

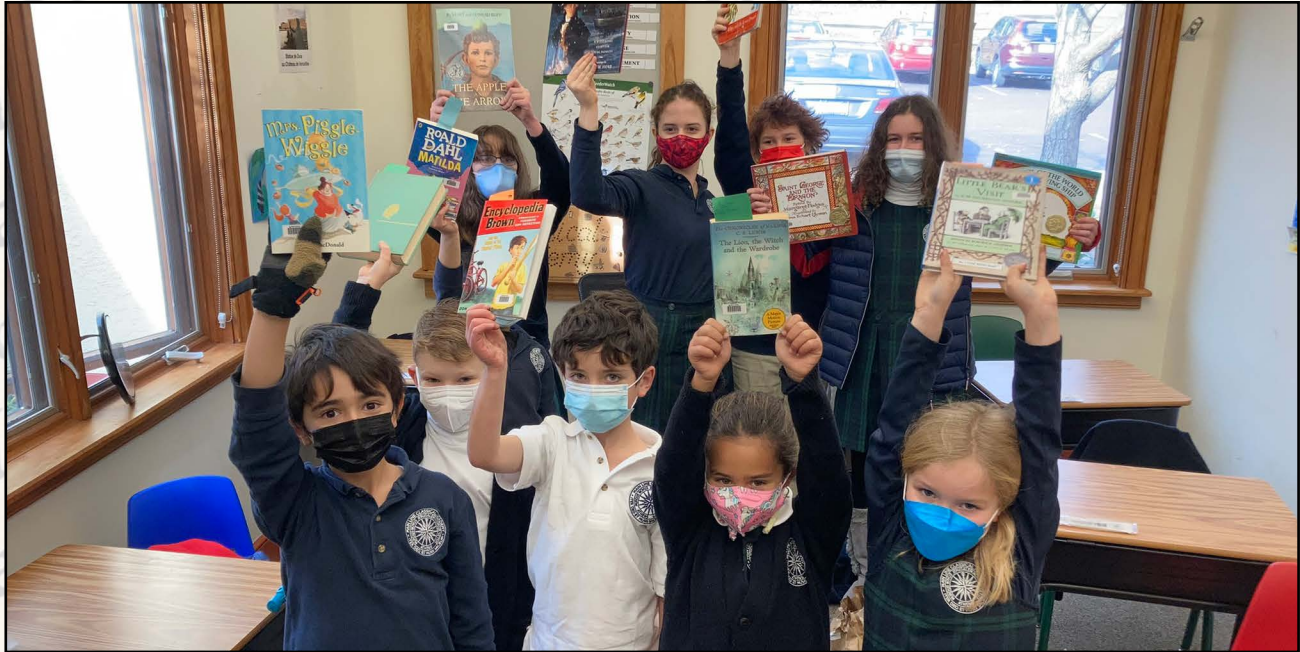


# MLCA NEWSLETTER

## CULTURAL EDITION

February 2022

# 100 DAYS OF LEARNING



Above, the Second Grade with their Upper School reading buddies.

**H**appy 100 Days of School! For one hundred days, the classrooms of Main Line Classical Academy have been filled with learning and love. The students have continued to gain new skills and accomplish great things each day. In this second cultural edition of the 2021-22 school year, we explore the middle-of-the-year events from the end of October through February. Thank you for connecting with and supporting MLCA!

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Balloons hung in the lobby for our 100th day of school on Wednesday, February 23, 2022.



# NOTES FROM THE BOARD

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## REMARKS ON THE INVASION OF UKRAINE

Given at Winter Poetry Night, February 24, 2022

By Mr. Matt Sigelman, Chairman of the Board

Children, as you may have heard, something terrible has happened today in the world. Russian leader Vladimir Putin has started a war in Europe, attacking an innocent country – Ukraine. As we speak, there are bombs falling and tanks rolling against Ukrainian cities. I want to share with you a thought about why I believe that's relevant to what we have come together for tonight, for an evening of recitation.

There will be times in your lives when you know that you are living through a moment of great historical meaning. You might not understand exactly what is going on and we can never know for sure how things will play out, but you just know that what's happening around you is important. Thirty-three years ago, when I was in high school, I remember watching as the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Union collapsed along with its evil blight. This was way before you were born and so you may not know that the Berlin Wall was built by the Soviets not to keep enemies out but to keep its own people in, to hold them back from freedom. Watching the Wall torn down was a great moment: a bright time, a time of possibility, a time when nations that had long been enslaved regained their independence. Today, you are living through a different, darker moment, as a tyrant seeks to end that birth of freedom and return both his own nation and the nations around him to slavery.

The Declaration of Independence reads "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The same could be said to be true not just of people but of nations. All nations have a right to exist, to be free, to prosper. You must never accept the idea that the fate of the weak can be determined by the strong, that a people's liberty is a matter of opinion, that a nation's right to exist can be withdrawn by artillery fire. You must never accept that injustice is not your business and never believe that you can continue to be free when others are not.

But tonight we are gathered together to share poetry. Why are muddy battlefields 4,000 miles away relevant to this lovely occasion? Or, if we ask the question the other way, why is poetry relevant at a time like this?

In fact, it is exactly in times of trouble that we need poetry most of all. Poetry is light amidst the darkness. Amidst the harshest cruelty and the bitterest suffering, in concentration camps and gulags, people keep writing – sometimes even verses they know will never be read. By writing, we rise above suffering and, by reading those works, we celebrate the poet's unflinching human desire to create and to seek out what is beautiful, what is God-given around us, even in the direst circumstances. Poetry is therefore a reminder that God's grace never ends.

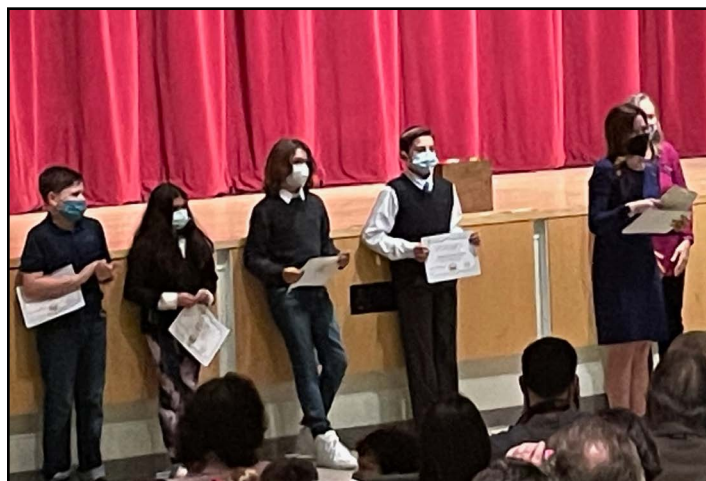
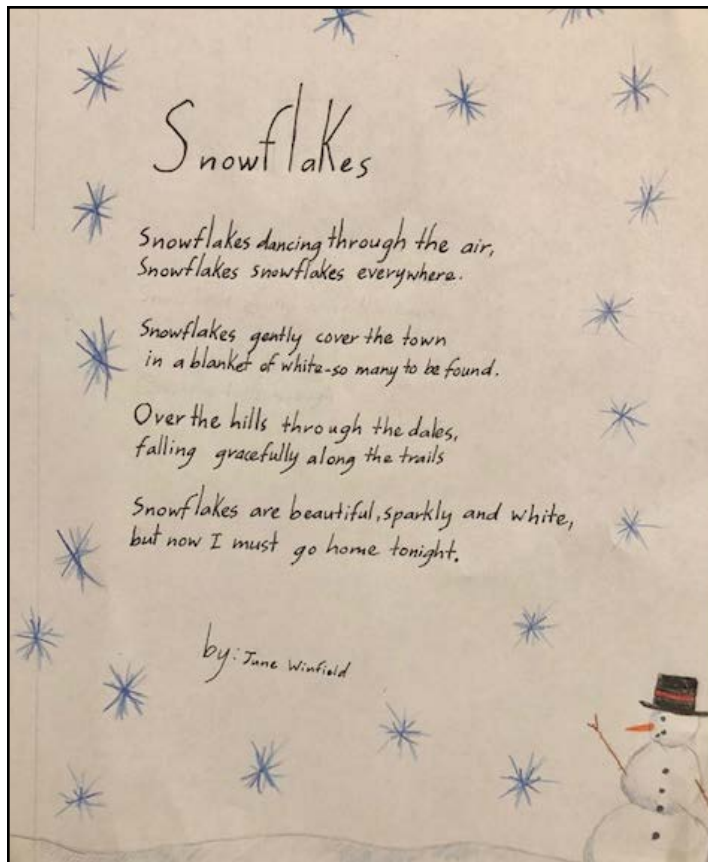
Like all things beautiful and true, poetry is immortal. That's another reason to recite poetry tonight. It can be easy in tough times to despair, to think that everything is going wrong. But that's not true and never will be. Mankind's progress doesn't always play out quickly but, over the long and winding path of history, we keep rising. Mahatma Gandhi put it well: "When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it—always." In that way, poetry is a promise. Sufferings are temporary but truth and beauty will ultimately win out.

Our hearts and our prayers are with the people of Ukraine tonight. And so, as all of you recite this evening, know that you are doing so not with a disregard for the events of the day but precisely because the events of the day make your pursuit of what is beautiful all the more important.

# EXCITING NEWS

## GLADWYNE FREE LIBRARY JUNIOR AUTHOR CONTEST WINNERS!

Congratulations to Benjamin Vuernick, Fifth Grader, for placing 2nd for his grade and June Winfield, Third Grader, for placing 3rd for her grade. The ceremony was held on February 22, 2022. We are so proud of our writers!





# HALLOWEEN

The students and faculty showed school spirit by wearing costumes to school on Friday, October 29, 2021.



Clockwise from top left: Fourth Grade and Mr. Soto; Kindergarten; Third Grade; Fifth Grade and Mr. Cialini; Sixth Grade and Mr. Gabriel; Second Grade; First Grade and Mme. Nselel.



# MUSICAL EVENING \_\_\_\_\_

On Saturday, December 11, 2021 the school came together at the Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr for our first in-person Musical Evening and Nativity Pageant since the pandemic started. We enjoyed an evening of piano and vocal music and time together as a community. Special thanks to our piano teachers, Mrs. Marina Voznaia and Mrs. Karina Butterworth, our Christian Studies teachers, Ms. Emily Woo and Ms. Erika Woo, the MLCA Office Team, and the HSA for putting together an amazing night. Click [HERE](#) to view a recording of this special night.



MAIN LINE CLASSICAL ACADEMY  
PRESENTS

*Winter Musical  
Evening*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021  
6 PM AND 7 PM  
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, BRYN MAWR





# NATIVITY PAGEANT \_\_\_\_\_

The Nativity Pageant is a special production put on by the Christian Studies program, though all MLCA students are invited to participate. For several months leading up to Musical Evening, students came before school to rehearse. The pageant recounts the birth of Jesus Christ and features Mary and Joseph, angels, Quirinius, an inkeeper, shepherds, sheep, and wise men. This year, we included the newborn William Zafriou in our production as baby Jesus! Special thanks to the Church of the Redeemer and Proclamation Presbyterian Church for letting us borrow their beautiful costumes.





# MLK DAY \_\_\_\_\_

The Lower School had a lovely and moving Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Assembly on Friday, January 14, 2022. We sang songs with Cantor Portnoy, heard from Mr. Chilbert and Mr. Gabriel, and heard MLK Speeches from our speech contest winners - Wilbur LaRue, Luca Grigoli, Isaac Martinson, Viktor Berta, Rachel Sommer, and Emilio Chissell. See video clips from the assembly [HERE](#), student speeches begin at 9:12.



## LET FREEDOM RING!





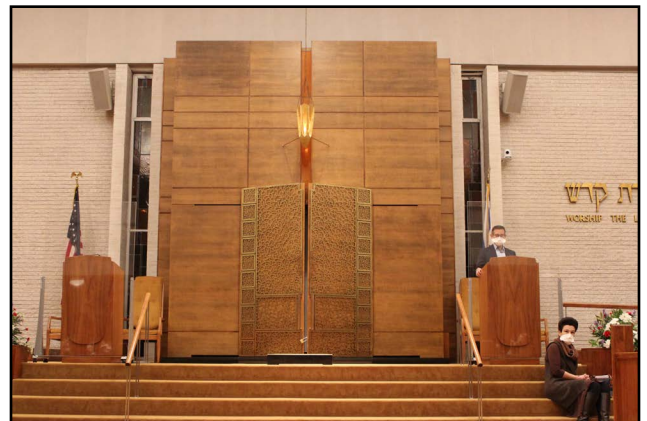
# POETRY NIGHT

The Lower School students and families gathered for an evening of poetry recitations on Thursday, February 24, 2022. After opening remarks by Sarah Weinstein, Dr. Sigelman, and Mr. Sigelman, every student shared a poem he or she had memorized. Special thanks to Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El for hosting our evening, Lower School English teachers Dr. Tassone, Mr. Chilbert, and Ms. Woo, the HSA, and the MLCA Office Team for organizing the evening.



Partial list of poems recited:

- "At the Seaside" by Robert Louis Stevenson
- "The Lord Will Provide" by William Cowper
- "Bitter for Sweet" by Christina Rossetti
- "Mercy" from *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare
- "We are Seven" by William Wordsworth
- "A Poison Tree" by William Blake
- "Ode on a Grecian Urn" by John Keats
- "The Old Gumbie Cat" by T. S. Eliot





# IN-SCHOOL CULTURE

Thanks to the carpentry work of Caleb, Lilly, Malcolm, and Julius, the outside doors are equipped with boot scrubbers. These kids enjoyed being able to use, under supervision, the saw, drill, and screwdriver to put these together.



The Second Grade and Kindergarten classes with their Upper School reading buddies. Thanks to the Upper School students for volunteering part of their lunch time to read to the younger students. We love seeing new relationships forged in these halls!



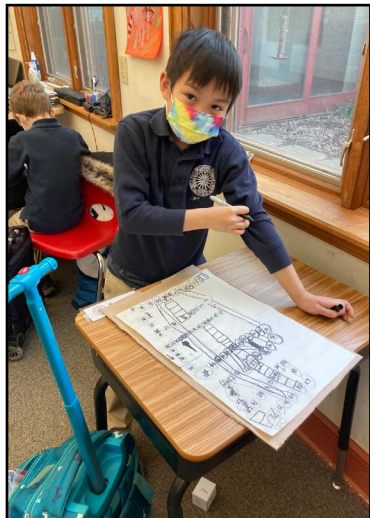
The Third Grade celebrated Mozart's birthday in Music Theory class with Cantor Portnoy on January 27, 2022.



# IN-SCHOOL CULTURE



Congratulations to M. Portier for becoming an American citizen! The students enjoyed an American-themed cupcake at the end of the day on Friday, February 11, 2022



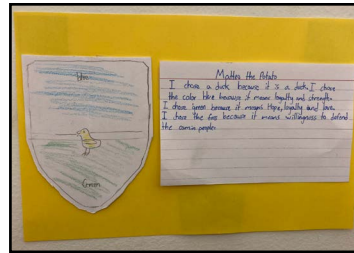
The Kindergarten to Third Grade students enjoy Story Time two to four times per week.



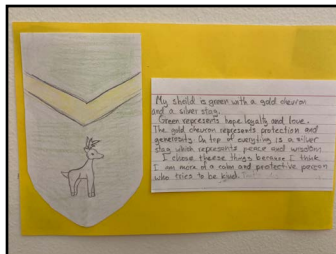


# STUDENT ART HISTORY PROJECTS

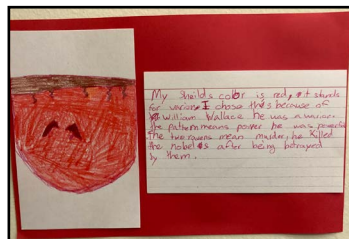
The Sixth Grade Art History class is studying heraldry as part of their study of art in the Middle Ages. They learned the languages of colors and symbols that knights used to identify themselves on the coats of arms. Please enjoy the shields that the students designed and made, which can now be seen hanging in the MLCA lobby.



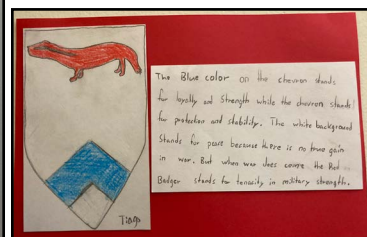
Matteo Posner's Shield



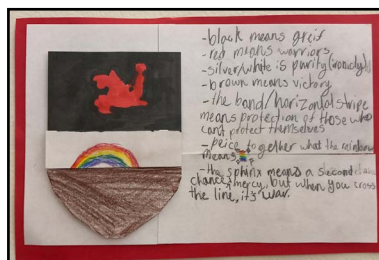
Sasha Maslen's Shield



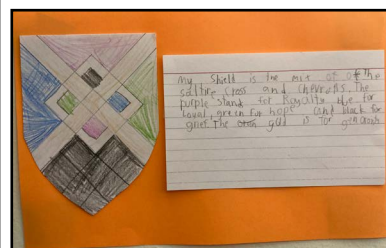
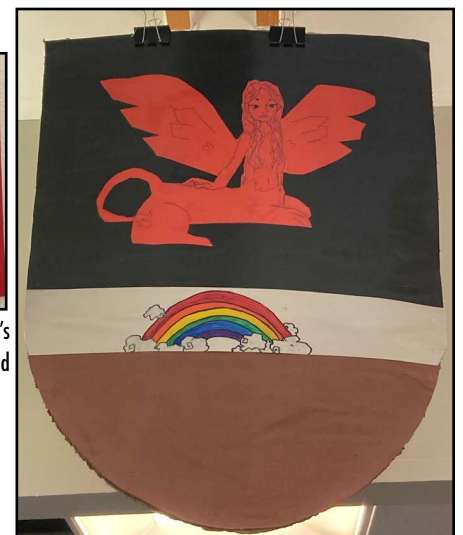
Helene Gormley's Shield



Tiago Ferreira's Shield



Anne Martindale's Shield



Emilio Chissell's Shield





## FUN AT GYM AND RECESS

The students and recess monitors have had to be very flexible during recess this year! On nice days, we can play outside in the grass or snow. The gaga pit and discovery trail are student favorites. On muddy days, we play on the blacktop. On rainy days, we find ways to entertain ourselves inside. Special thanks to Mr. Soto, Mr. Gabriel, and Ms. Hilburn, our dedicated recess monitors, who are often outside throughout the day!





# DISCOVERY TRAIL CAM

Our discovery trail cam has captured all kinds of creatures walking on our paths! The fourth grade students have written brief descriptions of these animals. Click [HERE](#) to view a few minutes of footage from the cam.



Racoon  
Procyon lotor

Raccoons  
The scientific name for "Raccoon" is Procyon lotor. Raccoons are usually 28 to 38 inches and their tails are 10 inches long and they weigh 10 to 30 pounds. A raccoon's fur is a colored grizzled black brown; they have bushy tails and alternating rings of light and dark fur. Raccoons are often near water lakes, streams etc. Some Raccoons live in cities. Raccoons eat a wide variety of food, both vegetable and animal matter, including wild cherries, grapes, raspberries, black berries, fish, frogs etc. Raccoons have excellent senses of hearing, sight and senses of touch in their forefeet. They have sharp claws and are very good at climbing. Raccoons prefer forested areas, den sites and hardwood over coniferous forests. Raccoons are usually near water courses where there are good hunting opportunities.



White-tailed Deer  
Odocoileus virginianus

The White Tailed Deer also known as the Odocoileus virginianus, can grow up to 32-34 inches and 70 inches long. The Deer can run up to 40 mph and jump 9 feet up and 25 feet wide. When they are alarmed they make a loud "whinny" sound. They are very common throughout Pennsylvania in mixed oak forest. White Tailed Deer eat woody plants.



Eastern Coyote  
Canis latrans

Eastern Coyote  
Scientific name: Canis latrans **ALEX**  
Habitat: Coyotes are found in northeastern United States and Southeastern Canada. Most of the population are in the Poconos & Catskill mountains.  
Weight: Adult males in Pennsylvania weigh 45 to 55 pounds, Females are smaller weighing 35 to 40 pounds.  
Length: The total body length of Coyotes ranges from 48 to 60 inches.  
Food Source: Coyotes usually prey on deer and other smaller animals. They also eat plants, berries, and other natural foods.  
Description of Animal: Fur: The fur can change from light blond to reddish blond to gray.  
Breed: The Coyotes are gray to a red and black or saddle German shepherd.



Red Fox  
Vulpes vulpes

Red Foxes  
Red foxes are small and have good senses of hearing, smell, and sight. They are 22-25 inches in length with their tail being 14-16 inches. They weigh 8-12 pounds and their fur is reddish-orange with their ears, legs, and feet being black. They are mainly nocturnal and they eat mice, rabbits, woodchucks, opossums, insects, fruits, and squirrels. They usually live 8-9 years. They live near marshes and streams and forests. They live in hollow logs and burrows and in some backyards.



# JUDAIC STUDIES EVENTS

## HANUKKAH

The students in the Gur Aryeh Judaic Studies program celebrated Hanukkah! Highlights included in-depth study, daily Menorah lighting accompanied by blessings and songs, and a family celebration at the Sigelman home featuring music, refreshments, and three brief student talks on Hanukkah. Finally, we capped off our celebration a Hebrew-language skit telling the story of the holiday, and the popular Hanukkah game called "Dreidel!"



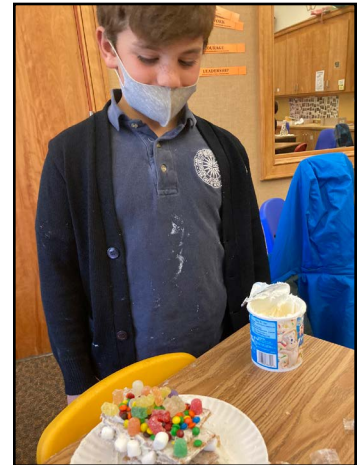


# CHRISTIAN STUDIES EVENTS



## CHRISTMAS

On Thursday, December 16, 2021, the 4th grade and 5th-6th grade Christian studies classes combined to have a Christmas party. We celebrated by having a gingerbread house building competition. Fausto's green house was the winner! All Christian Studies classes prepared for the Christmas season by studying the events surrounding the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The younger (K-3) students made themed crafts during their classes. Lastly, the students did a wonderful job in the Nativity Pageant (see page 6)!





# BIRTHDAYS

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!!

## November

Ronan Myers 11/2  
Helene Gormley 11/2  
Alana Hegde 11/5  
Ben Shpilman 11/6  
Mr. Gormley 11/6  
Cantor Portnoy 11/6  
Nadiya Posner 11/16  
Vivian Farwell 11/27

## December

Daniel Fedorov 12/8  
Pietra Tarr 12/9  
Zoe Fradkin 12/10  
Sasha Maslen 12/11  
Mrs. Shpilman 12/15  
Fausto Ferreira 12/21  
Raphael Sommer 12/21  
Evelyn Carpenter 12/29



## January

Matteo Posner 1/10  
Noah Posner 1/11  
Mrs. Voznaia 1/14  
M. Portier 1/15  
Mrs. Rice 1/15  
Marshall Zafiriou 1/24  
Nicholas Zafiriou 1/24

## February

Raica Tarr 2/2  
Ediz Goktas 2/12  
Alex Weinstein 2/15  
Antonella Tarr 2/15  
Dr. Nagelberg 2/21  
Finn Myers 2/23  
Keelen Cooke 2/24  
Newsa Butterworth 2/24  
Catherine Zafiriou 2/28

Any submissions (pictures/videos/  
stories) for the next MLCA Newsletter can be  
sent to ewoo@mainlineclassical.org. Thanks!