

MARYLAND GREEN SCHOOL CERTIFICATION

What purpose would education serve in our days unless it helped man to a knowledge of the environment to which he has to adapt himself? Maria Montessori

Since its inception in 1985, Montessori International Children's House (MICH) has taken its stewardship of the earth very seriously instilling appropriate environmental lessons throughout its curriculum. MICH was officially recognized as a MAEOE Certified Maryland Green School on June 4th, 2010 at a ceremony at Sandy Point State Park as part of the first annual Maryland Green School Youth Summit.

The award was the culmination of two years spent documenting how MICH demonstrates its commitment to integrate the environment into all aspects of the school culture including professional development for teachers, curricular integration, modeling of best management practices inside and outside the school, community involvement, and of course, celebration.

The application process spearheaded by Nancy Anselm, MICH's Educational Director, indicated "Without the commitment of the entire MICH community we would not have attained this significant honor. We are especially grateful to Dianna Young, a current MICH parent, whose belief in the importance of this certification for the school led her to volunteer to prepare the extensive application that was submitted."

As a school that educates students from 18 months through 6th grade, there are many shades of green that color the classrooms. The youngest students care for classroom plants, plant vegetables in their garden, and then enjoy the bounty for snack. Primary students plant seeds for the Elementary gardens. Elementary students plant, tend, harvest, sell the plants and then donate the funds raised.

"Our responsibility to be environmental stewards goes beyond the classroom as we fulfill our mission of educating responsible members of our world society." said Jean Burgess, MICH's Administrative Director. "Our recycling efforts include coffee grinds to feed our worm farms, lunch scraps to add to the compost pile, paper, cell phones, ink cartridges, and technology equipment. All our efforts have a direct effect on reducing pollutant runoff into the Bay and minimizing solid waste disposal. Our students were very proud of themselves and the school when they raised our Green School flag for the first time."

MONTESSORI INTERNATIONAL WAS RECERTIFIED AS A MARYLAND GREEN SCHOOL SPRING 2014.

