

### Where did the Fall go?



Lunch time for MHA students is a daily opportunity to sit and chat with friends. Historically, our kids didn't always have a friend-filled experience at lunch so relaxing alongside someone who has had similar school and life experiences is a favorite part of each day. They never lack for things to talk about but the regular presence of teachers means they are also learning how to be good at it. So many strong personalities in one room *could* be disharmonious. But they've got these lessons well learned. Look at all the smiles!



There's a big emphasis at MHA on getting students into community settings to practice the skills they've learned in the classroom. The added distractions make applying what they know a real challenge. It's an emotional risk to show a weakness in public, but as the kids get more comfortable in these settings they get more confident. We love seeing that! Then the teacher can more clearly see what skills to teach and guide students to solve unexpected problems.



In this photo our young man is looking for a gift to bring to his family. He's focused on reading the expiration dates and figuring out the implications of a pie dated that same day. He wants to select the best of his options and make his family proud. That last part is not something we can teach but it's rewarding when we get to see it, nevertheless.



**Toy Drive!** The Holiday Gift Bag Program will bring gifts to a local girl and boy in need. MHA students have received their gift "assignment". Please encourage your child to earn money and purchase the gift themselves to make this a learning experience. **We kindly ask that all donations are brought in no later than December 12th** so students in the transition group can drop the donations at Community Service of Newburyport, Inc.. Direct any questions to Ms. Lucy at [LFRacasso@merrimacheightsacademy.org](mailto:LFRacasso@merrimacheightsacademy.org).

Holiday Gift Bag



REMINDER

# ReAdiNg

This month's vocabulary words describe cold weather: numb, excruciating, chilly, frigid.

"This morning when I went outside the weather was cold and frosty."

"Yesterday here was frosty weather." AR

"When Bradley woke up this morning he felt the frosty morning air on his bed." KB

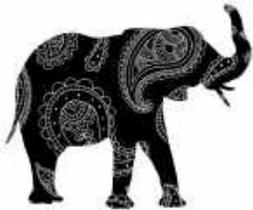
"Monday is going to be a frosty cold day." Yw

**"THE WEATHER IS FROSTY." JE**



Real or Fake  
A Company named  
"Vindictive Valentines"  
Will mail someone  
a hissing Cockroach  
in the mail for  
\$25.

It can be tricky to sort out what's "real" and what's "fake". There are plenty of people in the world who will use any means to part a person from their money. Our concrete learners in particular are often puzzled when what is stated is not what is meant, or when it's a joke. Sarcasm and irony may look obvious but we have one small class which meets each week to help kids sort this out. Ms. Lucy has been challenging them with different scenarios and giving them clues on how to tell when something is fake.



Language based instruction means that each lesson - whether in math, history, or science - also includes instruction in or practice of some aspect of language. It could be reading, writing, speaking, or listening. And no sub-skill is taken for granted. Every school teaches vocabulary but LBI means breaking it down the meaning, how to use the word, what words are similar, pronunciation, and a lot of practice. A key piece to the learning puzzle is to give each student a concrete experience with each new word. That's how they build memory. Over the next month we will be very hands-on with vocab related to our study of India. Students will experience rangoli, mehndi, and dance performed by people from India.

Miss Alicia - A  
Students will be able to:  
FW - Write their personal information with thought and clarity.  
WH 1+2 - Define the meaning vocab words in Ancient India reading  
LA - Recognize parts of speech and Complete Idioms packet  
Writing - Write using T.T.Q.A. complete Thankful Writing assignment.  
CE - Summarize and Analyze a newspaper article/News Quiz

# Meet Ms. Joanne!

Joanne McCarthy is our Executive Assistant and the MHA Development and Marketing Manager. She is the first person you see when you enter the school. You may find her managing the office or organizing our next community event or fundraiser. 🍴 Ms. Joanne developed her expertise by managing for a construction company, healthcare services and at a law firm. She planned major events such as an international scientific symposium at the Harvard Medical School and other seminars and conferences. 🍴 Last winter Joanne successfully organized and managed the MHA Benefit Concert. Lately she has been putting her energies into the Kentucky Derby Celebration Fundraiser, scheduled for May 2, 2020. 🍴 Her favorite part of working at MHA is seeing the difference MHA plays in the lives of students and families. Ms. Joanne believes in the school's mission and sees it in action every day. 🍴 When she is away from her desk you may find her working in her other career, hospitality management, or spending time with family and friends. She's waiting for the return of summer weather to get on her bike or head to the beach.



During Functional Reading class, students in the Transition group are reading and using cooking words including these multi-meaning words: store, coat, roll, drain, mix, and spread. They practiced kitchen prefixes: preheat, ungreased, unroll, discard and sorted essential from non-essential kitchen appliances. In the Personal Health Management class they worked to determine meal portion sizes. Coming up: cooking a complete healthy meal. What recipes could you try at home?

## The PHYSICAL SCIENCE CORNER

The Word of the Month: *atom*

The Local Definition: **the smallest part of an element.**



**This newsletter** At MHA we are always doing something: individuals, groups, classes, and the whole school. In an effort to share some of that with parents we have created this newsletter. It will come to you on the first of each month as a PDF in Joanne's weekly email. It will contain students' first names, photos, and information about what students and teachers are up to. If there's something you'd like to know about, please send us a request.



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