

# Mountain Lakes Country Day School

## Expressing thanks

\*The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word gratia, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness. In some ways gratitude encompasses all of these meanings. Gratitude is thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. In the process, people usually recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside themselves. As a result, gratitude also helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals—whether to other people, nature, or a higher power.

We at Mountain Lakes Country Day School want to express our gratitude for our children, our families, our teachers, and all those who help us to support and care for all of you.

\* <https://www.health.harvard.edu/mind-and-mood/in-praise-of-gratitude>



“The human brain grows to 85% of its adult size between conception and age 3.” <https://www.forourbabies.org/blog/>



## Upcoming Events

### November 28 & 29

Thanksgiving Holiday

School Closed

### December 20

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 pumpkins, fall sponge painting and turkeys. We looked awfully cute all dressed up for the Halloween Parade! We're so proud of Mackenzie D. and Rosa for taking their first steps. Happy First Birthday to our friends Charlie, Rosa, Mackenzie P., and Scarlet! Next we'll be planning for lots of holiday surprises.

## News from Toddler One

September was full of new friends busy doing lots of "buddy" art and learning about our room and how we take care of it. We were so excited to have Grady's Dad bring "his" firefighter gear and truck for all the school to see. We went pumpkin picking on our playground and the Halloween Parade was lots of fun. We've been exploring apples, sharing stories about apple picking and having an apple taste test. We've been very interested in looking at and collecting leaves on the playground. November starts our study of our 5 senses including lots of fun sensory activities. We'll also be focusing on Family and Thanksgiving. Watch for info about our Thanksgiving feast!

## Toddler Two in the News

Toddler 2 has had fun exploring many themes including "All About Me", apples, fire safety, pumpkins and Halloween. We are especially grateful for the firefighters. We loved climbing on the truck! We have been working on consistently using our manners. We've needed less reminding! Thank you to all the families who made our Halloween party so much fun. We're looking forward to the Holiday season! Watch for some special art for Hanukkah and Christmas. We'll be practicing our holiday songs for the sing-a-long!



Hard at work!





## What's Happening in Preschool

Preschool has been hard at work on their "Tree Study". Studies are a way for children to begin to use inquiry based learning which develops higher level thinking skills and encourages the exploration of new ideas. Some of the things we considered about trees included: what food comes from trees, how trees change, and who lives in trees. We learned the parts of trees and made patterns with leaves. We did an apple taste test and baked apple muffins. October was also filled with fun Halloween activities. We are looking forward to Thanksgiving and celebrating families.



## All the News About Pre-K

The new school year started with the "Beginning of the Year" study. It helped us learn about all the things in PreK! Miss Jen says we are really doing a great job washing hands, remembering to do attendance, cleaning up and "reading" the job chart! We've done some cooking together as part of our Tree Study. We're hard at work using our observation skills to collect information about trees, measuring, comparing and even doing tree rubbings. On Halloween we really enjoyed seeing all of the costumes our friends were wearing. We played pumpkin bowling and hunted for pumpkins on the playground. We really enjoyed when the firemen came to teach us about fire safety. For Thanksgiving, we are looking forward to focusing on family.

