



**MANISTEE EARLY
CHILDHOOD CENTER**



January
2026



MONTHLY WORD from Principal Huber



Happy New Year! As we welcome our early learners back, January promises to be a month filled with activities at all levels of our building.

As always, coming back to school is an ideal time to reset our routines, and we spend our first few days reminding everyone of school expectations and protocols for a safe and orderly building.

Here are a few reminders of being back **ON TRACK** at MECC:

Attendance: Consistent attendance is vital for early development. If you must schedule appointments, please try to do so outside of core instructional hours.

Weather Preparedness: Please ensure your child comes to school with labeled winter gear (mittens, hats, and warm coats) for outdoor play. This is also a period of cold and wetness; it's a good idea to check your child's backpack for wet snowpants, hats, gloves, and boots. Removing them and letting all items dry overnight will really help - a few minutes in the dryer might be a good idea too!

No School for GSRP and Kindergarten on Monday, January 19th for MAPS professional learning time. Our Mini Mariners will be open.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making this year a success for your child. We look forward to a wonderful month of learning together!

MAPS NUTRITION SERVICES
MONTHLY LOCALLY SOURCED/ MICHIGAN GROWN HIGHLIGHT

JANUARY - CUCUMBERS

MAPS NUTRITION SERVICES GETS ALL THEIR CUCUMBERS FROM MICHIGAN FARMS.

All our Michigan-grown Cucumbers come in bulk, and the MAPS Nutrition Service Staff slices or dices them for each lunch service

Our Sponsors:

 

 



Mini Mariners New Year celebration! We popped a balloon filled with bird seed to welcome the start of a new year!





Kindergarten Assessments

After focusing on how to be a learner all fall, January is a time of assessment on where our kindergarteners are as emerging readers and mathematicians. There will be a focus on letter and number mastery, and the beginning reading skills of sight word recognition.

As parents you will begin to get feedback on your child's academic progress, including results of the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA). This assessment will give feedback on your child's phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skill level. Your teacher will give you more information on this assessment going forward.



Water Discovery

GSRP #1 began a new study: Water. We kicked off the study by asking the children what they already knew about water. The children experimented with tubs of water using sponges and cups, focusing on water absorption and transfer as they squeezed, poured, and observed how water moves.

The children also explored water through art by coloring on cotton rounds with markers and using pipettes to squeeze water onto them. They were excited to watch the colors spread, blend, and run together. We wrapped up the week by exploring ice, painting it with watercolors and observing how the ice changed as it melted. It was definitely a wet week—and a fun one full of curiosity and discovery!

