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10



24



36



ON THE COVER:

Local boys playing at
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NOT YOUR AVERAGE "NUTCRACKER"

P.10-11

Unlike the traditional nutcracker with its classical musical score and straight ballet, the Alexandria Community Nutcracker is saucy, vivacious and full of character."

Amanda M. Socci

FAMILY Blog

[P.06]

Classifieds

[P.47]

SWEET TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER HOLIDAY

P.24-25

"With so many festive parties that include desserts, candies and fat-laden foods, it is better to teach your child moderation and how to make healthy choices."

Dr. Dyan Hes

RESOURCES:

■ **Schools / Montessori** [P.27-43]

■ **Birthday / Parties** [P.14]

12 NEWLY RELEASED CHILDREN'S BOOKS

P.36-37

"From globe-trotting Christmas cookie adventures to dreidel-making mysteries, these newly released children's books will have you and your little ones basking in the holiday spirit."

GUIDES:

Preschool & Childcare [P. 32-34]

Open House [P.38-40]

Holiday & Spring Break [P.26-28]

QUICK
READS

- Holiday Bucket List
- Mom Review
- Gift Guide

P.44
P.30
P.15

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Give the Gift of Experiences



Gift an experience and you give an experience that lasts a lifetime! As the holiday season approaches, I ask that we take a step back and consider gifting our children experiences rather than just “stuff.”

I will never forget the day my mom brought my sisters and me to see “The Nutcracker” downtown at the Warner Theatre. The memory of the deep red theatre seats, the magnificent ballerinas, the lights, the makeup, the artwork and the depth of the voices is something that will never leave me!

Sadly, in the instant gratification world of the Internet, the things my children “need” arrive within two days thanks to Amazon Prime. A trip to Target with my three-year-old is never complete without a small \$5 toy that breaks before the day is over.

I can’t tell you the hours I’ve spent sorting Legos in hopes my boys may put together an old set. We’ve even bought plastic bins to house individual sets and tried sorting by color or theme, but it hasn’t made a difference! They have no interest in the old stuff, and still clamor for a new box. It scares me to think of the message I’m sending when I give in to them, so this year I’m making a change.

In this issue of Washington FAMILY, we have put together a Holiday Gift Guide dedicated to giving that gift of experience! We encourage you to explore our list and consider gifting some sewing, music, STEM or swimming lessons. Or, you could consider taking your little one out for a day of indoor fun at Adventure Theatre, Imagination Stage, Shadowland Adventures, Rockin’ Jump, American Pops or Washington Revels.

Don’t know the right experience to gift? Don’t worry! Offer a “coupon” for a day out with your favorite little one and

let them pick the activity. Local blogger, Christella Morris, recently wrote a story about this very topic and said, “If you’re in our circle of friends or family, please don’t buy my kids presents but instead give them the gift of your time and love. It doesn’t have to cost anything, but it’s really the **ONLY** thing they need.”

Thomas Gilovich states, “Our experiences are a bigger part of ourselves than our material goods. You can really like your material stuff. You can even think that part of your identity is connected to those things, but nonetheless they remain separate from you. In contrast, your experiences really are part of you. We are the sum total of our experiences.”

I couldn’t agree more. I’m truly looking forward to gifting my children experiences (and maybe a few toys) this year. I want them to recall these moments with the same lasting wonder I have when remembering my family’s “Nutcracker” adventure many years ago. Creating memories together lasts much longer than any material item ever could, so I hope you join me in making it the season of experiential gifting!

Happy holidays from our FAMILY to yours,



Julie Turco

Julie Turco
Account Executive
Washington FAMILY Magazine
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ADMINISTRATION

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER **Bruce Potter**

publisher@theFAMILYmagazine.com

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Sylvia Witaschek**

switaschek@theFAMILYmagazine.com

EDITOR **Britni Petersen**

bpetersen@theFAMILYmagazine.com

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR **Michele Katsaris**

mkatsaris@theFAMILYmagazine.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dr. Dyane Hes, Amanda Socci

ART

GRAPHIC DESIGNER **Elisa Hernandez**

ADVERTISING

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Micheline Johnson

mjohnson@theFAMILYmagazine.com

Julie Turco

jturco@theFAMILYmagazine.com

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR **Dean McPhee**

distribution@theFAMILYmagazine.com

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NOT YOUR AVERAGE *“Nutcracker”*



The Alexandria Community Nutcracker: The Nutcracker with a Twist and Some Jazz



With three strong women at the helm, this annual production begins with individual visions of dance that meld into a unique unified production each year. They are: Gennifer Difilippo from Alexandria, VA, a mother of two sons and owner of Alexandria Community Dance as well as nonprofit Artspire dance company, Courtney Betzel from Burke, VA, a mother of two and director of West Potomac Academy dance program and Adrienne Magnuson from Alexandria, VA, a mother of two daughters and owner of Above the Barre dance studio. These

three in charge would never classify themselves as powerhouses even though they rightfully should after accomplishing as much as they have in dance over the course of nine years.

All three women have extensive dance experience, having started their own dance training at an early age and teaching dance for many years. When Gennifer began working at West Potomac High School as the Varsity Dance Team coach, she met Adrienne, who worked as the Junior Varsity Dance Team coach, and Courtney, who directed and

provided the main dance instruction at the West Potomac Academy dance program within West Potomac High School. Due to their interactions and affiliations with the high school, Gennifer, Adrienne and Courtney would soon become friends and even business partners.

Gennifer originated the plan of doing a Nutcracker at the high school and approached Courtney with her ideas. "I wanted to do something that was not straight ballet. I wanted to make it [The Nutcracker] a little different," stated Gennifer. Quietly and with little fanfare, the desire to do something "a little different" would end up being the original philosophy of The Nutcracker vision to which the three women would steadfastly adhere to since its inaugural 2009 season.

About the Alexandria Community Nutcracker:

The Alexandria Community Nutcracker show features remastered music from the students of the West Potomac High School Orchestra and uniquely pulls creative dances, movements, styles and theatrical emotions from a variety of genres. The audience may see ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, lyrical, tap, hip hop, Spanish and Irish dancing and even gymnastics sprinkled throughout the performance. Though there is no direct correlation among the differing styles of dance, Gennifer, Courtney and Adrienne work hard to choreograph, manage and assemble the seemingly

disparate elements into one harmonious blend that is divided into two acts.

Unlike the traditional Nutcracker with its classical musical score and straight ballet, the Alexandria Community Nutcracker is saucy, vivacious and full of character, with a lot more than just ballet. If the



original Nutcracker is a tame Mary Poppins, this version of The Nutcracker is the showgirl Beyoncé, pulling out all the stops, offering cinematic eye candy and leaving the audience entertained and breathless through the whole thing. There is good versus evil, cuteness, tender scenes, a few funny

moments and plenty of nonstop action (dance) to give Bruce Willis a run for his money.

This version of The Nutcracker is a seasoned pro, effortlessly wowing audiences with a dance presentation of a traditional story, adapted from author E. T. A. Hoffmann's story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," in a dazzling, nontraditional way. The costumes, makeup and hairstyles of the performers are uniform, carefully chosen and presented with gusto while the scenery incorporates exciting visual elements to help with the storytelling.

Auditions and Community Performers

The Alexandria Community Nutcracker features student performers associated with the high school, including those with the West Potomac Academy dance program, Varsity Dance Team and Beyond the Page theater department. In addition, Gennifer, Courtney and Adrienne carefully weave another truly unique factor into an already special dance presentation – the addition of performers from the community. In this sense, the women work hard to incorporate a group of dancers who live in Alexandria, VA, though they all attend different academic and dance schools.

Child performers must go through an audition process, which usually takes place in early June, before school lets out. According to Gennifer, "[We are] looking for dance experience. Looking for kids comfortable performing in front of people." Courtney looks for slightly different things at audition time. For her, "looking for main characters [in The Nutcracker]" takes on greater significance as she starts to visualize the girls or young men in various roles.

Adrienne's artistic visions develop on the spot during the audition process. She often "sees things" which are almost like predictions of what the



production will do, and she bases her visions strictly on the movements and experiences of the children who audition. It is this type of unique thinking that led Adrienne to come up with a "jack-in-the-box" prop which came to life months later during the real show. One thing that surprises all three choreographers during the audition process is tricks and techniques that the children are capable of doing, such as an unusual gymnastics move called "the suicide."

The ages of The Nutcracker performers range from 3 - 18, but some adults have also made guest appearances in The Nutcracker over the years. There are typically 200 children who audition with nearly 100 being cast in the production.

Whether you have a child interested in auditioning or are just looking to go see a fun-family holiday performance this season, The Alexandria Community Nutcracker is worth checking out.

.....
The Alexandria Community Nutcracker performances will take place on Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 2, 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Visit alexandrianutcracker.com for more information.

Amanda M. Socci is a freelance writer who lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband and two daughters. Amanda is passionate about many things, including school fundraising, Girl Scouts, and recycling with art. Amanda can be reached at SocciWriter@gmail.com.

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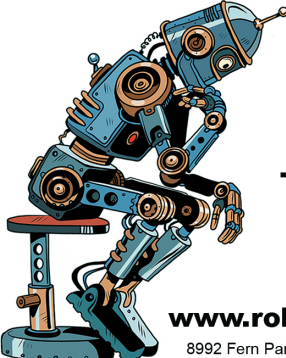
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Stocking stuffers

By Melissa Erickson

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FREEPIK.COM

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Gardeners.com

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Lecreuset.com

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By Melissa Erickson
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Heading out of town for the weekend or on a quick getaway? This duffel will help your loved one pack it all in style. With generous pockets inside and out, this travel bag folds flat and features easy-to-clean lining in case of toiletry spills. Available in a variety of patterns and collegiate colors.



Lovely Decals Name Wall Decal

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Lovelydecals.com

Let the special child in your life know he or she is growing up surrounded by love. A name decal will take center stage in a nursery, child's room or playroom with their name written in large letters. Choose from a variety of styles including airplanes, trucks and nautical themes, butterflies and other whimsical animals.

Stuller Signet Ring

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Columbusdiamondexchange.com

Traditionally considered a gentleman's ring, the signet ring is now worn by men and women, especially with personalization trending. This testament of personal style and family heritage can feature a single initial or monogram, crest or coat of arms, artwork or a custom engraved design. Based in Lafayette, Louisiana, Stuller provides a range of fine jewelry products to jewelry professionals across the world. To find a dealer near you, visit stuller.com



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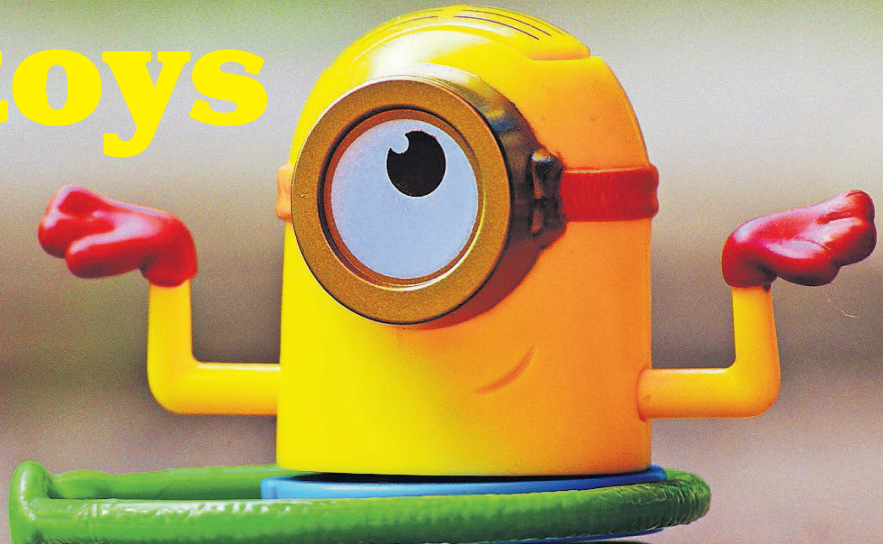
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PandaTree

Hot toys

Hot toys By Melissa Erickson
More Content Now

Toy sales jumped nearly 7 percent in 2016 to \$19.4 billion, according to the NPD Group, a market research company. The week before Christmas is critical to toy sellers; last year it accounted for 8 percent of annual sales, according to NPD. Look no further for some of 2017's hottest toys. Here are some of the standouts from the American International Toy Fair:



Fingerlings by WowWee

\$14.99

Toys R Us

These adorable, interactive baby monkeys respond to sound, motion and touch. You can hang them on your finger or anywhere and they respond with blinking eyes, kissing lips, turning heads and crazy monkey sounds. Plus for parents: A battery-saving feature turns the toy off after five minutes of inactivity.



Fisher-Price Think & Learn Teach 'n Tag Movi

\$49.99

Target

This cool little robot is ready to roll with three game modes and six games to keep your child thinking and moving. Teach 'n Tag Movi encourages preschoolers to think critically and follow directions, whether that means asking questions or testing their dance skills. Moving 360 degrees with light-up buttons and more than 60 different faces, this will be a popular choice for giftgivers looking to find a fun STEM toy for early learners.



Power Wheels Wild Thing

\$274

Walmart

For advanced riders and bigger kids looking for more excitement and thrills, check out the Power Wheels Wild Thing 12-volt ride-on. With dual joysticks to control steering forward and in reverse, the Wild Thing is also great for spinning 360 degrees in quick, tight circles. Its top speed is 5 mph, and big, durable tires make it ready for use on the pavement, sidewalk or grass. Plus, there's a stability sensor to prevent tipping. Recommended for ages 5 to 10.

Nerf N-Strike Elite Alpha-Hawk

\$29.99

Nerf.hasbro.com

Nerf is constantly reinventing its toy guns and the AlphaHawk is a winner. It combines a revolver hold with a rifle design and an easy-loading gun that holds five darts and works with deadbolt action. Ages 8 and up can blast with confidence. Includes 10 darts and is compatible with Elite darts (sold separately).



Kingdomino

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Amazon.com

Award-winning board games are something the whole family can enjoy. Even better: Kingdomino is a strategy game that lasts about only 15 minutes. It's dominoes with a kingdom-building twist. You are a lord seeking new lands to expand your kingdom. For up to four players 8 and up.



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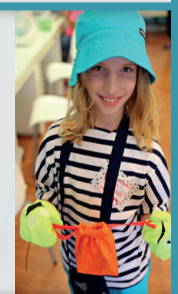
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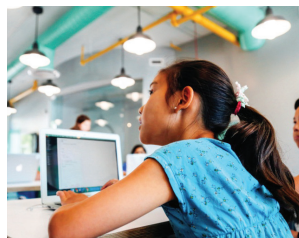
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Experience "...one of those rare events that delight people of all ages," *Washington Post* has called The Christmas Revels "...a seasonal gift to the community," "...a celebration to make even the most incorrigible Grinch grin," "...one of those rare events that delight people of all ages," and "...a perfect vehicle for ushering in a magical time of year."



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Week 2: December 26-29, 2017 - Celebrating Christmas Carols

Week 3: January 2-6, 2017 - Sounds of New Years Day

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Etudes Accelerando Winter Camp

Celebrate holiday traditions around the world with Etudes Accelerando Winter Camp! From the joyful carols of Christmas to the traditional Hanukkah blessings, this is a musical holiday adventure that will leave your child feeling like an international holiday traveler. While experiencing musical and holiday traditions from around the world, your child will engage in musical games, handbell activities, drum circles, dancing, singing, crafts, and more. Join us on this international holiday adventure! Feel free to register for single days or a whole week. Check out the following themes of each week:

Week 1: December 18-22, 2017 –

Musical Traditions of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the Winter Solstice

Week 2: December 26-29, 2017 –

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Week 3: January 2-6, 2017 –

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SWEET TIPS FOR A
*Healthier
Holiday*



Freshly baked pies, holiday cookies, hot chocolate and candy canes are common holiday treats. But just as adults pack on the pounds around the holidays, so can the children. Denying a child from partaking in sugary confections may seem like an easy fix during the holidays, but that's easier said than done. With so many festive parties that include desserts, candies and fat-laden foods, it is better to teach your child moderation and how to make healthy choices. Dr. Dyan Hes, Medical Director of Gramercy Pediatrics, offers advice to parents to allow children a little indulgence, but while maintaining a healthy diet during the holiday season.

"I believe in moderation, not stringent restriction, which can create an unhealthy relationship with food," says Dr. Hes. "I specialize in childhood obesity and while I don't condone binging on desserts and candy, I also don't recommend denying your child treats during the holidays. Instead, limit how much your child consumes."

Dr. Hes offers some tips to help make the holidays a bit healthier for your children and even for parents:

Teach your Child Portion Control when Choosing from the Dessert Table

"Often there are multiple desserts on a holiday table. Allowing your child to choose their favorite not only gives them a sense of freedom in their food choices, but also teaches portion control and limitations," recommends Dr. Hes. If your child wants to taste several desserts, give them a small taste of each one to equal one serving.

"If a child is completely denied a dessert, it will only make them want it more."

Keep Sugary Drinks to a Minimum

The holidays are the perfect time to break out the sparkling cider and hot cocoa. But just as adults need to watch their consumption of highly caloric beverages, so should kids. A 12oz hot chocolate with whipped cream can have up to 400 calories and about 40 grams of sugar! Dr. Hes recommends keeping an eye on how many "holiday beverages" your child is consuming during meals and parties. "Make hot chocolate from low sugar instant mixes and use reduced fat (light) whipped cream or skip it entirely," says Dr. Hes. "There is also a ton of sugar in fruit juice, and although sparkling cider is fun, limit your child to one glass to celebrate."

Lead by Example

Children learn eating habits from their parents. Don't use the holidays as an excuse to overindulge, but as another touch point to teach kids healthier eating habits. If you are piling up on desserts, your child will think it is acceptable. Make sure to load your plates with lots of veggies during dinner and limit the sweets to one after the meal.

Create Healthier Food Traditions

Much of the holidays are focused on food, and many families have special dishes that have become traditions. Those "traditional dishes" are often highly caloric and filled with fat. Grandmother's sausage stuffing, or Aunt Sara's cheesy casserole might be a "must" for every holiday meal, but they can also expand the waist quickly.

Instead, Dr. Hes recommends creating new healthier favorites that are reserved only for the holidays and get kids excited to see them on the table. We make chopped salad (Mediterranean style) that everyone loves and always have fruit salad as a dessert option.

Non-Food Activities

Food may play an important role in the holidays, but adding other fun into the festivities takes the focus off eating. Kids love games, making arts and crafts, decorating the house, acting out stories and loads of other activities that can involve the whole family. Be creative and come up with something that is unique and special to your family's holiday traditions.

Movement

Get your families moving. It's great to play outside while the food is cooking, just be sure to bundle up your kids. The whole family can take a brisk walk after a big feast. The kids get a big kick out of carrying flashlights and going out for a walk in the dark! Have games set up at home that the kids can play like jump rope or hula-hoop competitions that they can do indoors.

Dr. Dyan Hes is a mother of two. She is the Medical Director of Gramercy Pediatrics and sits on the board of the American Board of Obesity Medicine. Dr. Hes collaborates with hospitals and community centers along the East Coast as an active advocate for pediatric and adolescent nutrition and weight management. She has also served as a medical expert on CBS This Morning, WPIX News, the Dr. Steve Show, NY1 and FOX News.

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Week 1: December 18-22, 2017 - Musical Traditions of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the Winter Solstice

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240-838-0275

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Ages: 4-16

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hbeats.com; staff@hbeats.com
703-440-9000
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mom review:



Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf at Shadowland Adventures

TEXT: JULIE TURCO

As if laser tag and video arcades weren't already exciting enough, Shadowland Adventures decided to amp up the fun further with a new addition to their awesome lineup: interactive glow-in-the-dark mini golf.

Before their grand opening at their Alexandria, VA location, my boys and I were lucky enough to get

a sneak-peek of the facility and to test-drive the course!

The excitement began by choosing our glow-in-the-dark putters and balls. Looking around, the course was nothing but unbelievable —accented in UV paint and specialty lighting —the detail was so impressive. (Their artist and general manager

worked meticulously to plan every detail, and it showed.)

As we stepped inside the adventure, we entered a dark tower castle with passageways surrounded by glowing dragons, knights, cauldrons and bubbling elixirs. This theme continued as we traveled along the course, with mystical murals and figures throughout that immerse the players in a “Game of Thrones” meets “King Arthur” type of environment. It was thrilling!

We ventured along the course at ease, from one putting hole to next with extravagant tunnels, bridges and obstacles at each stop. By the time we got to the end, my kids didn’t want to leave!

Overall, my boys and I had a wonderful time at Shadowland Adventures and it’s certainly a great family experience for ages four and up. With their wide range of activities, we are expecting this to be the go-to spot in 2018 for birthday parties. Their various birthday packages allow the birthday boy or girl to choose between a laser adventure, glow-in-the-dark golf party or the mega arcade. And if a group wants to stay for longer, they can book all three adventures.

After our experience at Shadowland Adventures, I can safely say that my kids can’t wait to go back!

Shadowland Adventures is open seven days a week starting at 11 a.m. and has five locations in Columbia, MD, Gaithersburg, MD, Frederick, MD, Springfield/Alexandria, VA, and Chantilly, VA. Glow-in-the-dark golf is only available in the Springfield/Alexandria, VA location. For more information, go to shadowlandadventures.com.

Julie Turco is a mother of three living in Chevy Chase, MD and works for Washington FAMILY. Her boys are ages 7, 5 and 3.



GUIDES & RESOURCES

PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

District of Columbia

Aidan Montessori School

aidanschool.org; admissions@aidanschool.org
202-387-2700

2700 27th St., NW Washington, D.C.

Activities: Mandarin Language, Spanish Language, Music, Drama, Art, Physical Education, Girls on the Run, Community Service. With the innovative and proven Montessori method at its core, Aidan prepares children to learn confidently, to think independently and succeed wherever they go.

Beauvoir, The National Cathedral Elementary School

beauvoirschool.org; alaina.pitt@cathedral.org
202-537-3485

3500 Woodley Rd., NW, Washington, D.C.

Grades: Pre-K-Grade 3

Beauvoir offers an extraordinary education designed for early learners. We are a pre-kindergarten through third grade coeducational school and are accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year.

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riverschool.net; admission@riverschool.net
202-337-3554

4880 MacArthur Blvd., Washington, D.C.

Ages: 18 months-Grade 3

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acornhill.org; info@acornhill.org
301-565-2282

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Barrie School

barrie.org; admission@barrie.org
301-576-2800

13500 Layhill Rd., Silver Spring, MD

Ages: 18 months+

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Crestview Montessori School

crestviewmontessori.com; info@crestviewmontessori.com
301-910-4728

4728 Western Ave., Bethesda, MD

Ages: 2-6

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feynmanschool.org; info@feynmanschool.org
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dswashington.org/glc; glc@dswash.org
8617 Chateau Dr., Potomac, MD

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onenessfamilymontessorischool.org
301-652-7751

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spring-bilingual.org; sbmaoffice@yahoo.com
301-962-7262

3514 Plyers Mill Rd., Kensington, MD

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mclean.basisindependent.com
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beantreelearning.com
703-961-8222

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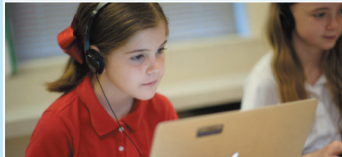
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Graceschoolalex.org; admissions@graceschoolalex.org

703-549-5067

3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA

Ages: 3-Grade 5

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703-340-7268

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703-573-7800

2455 Gallows Rd., Dunn Loring, VA

Ages: 3-6

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preschoolmontessori.com; info@huntermillmontessori.com

703-938-7755

2709 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton, VA

Ages: 2.9-6

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LEPORT SCHOOL ALDIE

leportschools.com/nova; aldie@leportschools.com

703-810-7160; 24328 Marrwood Dr. Aldie, VA

Ages: Infant-Grade 3

LEPORT SCHOOL BROADLANDS

leportschools.com/nova; broadlands@leportschools.com

703-810-7808; 42945 Waxpool Rd. Ashburn, VA

Ages: Toddler-Grade 6

LEPORT MONTESSORI FAIRFAX

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703-810-7247; 3909 Oak St., Fairfax, VA

Ages: Preschool-Kindergarten

LEPORT MONTESSORI HERNDON

leport.com/nova; herndon@leportschools.com

571-222-4931; 13251 Woodland Park Rd., Herndon, VA

Ages: Toddler-Kindergarten

LEPORT MONTESSORI RESTON

leport.com/nova; reston@leportschools.com

703-810-7811; 11579 Cedar Chase Rd., Herndon, VA

Ages: Toddler-Kindergarten

LEPORT MONTESSORI CHANTILLY

leportschools.com/nova; chantilly@leportschools.com

571-222-4728; 4550 Walney Rd. Chantilly, VA

Ages: Toddler-Grade 3

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preschoolmontessori.com; info@cedarlanemontessori.com

703-560-4379

3035 Cedar Ln., Fairfax, VA

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703-481-2922

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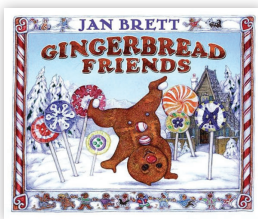
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From globe-trotting Christmas cookie adventures to dreidel-making mysteries, these newly released children's books will have you and your little ones basking in the holiday spirit. So grab some hot cocoa, snuggle up by the fire and enjoy one of these seasonal reads!

1. Gingerbread Friends

BY: JAN BRETT
AGES: 3-5

Jan Brett's popular winter tale is now a board book! Join Gingerbread



Baby as he wanders into a bakery and tries to make friends with other sweets—with mixed results. Irresistible images inside the bakery and outside in the snowy Swiss countryside will delight readers.

2. Hanukkah Harvie vs. Santa Claus

BY: DAVID MICHAEL SLATER
AGES: 5-9

Everything was going smoothly, a typical first night of



Hanukkah... or so Harvie thought! There was someone else in the house, and he had presents, too—Santa Claus! Hanukkah Harvie vs. Santa Claus is the hilarious and heartfelt story of how two holiday heroes wind up with the greatest gift of all: friendship.

3. The Twelve Days of Christmas

ILLUSTRATED BY: EMMA RANDALL
AGES: 3-7

Bursting with gorgeous illustrations, this book gives the classic carol new life! The



festive artwork and jolly characters capture all the merriment of the popular Yuletide tune. Randall's style feels charmingly classic, while also strikingly contemporary, making it perfect for the modern reader.

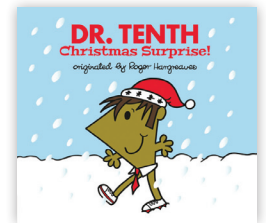
4. Dr. Tenth: Christmas Surprise!

BY: ADAM HARGREAVES
AGES: 3-7

An all-new, deluxe Doctor Who Christmas adventure featuring the Tenth Doctor and his companion, Donna—reimagined in the style of Roger Hargreaves. This is the first hardcover special in this series of

witty and tongue-in-cheek storybooks featuring the twelve Doctors.

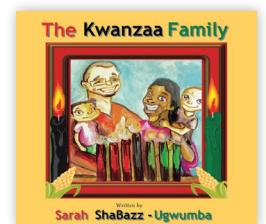
The perfect gift for any young "Whovian!"



5. The Kwanzaa Family

BY: SARAH SHABAZZ-UGWUMBA
AGES: 7-10

The Kwanzaa Family is an entertaining and educational story about how a couple

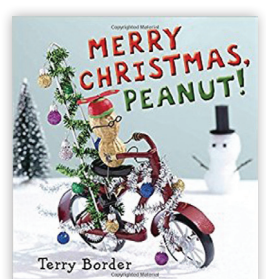


(Leymah and Lekan) met through the efforts of an African scholar and matchmaker, Alarena. It is a love story that also informs the reader about the principles of Kwanzaa.

6. Merry Christmas, Peanut!

BY: TERRY BORDER
AGES: 3-7

In this heartwarming and humorous Christmas tale based on the real-life adventures of one



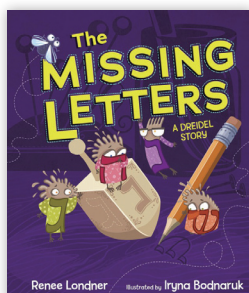
peanut, a group of food friends

discover that the true meaning of Christmas is joining with loved ones to celebrate the joy of being together. From the creator of *Peanut Butter & Cupcake*, this Christmas story delivers heart, humor and plenty of “punny” holiday cheer.

7. The Missing Letters: A Dreidel Story

BY: RENEE LONDNER
AGES: 4-9

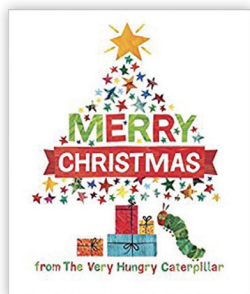
It's almost Hanukkah and the dreidel-maker's shop is busy. But all is not well for the four Hebrew letters that will soon go on the wooden tops. The Heys, the Nuns and the Shins are jealous of everyone's favorite letter, the Gimel. They decide to hide the Gimbels so that the dreidel-maker can't use them. But then, the other letters learn that the Hanukkah story wouldn't be complete without the Gimbels! Is it too late for the missing letters to be found?



8. Merry Christmas from the Very Hungry Caterpillar

BY: ERIC CARLE
AGES: 3-5

Join The Very Hungry Caterpillar for a celebration of all that is festive during the holiday season. The book is full of Eric Carle's bright, colorful artwork of Christmas delights—from presents to snowflakes and even Santa Claus—

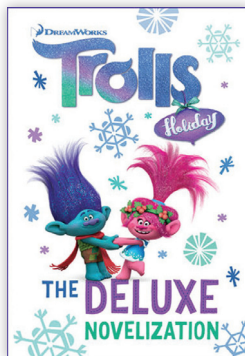


with The Very Hungry Caterpillar making an appearance alongside each one. This sweet little book is the perfect Christmas present for readers young and old.

9. Trolls Holiday The Deluxe Junior Novelization

BY: DAVID LEWMAN
AGES: 8-11

When the eternally optimistic Poppy, queen of the Trolls, learns that the Bergens no longer have any holidays on their calendar, she enlists the help of Bridget, her new mismatched bestie and the rest of the gang on a delightfully quirky mission to fix something that the Bergens don't think is broken. You can't stop the music when DreamWorks' Trolls arrives just in time for the holidays.



10. Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas

BY: ANJAN SARKAR
AGES: 4-7

In this sweet and humorous picture book, a multi-cultural family (Mom's Indian; Dad's Jewish) celebrate Hanukkah while incorporating traditional Indian food. Instead of latkes, this family celebrates Hanukkah with tasty Indian dosas. To her brother's chagrin, little Sadie won't stop climbing on everything both at home and at the Indian gro-

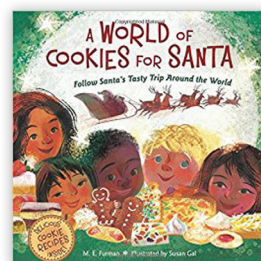


cery store, even while preparing the dosas. As the family puts the finishing touches on their holiday preparations, they accidentally get locked out of the house. Sadie and her climbing skills just may be exactly what is needed to save the day.

11. A World of Cookies for Santa: Follow Santa's Tasty Trip Around the World

BY: M.E. FURMAN
AGES: 4-7

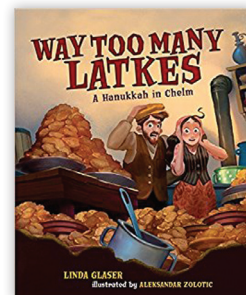
This story takes readers across the globe to see all the treats that await Santa on Christmas Eve. Head to the Philippines, where children leave out “puto seko” cookies and ginger tea for Santa; jet to Russia for a honey-spice cookie; then set out for Malawi for a sweet potato cookie! When you've returned home, the journey's still not over—M. E. Furman provides recipes for children to bake some of Santa's cookies for themselves.



12. Way Too Many Latkes: A Hanukkah in Chelm

BY: LINDA GLASER
AGES: 3-8

Faigel makes the best Hanukkah latkes in Chelm, but somehow, this year, she's forgotten how to make them! She sends her husband, Shmuel, to ask the rabbi for help. And in Chelm, the village of fools, this becomes a recipe for disaster!



GUIDES & RESOURCES.

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District of Columbia

AIDAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

aidanschool.org; aidan@aidanschool.org
202-387-2700
2700 27th St., NW, Washington, D.C.
Ages: 18 months-Grade 6
Open House:
2017: Nov. 3, Dec. 1
2018: Jan. 5

BEAUVOIR, THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

beauvoirschool.org; margaret.hartigan@cathedral.org
202-537-6493
3500 Woodley Rd., NW, Washington, D.C.
Grades: PreK-Grade 3
Open House:
Call to schedule a tour.

GEORGETOWN DAY SCHOOL

gds.org/campsandclasses; campsandclasses@gds.org
202-274-1683
4530 MacArthur Blvd., NW, Washington, D.C.
Open House:
Call to schedule a tour.

MILTON GOTTESMAN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL OF THE NATIONS CAPITAL

jpds.org; sindy.udell@jpds.org
202-291-5737 ext. 2207
6045 16th St., NW (North Campus), Washington, D.C.
4715 16th St., NW (South Campus), Washington, D.C.
Ages: 4-12 (Middle School opening Fall 2018)
Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Open House:
2017: Dec. 8, 9 a.m.
2018: Jan. 5, 9 a.m.

THE RIVER SCHOOL

riverschool.net; admission@riverschool.net
202-337-3554
4880 Macarthur Blvd., Washington, D.C.
Ages: 18 months-Grade 3
Open House:
2017: Dec. 8
2018: Jan. 10

ST. COLUMBA'S NURSERY SCHOOL

columba.org; school@columba.org
202-742-1980
4201 Albemarle St., NW, Washington, D.C.

Grades: Nursery-PreK

Open House:

2017: Dec. 7
2018: Jan. 10, Jan. 25, Feb. 7, Feb. 22

Maryland

ACORN HILL: A WALDORF KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY

acornhill.org; info@acornhill.org
301-565-2282
9504 Brunett Ave., Silver Spring, MD
Ages: 2 ½ - 6
Open House:
2017: Dec. 7, 9:15-9:45 a.m.
2018: Jan. 11, Jan. 13, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, 9:15-9:45 a.m.

THE AUBURN SCHOOL

theauburnschool.org; info@theauburnschool.org
410-321-4799
1710 Dulaney Valley Rd., Lutherville, MD
301-588-8048
9545 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD
Grades K-Grade 8
Open House:
Call to schedule a tour.

BARRIE

barrie.org; admission@barrie.org
301-576-2800
13500 Layhill Rd., Silver Spring, MD
Ages: 18 months-Grade 12
Open House:
Call to schedule a tour.

CRESTVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL

crestviewmontessori.com; info@crestviewmontessori.com
301-910-4728
4728 Western Ave., Bethesda, MD
Ages: 2-6
Open House:
2018: Jan. 10, 9:30 a.m.

FEYNMAN SCHOOL

feynmanschool.org; admissions@feynmanschool.org
301-770-4370
6300 Tilden Ln., N. Bethesda, MD
Grades: PS-Grade 8
Open House:
2017: Dec. 10, 3-5 p.m.

2018: Jan. 4, 7-8:30 p.m.

ONENESS-FAMILY SCHOOL

onenessfamilymontessorischool.org
301-652-7751
6701 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, MD

Open House:

2017: Lower School Open House Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m.; High School Open House Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.

THE SIENA SCHOOL

thesienaschool.org; info@thesienaschool.org
301-244-3600
1300 Forest Glen Rd., Silver Spring, MD
Grades: Grade 4-Grade 12

Open House:

Tours every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

SPRING BILINGUAL MONTESSORI ACADEMY

spring-bilingual.org; info@spring-bilingual.org
301-962-7262
3514 Plyers Mill Rd., Kensington, MD
Ages: 2-6

Open House:

2018: Jan. 6, 10 a.m.-Noon

Virginia

THE AUBURN SCHOOL

theauburnschool.org; info@theauburnschool.org
703-793-9353
3800 Concorde Pkwy., Chantilly, VA
Grades: K-Grade 8

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

BASIS INDEPENDENT MCLEAN

McLean.basisindependent.com
703-854-1253
8000 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, VA
Grades: Preschool-Grade 12

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

BEANTREE ASHBURN CAMPUS

beantreelearning.com
571-223-3110
43629 Greenway Corporate Dr., Ashburn, VA
Grades: Infant-K

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

BEANTREE WESTFIELDS CAMPUS

beantreelearning.com
703-961-8222
5003 Westfields Blvd., Chantilly, VA
Grades: Infant-K

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

BROOKSFIELD

brooksfieldschool.org; brksfield@aol.com
703-356-KIDS
1830 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA
Ages: 2-6

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

BROWNE ACADEMY

browneacademy.org; auxiliary@browneacademy.org
571-451-1006
5917 Telegraph Rd., Alexandria, VA
Ages: PS3-Grade 8

Open House:

2017: Dec. 10

2018: Jan. 9

EDLIN SCHOOL

edlinschool.com; director@edlinschool.com
703-438-3990
10742 Sunset Hills Rd., Reston, VA
Ages: K4-Grade 8

Open House:

2018: Jan. 6, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m.

FAIRFAX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

fairfaxchristianschool.com; khs@studyfcs.com
703-759-5100
1624 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna, VA
Grades: K-Grade 12

Open House:

Tuesday Tours.

GRACE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

graceschoolalex.org; admissions@graceschoolalex.org
703-549-5067
3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA
Ages: 3-11

Open House:

2018: Jan. 17

GREEN HEDGES SCHOOL

greenhedges.org; kvasquez@greenhedges.org
103-938-8323
415 Windover Ave., NW, Vienna, VA
Age: 3-Grade 8

Open House:

2017: Dec. 12 at 9 a.m. or call to schedule a tour.

HOLLY BROOK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

preschoolmontessori.com; info@hollybrookmontessori.com
703-573-7800
2455 Gallows Rd., Dunn Loring, VA
Ages: 3-6

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

HUNTER MILL MONTESSORI SCHOOL

preschoolmontessori.com; info@huntermillmontessori.com
703-938-7755
Ages: 2.9-6

CONTINUED ON PG. 40

OPEN HOUSE DATES

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

LEPORT MONTESSORI ALDIE

leport.com/nova; aldie@leportschools.com

703-810-7160

24328 Marrwood Dr., Aldie, VA

Grades: Infant-Elementary

Open House:

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

LEPORT MONTESSORI BROADLANDS

leport.com/nova; broadlands@leportschools.com

703-810-7808

42945 Waxpool Rd., Ashburn, VA

Grades: Toddler-Grade 6

Open House:

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

LEPORT MONTESSORI CHANTILLY

leport.com/nova; chantilly@leportschools.com

571-222-4728

4550 Walney Rd., Chantilly, VA

Grades: Toddler-Grade 6

Open House:

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

LEPORT MONTESSORI FAIRFAX

leport.com/nova; fairfax@leportschools.com

703-810-7247

3909 Oak St., Fairfax, VA

Grades: PS-K

Open House:

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

LEPORT MONTESSORI HERNDON

leport.com/nova; herndon@leportschools.com

571-222-4931

13251 Woodland Park Rd., Herndon, VA

Grades: Toddler-K

Open House:

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

LEPORT MONTESSORI RESTON

leport.com/nova; reston@leportschools.com

703-810-7811

11579 Cedar Chase Rd., Herndon, VA

Grades: Toddler-K

Open House:

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF CEDAR LANE

preschoolmontessori.com; info@cedarlanemontessori.com

703-560-4379

3035 Cedar Ln., Fairfax, VA

Grades: PreK-K

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF MCLEAN

mcleanmontessori.org

703-790-1049

1711 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA

Ages: 2 ½-12

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

msnv.org; info@msnv.org

703-256-9577

6820 Pacific Ln., Annandale, VA

Ages: 2-12

Open House:

Private tours from December through January.

NYSMITH SCHOOL FOR THE GIFTED

nysmith.com; ebalberde@nysmith.com

703-713-3332

13625 EDS Dr., Herndon, VA

Ages: 3-Grade 8

Open House:

2017: Dec. 14

2018: Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, April 19

THE PAVILION AT BEANTREE

beantreelearning.com

571-223-3113

43635 Greenway Corporate Dr., Ashburn, VA

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

PINECREST SCHOOL

pinecrestschool.org; admissions@pinecrestschool.org

703-354-3446

7209 Quiet Cove, Annandale, VA

Ages: 3-12

Open House:

2018: Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Feb. 11, 1-4 p.m.; Mar. 18, 1-4 p.m.;

April 21, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY

rma.edu; admission@rma.edu

540-636-5200 or 800-272-1172

200 Academy Dr., Front Royal, VA

Grades: Grade 6-Grade 12

Open House:

2017: Dec. 3

RESTON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

restonmontessori.com; office@restonmontessori.com

703-481-2922

1928 Isaac Newton Sq. West, Reston, VA

Grades: 3 months-9

Open House:

2018: Feb. 3, 10 a.m.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

westminsterschool.com; admissions@westminsterschool.com

703-256-3620

3819 Gallows Rd., Annandale, VA

Grades: PreK-Grade 8

Open House:

2018: Preschool - Jan. 12, April 20; K-8 - Jan. 10

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Ages: 18 months-12
202-387-2700

THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE OF WASHINGTON

thechildrenshouseofwashington.com
chowdirector@gmail.com
3133 Dunbarton St., NW
Washington, D.C.
Ages: 2-5 ½
202-342-2551

THE BETHESDA MONTESSORI SCHOOL

bethesdamontessori.com
admissions@bethesdamontessori.com
7611 Clarendon Rd., Bethesda, MD
Ages: 3-6
301-986-1260

BUTLER SCHOOL

butlerschool.org
amy@butlerschool.org
15951 Germantown Rd.
Darnestown, MD
Ages: 18 months-14
301-977-6600

CHILDREN'S HOUSE AT HOLLY HILL MONTESSORI

hollyhillmontessori.com
hollyhillmontessori@gmail.com
19137 Mateny Hill Rd., Germantown,
MD
Ages: 2-5
202-246-0547

CRESTVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL

crestviewmontessori.com
info@crestviewmontessori.com
4728 Western Ave., Bethesda, MD
Ages: 3-6
301-910-4728

THE JULIA BROWN SCHOOLS

juliabrownschools.com
9760 Owen Brown Rd., Columbia, MD
410-730-5056
9450 Madison Ave., Laurel, MD
301-498-0604
3400 Queen Mary Dr., Olney, MD
301-447-5700
1300 Milestone Dr., Silver Spring, MD
301-622-7808
Ages: 18 months-Grade 3

THE MANOR MONTESSORI SCHOOL

manormontessori.com
themanormontessori@gmail.com
10500 Oaklyn Dr.
Potomac, MD
11200 Old Georgetown Rd.
Rockville, MD
5450 Massachusetts Ave.

Bethesda, MD
Ages: 2-9
301-299-7400

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pamela.montessori@hers.com
10500 Darnestown Rd., Rockville, MD
Montessori Teacher Education
(Adult)
301-279-2799

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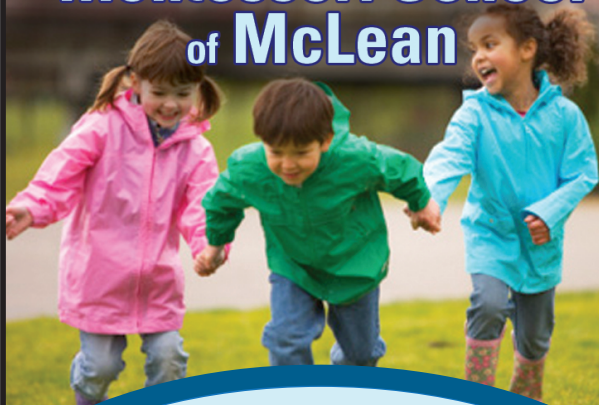
tophatmontessori.com
info@tophatmontessori.com
18243A Flower Hill Way
Gaithersburg, MD
Ages: 2 months-K

THE WOODS ACADEMY

woodsacademy.org
admissions@woodsacademy.org
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Ages: 3-6
301-365-3080

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703-356-KIDS

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cardinalmontessori.com
cardinalmontessori@gmail.com
1424 G St., Woodbridge, VA
Ages: 3-12
703-491-3810

CHILDREN'S HOUSE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

montessoriofarlington.com
office@chms-arlington.com
2425-A North Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA
Ages: 2-6
703-276-1360

THE CURIOUS MINDS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

curiousminds.org
info@curiousminds.org
24963 Ashgarden Dr., Chantilly, VA
Ages: 3 months-6
703-722-2400

EARLY YEARS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

earlyyearsms.com
info@earlyyearsms.com
3241 Brush Dr., Falls Church, VA
Ages: 2-6
703-237-0264

GREEN HEDGES

greenhedges.org
kvazquez@greenhedges.org
415 Windover Ave., NW
Vienna, VA
Ages: 3-Grade 8
703-938-8323

HA'PENNY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

hapennyschool.com
director@hapennyschool.com
20854 Stubble Rd., Ashburn, VA
Ages: 10 weeks-6
703-729-5755

HOLLY BROOK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

preschoolmontessori.com
info@hollybrookmontessori.com
2455 Gallows Rd., Dunn Loring, VA
Ages: 3-5
703-573-7800

HUNTER MILL

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

preschoolmontessori.com
info@huntermillmontessori.com
2709 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton, VA
Ages: 2 years 9 months-5
703-938-7755

LITTLE OAKS MONTESSORI ACADEMY

lomamontessori.com
info@lomamontessori.com
13525 Dulles Technology Dr., Ste.
103, Herndon, VA
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571-336-2559

MONARCH CHRISTIAN MONTESSORI

kidslovemonarch.com
kidslovemonarch@gmail.com
15120 Enterprise Ct., Ste. 100
Chantilly, VA
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703-961-8281

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montschoolalex@vacotmail.com
6300 Florence Ln., Alexandria, VA
Ages: 3-12
703-960-3498

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF CEDAR LANE

preschoolmontessori.com
info@cedarlanemontessori.com
3035 Cedar Ln., Fairfax, VA
Ages: 3-6
703-560-4379

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF FAIRFAX

montessori-fairfax.com
msofx@aol.com
3411 Lees Corner Rd., Chantilly, VA
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1. National Christmas Tree Lighting

- Nov. 30, Performances start at 5 p.m.
- The White House Ellipse

Come celebrate the yearly tradition of lighting the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. Enjoy hot cocoa while watching live musical performances with friends and family.

2. Downtown Holiday Market

- Nov. 23-Dec. 23, Noon-8 p.m. Daily
- Downtown D.C., Centered at 8th and F Streets, NW

The holidays wouldn't be complete without some holiday shopping! This year the Downtown Holiday Market will be open for 30 consecutive days. Enjoy outdoor shopping with a festive atmosphere. Vendors rotate daily, so make sure to return throughout the season.

3. Waterskiing Santa

- Dec. 24, 1 p.m.
- Old Town Alexandria, VA Waterfront

A Christmas tradition since 1986, watch Santa waterski along the Potomac River between Old Town Alexandria, VA and Washington, D.C. Enjoy this unusual event

completed with flying elves, Frosty the Snowman and Christmas music!

4. The Washington Ballet: The Nutcracker

- See website for performance dates.
- The Warner Theatre, Washington, D.C.

Take the whole family to see the beautiful Christmas fantasy come to life. Watch Clara and her Nutcracker Prince travel through time with her Cavalier, Sugar Plum Fairy and all of the woodland creatures.

BUCKET LIST » CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

Celebrate the holidays at Mount Vernon



Mount Vernon by Candlelight

Meet people from Washington's world with a candlelit character-guided tour of the Mansion, and join in the fun of 18th-century dancing and fireside refreshments and caroling.

November 24, 25, December 1, 2, 8, 9, 17; 5-8 p.m.

Christmas Illuminations

Celebrate the season with dazzling holiday fireworks, music, 18th-century dancing, and a winter military encampment, plus appearances by George and Martha Washington.

December 15 & 16, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Christmas at Mount Vernon

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5. Georgetown GLOW

- Dec. 8-Jan. 7
- Georgetown's Commercial District, Washington, D.C.

Experience the magic of the season with Georgetown GLOW. This outdoor public light art exhibition is one of a kind. With D.C.'s oldest neighborhood as its background, it's one of the most unique exhibits in the D.C. area.

6. ZooLights at the Zoo

- Nov. 24-Jan. 1, 5-9 p.m.
- National Zoo, Washington, D.C.

ZooLights is a free event that everyone can enjoy. This night will include live music performances, delicious treats and tons of holiday shopping. More than 500,000 captivating lights transform the Zoo into a winter wonderland!

7. The Center for Ballet Arts Presents: Nutcracker in a Nutshell

- Dec. 16, 3 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. & Dec. 17, 3 p.m.
- Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria, VA

Bring the family out to enjoy an abridged version of the beloved classic tale! The Center for Ballet Art's annual performance is sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

8. Bethesda Winter Wonderland

- Dec. 2, 1-4 p.m.
- Veterans Park, Downtown Bethesda, MD

Celebrate the holiday season in Veterans Park in Bethesda, MD with live ice sculpting, a visit from Santa Claus and live performances!

9. Reston Town Center's Holiday Events

- See website for dates.
- Reston Town Center, Reston, VA

Looking for multiple activities to do this holiday season? Reston Town Center is just the place for you. Between ice-skating, gift shopping and carriage rides, Reston Town Center is the perfect place for a fun night out.

10. Jingle Bell Rock & Run

- Dec. 16, 9 a.m.
- One Loudoun, Ashburn, VA

Celebrate the holidays with a thrilling 5K/10K race and let the little ones enjoy the 1K Fun Run! The after-party is filled with treats, activities and meet ups with Santa.

11. Winter Lights Festival

- Nov. 24-Dec. 31
- Seneca Creek State Park, 1950 Clopper Rd., Gaithersburg, MD

Enjoy the 3.5-mile drive through the enchanted Seneca Creek State Park, which takes you through more than 380 illuminated displays.

12. Gaylord ICE!

- Nov. 18-Jan. 1
- Marriott Gaylord National Harbor, 201 Waterfront St., MD

ICE! is the Gaylord's signature holiday attraction. This year's theme is Rudolph the Red-Nosed

Reindeer - brought to life with a spectacular walk-through winter wonderland carved from more than two million pounds of ice.

13. Bull Run Festival of Lights

- Nov. 22-Jan. 7
- Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville, VA

Experience the magical 2.5 miles of holiday light displays. After viewing the lights, enjoy refreshments and photos with Santa Claus!

14. National Hanukkah Menorah Lighting Ceremony

- Dec. 12, 4 p.m.
- White House Ellipse

Festivities at the lighting ceremony include musical performances, hot latkes and donuts. Enjoy a special performance by The United States Air Force Band.

15. Jingle Ball

- Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- Capital One Arena, Washington, D.C.

The iHeart Radio Jingle Ball Tour is back with another fantastic lineup. Artists including Taylor Swift, Sam Smith, The Chainsmokers, Fifth Harmony and so much more will be performing at this year's most favorite holiday concert.

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