 28th, [you can make container rattles](#).

8. December 3rd is [Noel Night in Detroit](#). Noel Night is a Cultural Center-wide holiday open house that presents free activities, including holiday shopping, family craft activities, artist demonstrations and performances by local and national music, theatre, and dance groups, and other special performances. Free and open to the public!

9. The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is committed to helping visitors embrace winter by extending the great riverfront programming year-round at Robert C. Valade Park with the return of [Winter at Valade](#). Starting December 8th, enjoy oversized fires, sleds, s'mores, games, drinks, food, and more.


10. The 11th Annual [Menorah in the D](#), a community Hanukkah celebration held in Campus Martius, takes place on Sunday December 18th at 5 p.m. The in-person event begins at 5 p.m. and the livestream begins at 5:30, airing on the Chabad Lubavitch of Michigan Facebook and website.

11. The Wyandotte library has a [different craft](#) available each week. Kids can also read a story with Mrs. Claus and visit with Santa [on December 3rd](#).

12. Looking for something to do with the kids on New Year's Eve but don't want to mess with bedtime? Southgate's Noon-Year's Eve has you covered! Kids can enjoy a ping pong ball drop, juice box toast, goodie bags, and a visit with Bluey and Spiderman. It's free, but [registration is required](#).

Car Seat Safety - An Important Note from Ms April

Car Seat Safety



- 1**
REAR-FACING
INFANT | CONVERTIBLE | 3-IN-1
AGES: 0-2+ or until child reaches height or weight restrictions
- 2**
FORWARD-FACING
CONVERTIBLE | 3-IN-1 | COMBINATION
AGES: 2-4+ or until child reaches height or weight restrictions
- 3**
BOOSTER SEAT
3-IN-1 | COMBINATION | BOOSTER
AGES: 4-12+ or until child is 4'9"
- 4**
SEAT BELT IN BACK SEAT
Under the age of 13

As parents and guardians, we spend a lot of time worrying about our kids: Are they happy? Are they healthy? Are they meeting milestones? But one important aspect of their lives that we sometimes take for granted is their car seat. This has been very close to my heart since my older daughter lost a friend in a car crash. I want to make sure that all of our kids here at MCOB are as safe as possible as we go into the travel-filled holiday season.

No one likes to think about this, but road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. A properly installed and correctly used car seat can reduce your child's risk of death by 71%, but over half of all car seats are not installed or used correctly.

Rear-facing as long as possible is another way to keep our kids safe. The AAP recommends rearing facing until at least two, but preferably beyond. Car seat research has shown that children up to 2 years are about 75% less likely to die or sustain serious injury in a rear-facing car seat than a forward-facing one. That's because a rear-facing seat spreads the crash force more evenly across the back of the car seat and the child's body. It also limits the motion of the head, reducing the potential for neck injury, and keeps the child more contained within the shell of the child restraint. Rear facing is actually safer for everyone, even adults (it would make it a little hard to drive though!).

For a good visual, please watch this video [comparing the effects on the spine of forward and rear facing](#).

Get a Free Car Seat!

[The Children's Hospital of Michigan's Injury Prevention Program](#) provides safety information, devices, and materials to keep children safe. The Injury Prevention Online Workshop focuses on the leading causes of unintentional and preventable injuries to children.

Attendees can receive a free smoke alarm, convertible car seat, and hot water tester.

Further Reading

1. <https://ucsg.safekids.org> (Find personalized info by child's age and weight)
2. <https://www.safekids.org/tip/car-seat-tips>
3. <https://ucsg.safekids.org/basic-tips/right-fit/>
4. <https://csftl.org/why-rear-facing-the-science-junkies-guide>
5. [Find a car seat technician](#)