



THE MEHER SCHOOLS



# Wednesday Messages

December 11, 2019 • Parent Resource Center: [www.MeherSchoolsParents.org](http://www.MeherSchoolsParents.org)



*Max with his banjo and some of his preschool fans. He also plays guitar and harmonica.*

## **Preschool Troubadour Max Reif's Happy Songs Available on CD**

For the 20 years he's been entertaining children in our preschool, parents have been asking aftercare teacher "Mr. Max" Reif to record his music and make it available—and now he has, just in time for the holidays. His new CD, *Mr. Max's Neighborhood*, includes 10 original numbers. Preschoolers love Max's upbeat, playful songs.

The CD sells for \$10, and Max will donate half of the proceeds to the school. It's available in the Office. Pay in cash or a check made out to Max Reif.

We've included one of Max's favorites from the CD, "Circus Song," in the Parent Resource Center. There's also a link there to the page on his website where you can find the lyrics to his songs—something else parents have requested.

## **Friday is the last day**

... to donate to our annual holiday drive for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. Flyers available around campus list the foods the food bank is requesting. You can leave your donation in any of the boxes in front of classrooms or offices.

The food bank truck will be here Friday morning to pick up all our donations. If you're going to contribute but haven't yet, please have your donations here by the start of school Friday.

... to turn in preschool applications for the siblings of current students for the 2020–21 school year. We interview parents of prospective new preschoolers beginning in February, giving priority to siblings of current students. Applications are available in the Office.

## **Do Not Leave Children Unattended In Cars**

On several occasions recently, concerned parents and staff have come to the Office to tell us of small children left alone in cars in the parking lot. **Please do not leave your young child unattended in your car**, even for short periods. Not only is it unsafe, it causes a great deal of concern among members of the Meher Schools community.

We know sometimes you're running late or your child may not want to come with you, but if they're preschool or elementary age, they need to accompany you when you come on campus.

## *Ask Children for a Hand*

**P**REPARED FOR WINTER CELEBRATIONS can awaken us to a particular aspect of children's development—the use of their hands. With so much modern focus on using fingers to manipulate screens, it's helpful to think about children's abilities to learn to use their hands to be dexterous, careful, skillful, and, most importantly, helpful to others.

In the Montessori method, children are purposely given fragile materials to handle, like glass dishes instead of plastic unbreakable ones, specifically so they can learn to be careful. Children learn to treat each piece of Montessori equipment with tremendous respect. At this time of year, families often take out precious ornaments or candle holders that require precision in handling.

Teaching children how to care for material things is one of the ways they learn to move through the world with consideration.

Holiday time also provides motivation for making gifts, a great alternative to buying them. Creating presents can often involve learning to use tools. It's interesting that in the Forest School Movement in England and America, children are taught to chop and to saw, activities that can be dangerous if unsupervised.

In our fast pace of life, it's often easier to keep children away from tools than to teach them to use them. Cutting, sewing, carving, drawing, and building are all activities that build the hands and enhance overall development.

In our preschool, we encourage children to learn many of the rudiments of cooking—pouring, measuring, mixing, patting, kneading, spooning—as we prepare food in the classrooms. Helping children learn how to cook, even it's just holiday cookies, is a way of preparing them for the future and bolstering their feelings of independence. It's also a way that they can consistently serve others throughout their lives.

So during this active season, remember to ask children to give you a hand.



## Bulletin Board

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*We publish notices from Meher Schools parents and staff as a service to the families of our students. Items are published on a space-available basis and are subject to editing. Please note that our including an item does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation on the part of the school.*

### **Staff member needs a place to live**

A member of our staff is looking for a place to live. She would like to find a cottage or in-law unit but would be open to a shared apartment or room in a home. She would prefer a “natural, conscious environment.” She is a nonsmoker and has no pets. If you have something to offer, or know of something, please contact her at [eeffsquared@protonmail.com](mailto:eeffsquared@protonmail.com).