



THE MEHER SCHOOLS



Wednesday Messages

October 30, 2019 • Parent Resource Center: www.MeherSchoolsParents.org

Winter Holiday Daycare Registration Begins Monday

We'll be sending registration forms for winter daycare by *eNote* next Monday. For the benefit of working parents, we're offering full-time daycare December 23, 26, 27, and 30 and January 2 and 3. There will be no school or daycare December 24, 25, or 31 or January 1. School resumes on Monday, January 6. Details will be included in the *eNote* and on the registration form. Forms and payment are **due by November 8**.

Office Parking Lot Not for Drop-off, Pick-up, or Other School Business

The Tier 2 parking lot is for administrative staff and delivery and emergency vehicles **only**. It is **not** to be used for dropping off or picking up children or conducting other school business. This is a serious safety issue. Also, at times administrative staff have not been able to park in the lot because someone was parking there who shouldn't be. There are spaces for parents in the lower (street-level) lot. If there's no room in that lot, please park along Leland Drive and use the crosswalk to come onto campus.

The only exceptions to this rule are those who are handicapped, those recovering from an injury or surgery, and in some cases parents with infants who bring strollers in their cars to use on campus, in which case they need to get advance permission from the school.

- If you park in the lower lot or on Leland and are coming on campus with a stroller, with or without a child in it, please walk carefully in the designated (striped) area at the side of the driveway. If you're walking onto campus, alone or with a young child who is not in a stroller, please do not use the driveway. Use the nearby steps.

Be sure to communicate this information to grandparents, nannies, babysitters, or others who may bring your child to school or pick them up.

Please check with the Office if you have questions about our parking policy. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



GETTING ACQUAINTED *Not all the animals at our October 19 dance were in the petting zoo. Here a dragon and a French bulldog check each other out. More photos inside!*

The Benefits of Sustained Play

DOES YOUR CHILD ENGAGE IN LONG PERIODS OF PLAY with siblings or friends? You may remember times from your own childhood when you were engaged in hours of spontaneous play, often outdoors. With older children, adults often intervened only when someone got hurt. This kind of long-lasting activity, very important for development, actually has a name: *sustained play*. The reasons for its importance are many and often not understood.

Imaginative play enhances understanding of the world and one's own emotions. It stimulates and imagination and language development, as taking on different roles demands the use of more mature use of words, and stimulates social skills that promote positive interaction. The flow of spontaneous, sustained play allows children to discover total immersion in themes of play, helping them to access part of themselves that can concentrate in other activities, resulting in better executive functioning.

Parents play a crucial role in making sure children have enough time for play and encouraging them to play in depth. It's helpful to think of time for having long periods of fun with friends as a priority in scheduling children's time, making sure that they aren't overbooked with classes and structured sports events.

Children who stay in preschool and elementary aftercare have the benefit of lots of opportunities for prolonged indoor and outdoor activities with others, with no time pressure to move on to the next thing. At home, parents can unwind and connect with children in meaningful ways by making an evening play time part of the routine.



FACIAL DECORATIONS Art teacher Lara Cannon kept busy during the dance painting whimsical designs on children's faces.

Halloween Reminders

- Children may come to school in **costume** but may not wear masks or scary costumes or bring "weapons" or "props." It's best if preschoolers wear only a simple piece of their costumes.
- Please don't let your child bring **candy** to share on Halloween or in the days that follow. One piece of candy in his or her lunch is plenty!
- Families are welcome to come watch our Halloween **parade** through the preschool yards, which will begin at 8:45 a.m.



DANCING! Parents do the Macarena, while three generations of Meher Schools families do an impromptu dance of their own. Music by kindergarten dad Will Pappin, a professional DJ, set a lively tone for the event.



FURRY AND FEATHERED GUESTS The petting zoo gave children a chance to get up close and personal with ducks, chickens, a pig, a goat, and of course, a llama.



QUIET CORNER The event was also a time to spend time with your friends, if you wanted.





ALMOST TOO PRETTY TO EAT, but not quite. The food table was a big draw at the dance. In addition to the edible vegetable art above, there were sandwiches and a variety of baked treats. The food sale was a benefit for the fifth grade's June field trip to Washington, DC.



RAFFLE TREASURES

Visitors examine items donated for the raffle—all of which found new homes. The raffle, like the dance itself, was a fundraiser for school-improvement projects.

