October 4, 2019

Dear Parents,

Dr. Maria Montessori wrote extensively regarding the 6-9 year old child and the role of the cosmic curriculum in the Montessori classroom. She constructs a clear foundation within which the teacher may plant many seeds for this age child regarding the universe in which we live. The idea, or goal, of this part of the curriculum is to leave the child with the impression of wonderful or wonder-filled the universe may actually be. By studying the entirety of the universe, Montessori believed our children would grow to be not only the caretakers of our earth, but also leaders in science, math, exploration, and innovation. Dr. Montessori was also committed to peace education and wanted the children to know about the world in which we live. She believed that by exploring the world and its parts (continents, countries, flags, and people), she hoped that children in the Montessori classroom would become advocates for creatively constructing peaceful resolutions for all human kind.

With this in mind, both E1 classes have been introduced to the earth and its parts. The children are invited to study the countries and flags of each continent on a daily basis at their choosing. In addition, the Pacific class has been introduced to the world’s biomes (including the desert, wetland, grassland, tropical forest, temperate forest, ocean, and tundra). They have studied the people and animals that live within the different biomes of North America. Soon, they will study the South American biomes, its people and animals. The Atlantic class began by reading creation stories from many different cultures around the world, and then examined the scientific theory of how the universe may have been created with the Big Bang. The children then began to study the parts of the universe including galaxies, stars, constellations, planets, and the sun. The Atlantic have also been introduced to the scientific classification of living things: Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plant, and Animal Kingdoms. All of the children are also learning how to independently research topics of their own choosing and produce a follow up about what they learned, including an illustration. We are thrilled to observe the children's enthusiasm for learning and the wealth of knowledge that they excitedly share with one another.
Another area of study this week was to research the states of our country. We also learned about the state flags and the state birds. Some of you commented that you have enjoyed seeing the books that we are reading. This week, we read Don’t Know Much About the 50 States by Kenneth C. Davis, The Scrambled States of America by Laurie Keller, and United Tweets of America by Hudson Talbott.

As a reminder, on Tuesday, October 8, we will visit Florida Studio Theater to see the play, Pinocchio. Please remember that all chaperone seats in the theater for this field trip will be reserved for parents who return the permission slips on a “first come, first served” basis. We thank you for your understanding and are grateful to everyone who has volunteered to join us. We could not provide these wonderful educational opportunities without your support.

Finally, we would like to gather and discuss our favorite topic: your children! We look forward to seeing everyone throughout the month of October for Fall Conferences. The official conference date is reserved for Monday, October 14, however, please know we have other dates and times set aside for you throughout the entire month. Please find the invite on Sign Up Genius to select a time that is convenient for you. If you have any questions, please contact a teacher directly. Thank you!

Have a fantastic weekend!

Sincerely,

The E1 Teachers
The E1 children celebrated National Taco Day during lunch on Thursday. We learned that tacos were probably invented in Mexico between 1,000-500 BC. They were brought to our country in 1905. Americans consume about 4.5 billion tacos every year.

Thank you to the families of Imogene, Ryan, James T and Zina for helping prepare such a delicious and fun lunch.