Dear Parents,

This week, the 3rd year students enjoyed a special lunch at Panera Bread and then visited Turning Points: A Coalition for the Homeless to deliver a check from the proceeds from their Holiday Gift Shop. We toured the facility and learned about the many important functions that Turning Points provides for people in our community including assistance in securing shelter, finding a job, acquiring clothing and household items, as well as food. Turning Points also offers a warm shower, laundry services, and important medical care to people in need. It is truly a life changing experience. Our children have beautiful, empathetic hearts. We hope that they will remain committed to helping those in need as they grow. We thank everyone who supported our Holiday Gift Shop- we could not have made this special donation without you. Thank you!

In the classroom, there is a busy hum of activity and purposeful work. The 1st year students attend small group reading lessons every morning and are learning new sounds and new spellings. We continue to work on the correct formation of letters with our handwriting practice. Many 1st year students have also been introduced to grammar and are studying nouns with singular/plural as well as feminine/masculine forms of nouns. The 2nd and 3rd year students also attend reading lessons, while receiving lessons in grammar, word study, creative writing, research, and cursive. Many students have developed beautiful cursive which has been proven to promote executive function in brain development, as well as fine motor skills. All E1 students have the opportunity to write in their own journals on a daily basis with an illustration. Finally, students are working to complete their plays for Florida Studio Theater's Young Playwright's Festival.

In the math classroom, students receive individual lessons on math operations, fractions, word problems, clock, and money. Some children are excited to have been introduced to decimals and multiples. The brilliantly designed didactic Montessori materials aid the children in the transition from concrete to abstract thinking, while developing the mathematical mind. The Montessori math materials also facilitate the children in working on more challenging mathematical problems with numbers into the thousands.

In the afternoon, the Pacific class is now receiving cultural lessons with Ms. Rachel. They have been exploring scientific classification. They learned that living things must do at least two of the following things: breathe, move, grow, make more of themselves, get energy, excrete waste, and be sensitive to changes in their environments. Ms. Juana is presenting lessons to the Atlantic class. They are studying North and South America, covering the countries, flags, and biomes, as well as the plants and animals living within each biome.

In our endeavors to educate the whole child, the children continue to attend music and PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as art and yoga on Fridays. It is a truly wonderful life we lead!

As a reminder, registration is open to all Center families and will open to the general public on February 1st. If you have any questions or would like to come in for a 20-minute visit in the classroom, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
The E1 Teachers
It’s Elementary My Dear Parents!

Elementary 1’s Weekly Report.