

Dear MMCH families, supporters, and fellow community members,

We are looking forward to holding our 7th Annual Harvest Festival THIS Saturday, October 16th. Thank you for the outpouring of support for this fundraising endeavor and we hope to see you there!



In true Montessori fashion, MMCH will be treating this year's Harvest Festival the same way we treat our classrooms, and that's by recommending "*freedom within limits.*" As we adjust to the state of the world we're living in, let's remember that we all have the *freedom* to decide whether to attend this event, we all have the *freedom* to decide who we interact with and in what activities we participate. At the same time, we can all do our best to *limit* the amount of germs we share with each other while raising funds for MMCH.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you decide if attending Harvest Festival (HF) is right for you:

- HF will be held entirely outdoors, so there is plenty of room to spread out, and breathe the fresh mountain air. If you need to go indoors to use the bathroom or warm up, masks are **REQUIRED**.
- The very best way to not share germs is to give each other space. Can't give each other space? Then masks are recommended outdoors as well. Bring your own or MMCH will have some extras on hand, too.
- We want everyone to feel welcome at HF. However, please do not attend (and find another way to show your support!) if you have had close contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19, are awaiting results, or are experiencing any of the following symptoms:
 - Shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, fever above 100.4, chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache or sore throat, runny nose/congestion (in conjunction with other symptoms), or cough.

We've all seen that a lot can happen in a short amount of time. This is our plan for now, and is subject to change as we get closer due to a steep rise in COVID-19 cases (or other communicable viruses), severe weather, or some other unforeseen circumstance.

But you know what doesn't change? The need to provide access to high-quality childcare and early education for the children in our community regardless of socio-economic status. We also don't anticipate a change in the critical need to provide outdoor classroom space for our students to grow and learn. Our Scholarship Fund and Outdoor Classroom materials are the two things we are fundraising for this year. Please take a moment and consider your ticket purchase or sponsorship as a donation to the Scholarship Fund or Outdoor Classroom budget, should we need to cancel our event. If you request a refund, we will certainly return your money.

Thank you again for your support. Let's continue to take care of ourselves and take care of each other in the best ways we know how.

Sincerely,

Bethany Mahar & Dani Mahoney
Director & Assistant Director of Maine Mountain Children's House