



MLCA NEWSLETTER

CULTURAL EDITION

January 2021

LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



Above, Mr. Gormley teaches history to first grade on Halloween, hence the costumes. Below, he takes care to include a student who was learning from home.

Welcome back to back to school! Since the October Cultural Edition, MLCA has been able to transition to in-person learning, which started on October 13th 2020. Accordingly, students, faculty, and parents have all benefited from the rich culture the school provides. In this edition, we will show you the many events that have taken place in and around the school since October 2020. Thank you for connecting with and supporting MLCA!

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EXCITING NEWS

-WIGHT MARTINDALE PUBLISHED IN SCHOLARLY JOURNAL-

Congratulations to Wight Martindale on his article "Creating a Middle School American History Program," recently published in the scholarly journal Academic Questions. The article profiles MLCA and describes the work he and Mr. Gormley have been putting in behind the scenes to design an American History curriculum for our 8th grade next year.

Click [HERE](#) to read the six-page article.

Read a short bio about Dr. Martindale below:

Wight Martindale received his PhD in English Literature from NYU in 1996 and has been teaching honors humanities seminars for roughly 20 years at Lehigh and Villanova. He has also taught Economic History and American history courses at both schools and at Cabrini University as well.

He became interested in the middle school and high school American History curriculum a few years ago, and, guided by Matthew Sigelman, who directed this specific project, he has created a program specifically for MLCA.

Working together with Graham Gormley, they intend to offer the course for 8th grade students next year.

"The study of American history, in my view, is not about cloudless glory and continuous triumph. It is, as Johnson believes, about the greatest of all human adventures, one that has been marked from the beginning by hardship, brutal battles, frustrating rascality, along with most peoples' desire to lead safe, productive, and decent lives. Our errors were frequent—faults shared by both private citizens, civil servants, and elected officials. But America's history is too diverse, too interesting, to be smothered by this now fashionable but intentionally misleading progressive ideology."

Excerpt from the article, page 6

-MLCA HIGH SCHOOL COMING FALL 2021-



We rang in the new year with an exciting announcement from the Board: the opening of the MLCA High School (grades 7-12) in the fall of 2021. The high school will build on the strengths and values of MLCA to create a program for students who are capable of more, providing them with access to the exhilarating learning of college within a nurturing and wholesome environment.

Some hallmarks of the high school program include:

- Broad spectrum of college level seminar-style classes on a trimester schedule.
- Learning, unabridged: rigorous STEM and in-depth study of two and a half-millennia-worth of history, literature, and languages.
- Unplugged: a wholesome & nurturing environment, free from the pressures of social media.
- Excellence in college admissions as a result, not a driver.
- Electives: a rich array of options across the performing & studio arts, programming, math, science, etc. both on and off campus.

Please be on the lookout for high school updates throughout the spring!

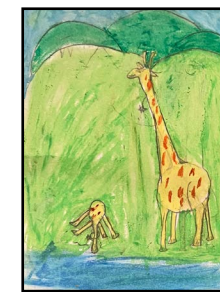
Click [HERE](#) to view the entire presentation regarding the upcoming High School.



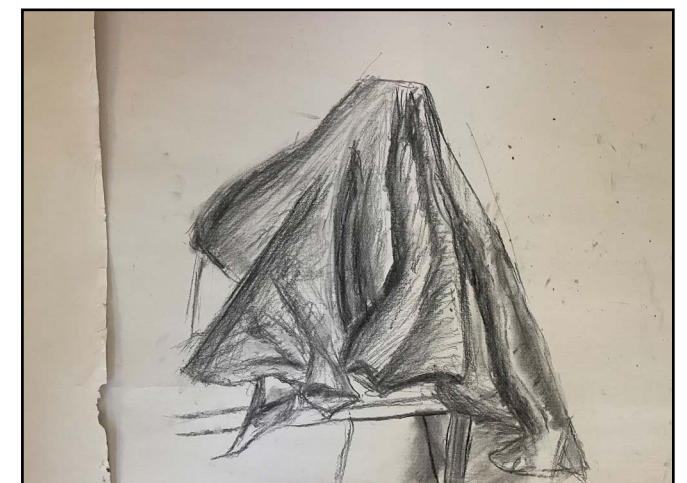
Left, Wight Martindale.

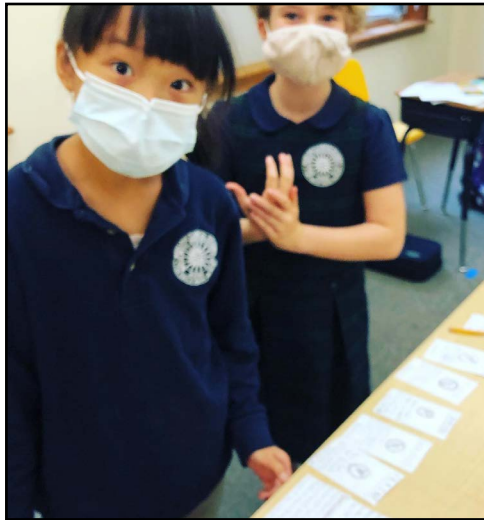
IN-SCHOOL CULTURE

Returning to in-person learning has allowed students to begin the following classes: Music Theory, Hands-On Skills, Story Time, and Violin Ensemble. During recess, students explored the outdoors and made their own games. Take a look at all the students have been able to learn and accomplish!



Left, Francesco Grigoli and the second graders harvest from the garden. Bottom, kindergarteners Kiran Ponnuru and Elise Sigelman in Violin Ensemble. Upper right corner, a sixth grader in Art History. Above and Right, selections from K-8 Art Studio classes.

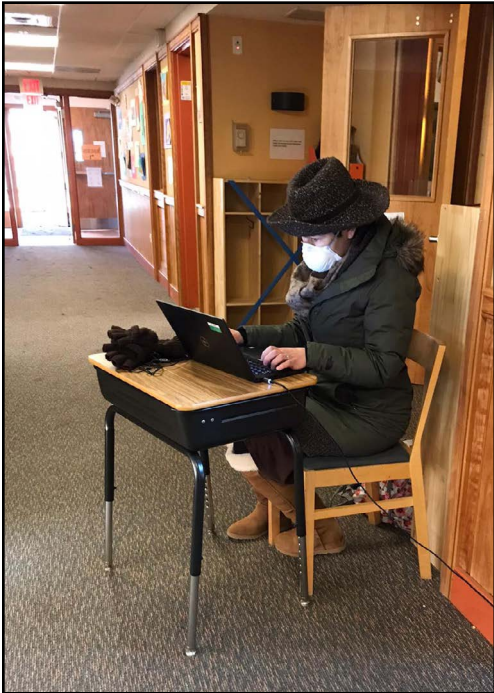




Above and left, Everett Yu and the first graders at recess, working hard to build a structure out of branches. Above, Avery Zhang, Anne Martindale, and the fifth graders create a game about civilizations during indoor recess. Above right, Mrs. Butterworth teaches second grade Violin Ensemble. Right and below, kindergarteners make wings after hearing "Daedalus and Icarus" in Story Time. Bottom left, our fearless leader, Dr. Sigelman, hard at work in solidarity with our students. Bottom center, June Winfield (second grade) shows her turkey completed in Art (picture taken at home). Bottom right, Cantor Portnoy teaches third grade Music Theory class.



Click [HERE](#) to see a video of Mr. Soto and the Sixth Grade playing a game at indoor recess.



PARENT AND FACULTY SOCIAL

Thank you to the HSA for putting together a fabulous outdoor parent and faculty social on October 18, 2020. Thank you to our hosts, the Weinstens, for providing the most enchanting outdoor event space. It was heartwarming to see our community together for the first time since March.

The evening's highlights: Speeches from our Board Chairman and Head of School; wonderful performance of Arias by Handel, Scarlatti, and Caldara (XVII-XVIII centuries) by our music faculty member Marina Voznaia; fireside s'mores with friends new and old; enjoying the festive tunes provided by the acoustic band "Jeff Domenick and the Fraction" (Steve Truce and Jeff-Domenick).

Our Head of School sent her heartfelt thanks to our faculty and staff for their EXTRAORDINARY work and dedication this year.

Excerpt from the speech given by Matt Sigelman, Board Chairman: "I pray that the year has exhausted its supply of curses and that we can look ahead to peaceful days ahead. But no matter what lies before us, I know that we will come together, stand together, and rise together in the holy endeavor that is our tent of learning, that is MLCA."



Above, parents and faculty gather at the Weinstein's. Bottom left, Chloe Le Pichon, Admissions Director, introduces faculty member Marina Voznaia. Below, Marina Voznaia performs during the social.



HALLOWEEN

While we were unable to have a Halloween party this year, the students and faculty still showed school spirit by wearing costumes to school on Friday, October 30, 2020.

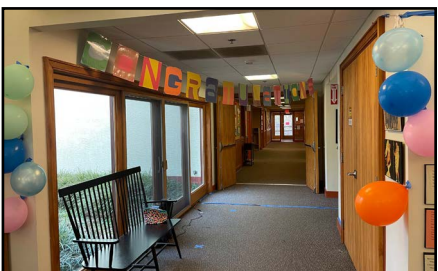


Top left, Tiago Ferreira, fifth grade, as an airplane pilot. Top center, Mr. Gabriel Garfinkle as the "Philoso-raptor." Top right, two Kylo Rens and one deer in first grade. Middle left, second grade and Mr. Soto as Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson. Middle right, the kindergartners are excited for class. Bottom left, Ariel Yu, fourth grade. Bottom right, Nadiya Posner, third grade.



MUSICAL EVENING

The community was blessed with a virtual piano recital on December 13, 2020. Thank you to all our piano teachers, parents, administration, and those who "attended" the performance. And a big congratulations to all of our pianists! We look forward to when you can all perform live again.



MORE DECEMBER EVENTS

-COFFEE WITH THE BOARD- DECEMBER 15, 2020

"On the sixth night of Channukah, the MLCA board invited all parents to "Coffee with the Board". During this event, Asya Sigelman described the progress the school has accomplished this year despite the unprecedented situation. She emphasized MLCA's students' impressive compliance with covid protocols and the importance of staying healthy and safe during these unusual times. Dr. Sigelman mentioned that despite their youth, younger children follow all instructions very well, while older students need to improve their attitude towards safe practices.

Mr. Chilbert described in detail what supplies students need and what protocols are in place to continue keeping the campus safe during the covid pandemic.

The parents enjoyed the event tremendously and many of them thanked the board for the outstanding work they have done. Parents are especially grateful for the excellent selection of talented teachers making the school one of the best in the community."

~By Nina Poliak, MLCA Parent

-SNOW DAYS-

The last two days of school, December 16 and 17, took place virtually because of the snow storm. The students had fun playing in the snow! Pictured below, June Winfield, second grade, goes sledding.



Click [HERE](#) to see and listen to the second graders sing a French carol.



-MATH SNOWFLAKES-

On the last day of school for the calendar year, our students got creative with their scissors in Math class, and made lovely creations displayed in the halls. Pictured below, Raphael Sommer and Zoe Fradkin, third graders.



-WINTER & HOLIDAY BREAK- DECEMBER 18, 2020 - JANUARY 3, 2021



Left, Avery and Sasha, fifth grade, visit Longwood Gardens and see the Christmas display. Bottom left, the Posners pose for a photo with their stockings. Bottom right, the Martindales share holiday cheer.



JUDAIC STUDIES EVENTS

-SUKKOT- OCTOBER 6, 2020

Students and parents joined by Zoom to celebrate the holiday together! Rabbi Sinensky opened by framing the program and engaging students in a discussion about the meaning of the holiday. The program then segued to a special set of holiday songs with Cantor Portnoy, and a Hebrew poem recital led by Mrs. Galit Crammer.



-CHANUKKAH-

Rabbi Sinensky and all in the Yeshivat Gur Aryeh Program put together a wonderful zoom event on the fifth night of Chanukkah! There was candle lighting and student songs, artistic pieces, and a Hebrew dramatic presentation.

Blessing on Chanukah Candles

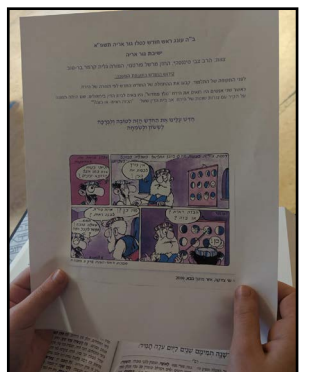
Blessed are You, Lord our God,
King of the universe who has
sanctified us with His
commandments and commanded
us to light the Chanukah candles.
Blessed are You, Lord our God,
King of the universe who made
miracles for our ancestors in their
days in this season.

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך
העולם
אשר קדשנו במצותיו ואנו
להדליק נר של חנוכה.
ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך
העולם
שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים
ההם בזמן הזה.

-ROSH CHODESH- NOVEMBER 17, 2020

We had the opportunity to join together as a Gur Aryeh community for a special celebratory Rosh Chodesh prayer and study program. It was a bit chilly, as we left a nearby door open to ensure proper ventilation and safety, but we learned and sang with excitement and gusto, and our students had the opportunity to shine.

Our kindergarten students, together with Morah Galit, led their older peers in a rendition of a special fast song "Halelukah" in honor of Hallel. Our older students, led by Cantor Portnoy, read expertly from the Torah portion for Rosh Chodesh demonstrating their mastery of the ta'amei ha-mikra (cantillation), and also performed special songs for students and teachers in honor of Rosh Chodesh and the coming holiday of Chanukah! The program was conducted by Rabbi Sinensky and our teachers with a substantial amount of spoken Hebrew, as we are always looking to reinforce our students exposure to and increasing mastery of the language. We even had the opportunity to read an Israeli comic strip about the witnesses identifying the new moon.



Below, Covi and Elise (Kindergarten) make Noah's Ark in Judaic Studies.



CHRISTIAN STUDIES EVENTS

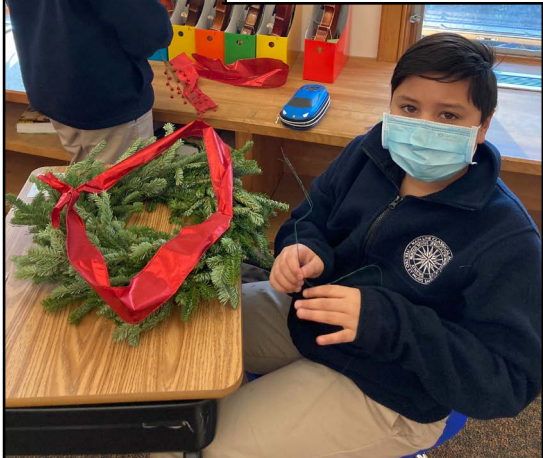
-ST. NICHOLAS DAY- DECEMBER 6, 2020

Christian Studies families gathered for an outdoor, socially distant version of the traditional candlelit “lessons and carols” service with live musical accompaniment. Thanks to the Nicholsons for hosting!



-CHRISTMAS-

Christian Studies students celebrated Christmas in the classroom by making gingerbread houses out of graham crackers, performing a socially distanced Nativity Play using finger puppet, singing carols, and decorating wreaths.



POETRY NIGHT

Our first Poetry Night of 2021 was on Tuesday, January 19. Every student recorded themselves reciting a poem from memory and these recitations were compiled for community viewing. Thank you to all our English teachers, parents, administration, and those who “attended” the performance. Students, thank you for sharing the gift of poetry with us!!



Above, the Head of Board and Head of School give opening remarks. Left, stills from students' recitations. Right, a flower display welcomes and congratulates students at school the next morning. Bottom, a sample question from the Poetry Night video. Questions were scattered throughout the video to be discussed in class.



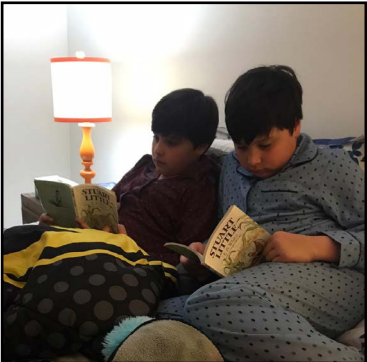
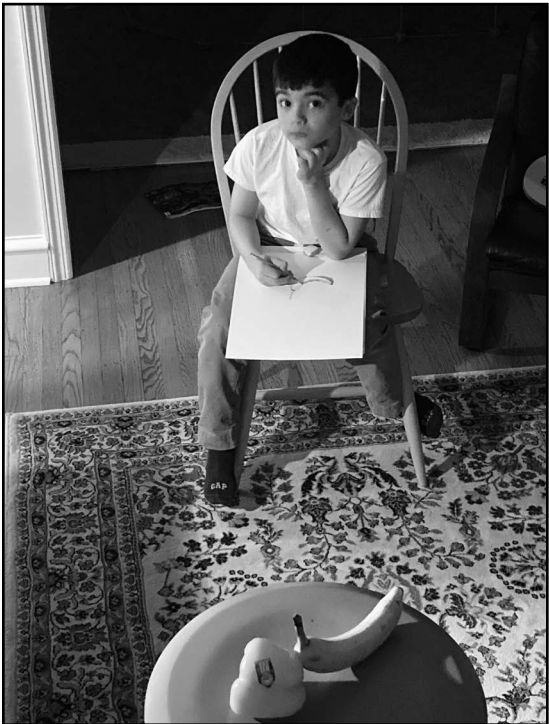
- Sample of poems recited:
- “The Swing” by Robert Louis Stevenson
 - “The Lord Will Provide” by William Cowper
 - “To Autumn” by John Keats
 - “Rosy Maiden Winnifred” by Christina Rossetti
 - “Against Quarreling and Fighting” by Isaac Watts
 - “I had no time to hate, because” by Emily Dickinson
 - “The Lady of Shallott” by Alfred Tennyson
 - “The Raven” by Edgar Allen Poe

Second Grade

When Robert Frost writes, “Spades take up leaves no better than spoons,” he is using ____.

a) hyperbole
b) a rhetorical question
c) anaphora

AT HOME & AT THE PARK



Top left, Fausto Ferreira, third grade, working on still life at home for his favorite class, Art Studio. Top center, Rio and Kai Singh, third grade, reading Stuart Little for their English book reports. Top right, Nicole Fedorov, fourth grade, attending class from home. Above left, students meet at the park for a combined grade playdate. Above right, fifth graders throw a Halloween party. Bottom right, fifth graders working on homework together over zoom.

IN OTHER NEWS



The AMC 8 is one of the most well-known math competitions for students in grades 8 and below. This was the second year that MLCA participated in the AMC 8. We would like to congratulate all AMC 8 participants and to recognize the following students:

- First Place at MLCA: Marshall Zafiriou (grade 7)
- Second Place at MLCA: Tiago Ferreira (grade 5)
- Third Place at MLCA: Lilly Sigelman (grade 6), Katie Fradkin (grade 7), Ronan Myers (grade 8)

BIRTHDAYS

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

- November
- Ronan Myers 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



- December cont.
- Mrs. Shpilman 12/15
 - Fausto Ferreira 12/21
 - Raphael Sommer 12/21
 - Evelyn Carplenter 12/29

- January
- Matteo Posner 1/10
 - Noah Posner 1/11
 - Mrs. Marina 1/14
 - M. Portier 1/15
 - Mrs. Rice 1/15
 - Marshall and Nicky Zafiriou 1/24

THANK YOU, MLCA!

In this new corner, we will be sharing stories of the impact MLCA has had on its students. May these stories inspire and unite students, faculty, and parents alike, as we strive toward learning Truth and Beauty. Thank you, MLCA!

THE FOUNTAIN PEN

The fifth grade is quite enamoured by the world of fountain pens ever since one such pen was awarded as a prize in Mr. Walter's English class this past October. I have heard that all the children have caught the fountain pen "bug" and that the parents are reporting using them as bribes; some of the children asked for them as Christmas gifts! My son was the happy recipient of such a prize and it was incredibly meaningful to him.

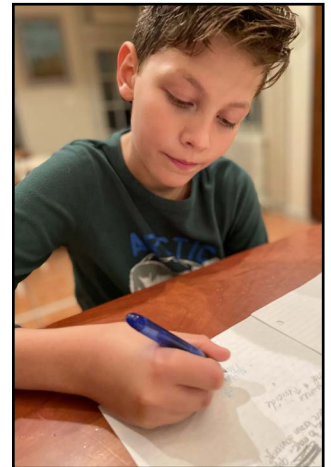
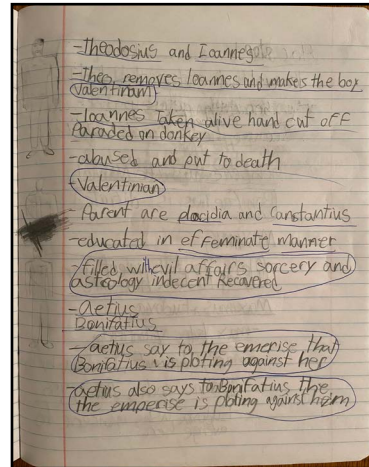
He had always been somewhat disorganised and careless with note-taking at school. Upon receipt of this gift, he started practicing his own handwriting with much more care. He began researching the inks and kinds of fountain pens in existence; asking his grandmother to dig up her old pens made of hand-blown glass; using his spare time to write and rewrite the names of the members of our household. It has become an obsession of the best kind: here we are, 3 months later, and he has acquired varied pens, inks, tips and books on the subject.

The experience of the pen transformed his attitude towards note-taking in all of his classes - the neatness and carefulness has improved significantly. Watching his efforts slowly improve, I also observed an attitude change. He is engaged and working much more diligently than before. His sense of self-worth is developing as a result of these efforts. The little fountain pen gift has given him a launchpad towards personal growth and self-confidence. Those gifts will serve him for a lifetime.

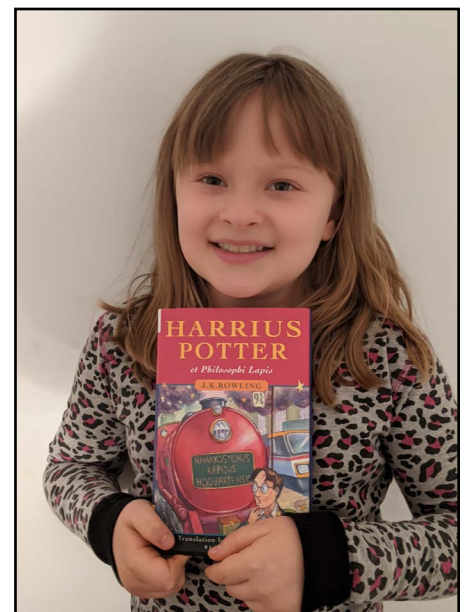
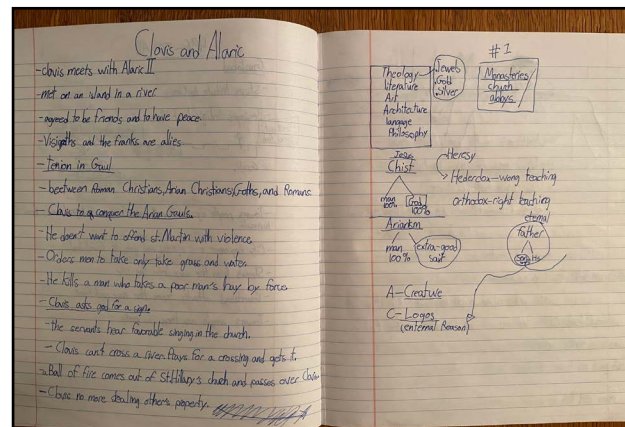
As an MLCA parent, I am grateful for the culture of the school and the presence of our beloved faculty who encourage such worthwhile interests and growth in our children.

~By Chloë Le Pichon, Admissions Director and MLCA Parent

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



Before and After shots of Matteo's notes.



Rachel Sommer, 4th Grade, in her first year of Latin, proudly reading *Harry Potter* in Latin. Thank you, MLCA!