

Mountain Lakes Country Day School

How to Raise a Reader

Kids become lifelong readers for all kinds of reasons. Sometimes there's one key book that captures a kid's imagination and opens him or her up to the exciting world of fiction. In some cases, parents influence kids' appreciation of books by sharing their own love of literature and modeling reader behavior -- always having a book to read, taking books on vacation, reading before bedtime, making regular trips to the library and bookstore, etc.

Read aloud: This comes naturally to lots of new parents, but it's important to keep it up. Kids will enjoy it longer than you think. When reading to babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and kids in early grade school, it's wonderful to have a kid on your lap, snuggled next to you on the couch, or drifting off to sleep in bed as you enjoy picture books together. You may have to read your kid's favorite a hundred times, but just go with it. Your kid will remember the closeness as well as the story. And try nonfiction for those who are curious about pirates, Vikings, robots, castles, history, sports, biography, animals, whatever.

Many parents think that as soon as their kids learn to read on their own, they no longer need to be read to. But kids still love it and benefit from it as they hear the rhythm of the language, learn correct pronunciation, and get to relax and just take it all in. Kids will get the idea that there's something worthwhile in books and that there's something special about time spent with a parent.

Fit reading into your family lifestyle. Set aside time for reading only -- turning off the TV, computer, and cell phone. Encourage focused reading time, either for independent reading or reading aloud. Take preschoolers to story time hours at libraries and bookstores. For older kids, a parent-kid book club can be fun. Read to kids at bedtime. Provide time and space for your kids to read for pleasure in the car (if they don't get car sick!), on vacation, after homework is done, on their own before bed. Warning: It could be habit-forming!



Upcoming Events

December 21

Holiday Sing-a-Long

January

Parent-Teacher Conferences

February 14

Valentine's Day Parties

Important Announcements

In case of inclement weather
stay informed by:

Following us on Twitter

Or

Check our website
MLCDS.com

Or

Call 973 983-9831 for a
recorded message

Infant Milestones

Our youngest have been busy exploring sunflowers, fall sponge painting and pumpkins. Everyone had fun dressing up for the Halloween Parade. We're so proud of Basil taking his first steps and Zachary making the big move to Toddlers. We're getting ready for the Holiday Season!

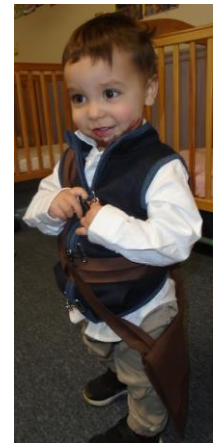
News from Toddler One

September was full of new friends and learning about ourselves and our room. We were proud to have Luca's and Grady's Dads bring their firefighter gear and trucks for all the school to see. Halloween and Thanksgiving were celebrated with yummy food and special treats. We're exploring how our 5 senses teach us about the world we live in. December is holiday time and we're getting excited for the Holiday Sing-a-Long!

Toddler Two in the News

We've been very busy playing with new friends and old ones too. We welcomed Fall by exploring the changes in the outside world; looking at the leaves changing color. October brought a surprise pumpkin patch on the playground. We had lots of fun painting our pumpkins! Throughout November we learned about families, sharing pictures of our own. We've started learning new songs at Circle Time to share at the Holiday Sing-a-Long in December.

We know that children's brains develop fastest in the first 5 years of life. Positive, loving interactions support healthy social-emotional development.



Happy Halloween!



Toddler Artists at work!



What's Happening in Preschool

Preschool worked hard on the "Tree Study". Studies are deep dives into topics that lead to all kinds of questions and exploration of new ideas. Some of the things we considered about trees included: What food comes from trees? How do trees change? Who lives in trees? We learned the parts of trees and made patterns with tree parts. October was full of fun Halloween activities. Thanksgiving was celebrated with a feast at lunchtime. December means Christmas, Hanukkah, winter projects, and the start of the "Road Study". We'd also like to say a big "Thank You" to all the Parents who sent in props and materials for the "Road Study".



All the News About Pre-K

The new school year started with the "Beginning of the Year study". We got to know each other, our teachers, explored our classroom and our school. Cooking together is one of our most favorite activities so far! We have just finished our 2nd study, "The Tree study". We had fun taking pictures of trees, using our observation skills to collect information about trees, and making leaf collages. We've been working very hard to show Miss Jen what good hand-washers we are. We celebrated Halloween and painted pumpkins we "picked" from the pumpkin patch (on the playground). We really enjoyed when the firemen came to teach us about fire safety. For Thanksgiving, we focused on family. We're looking forward to the Holiday Season!



If you hadn't ridden a bike in five years, would you still be able to do it? What if you hadn't heard the capital of Peru for five years? What are the chances you would still be able to correctly recall it? We retain 80% of what we experience physically or sensorially but only 10% of what we read. [Read more from Rae Pica](#)