Dear E1 Parents

This month, we were reminded that all human beings, throughout history and across the globe, have held a fundamental need for celebrating, expressing themselves through music, and creating communities. In our interest in promoting peace, respect, and tolerance, we began reading about celebrations and holidays around the world that occur during this time of year. The children sang in celebration of this special time with songs from many different cultures. Finally, with your kindness and help, we have built community and contributed to our community with the profits from the holiday gift shop benefitting local charities.

This week, the Elementary 1 third year students operated the Center’s Annual Holiday Gift Shop. It was a truly amazing and fun experience for the children! This was also a wonderful practical life experience for the E1 third year students. There are many jobs and skills involved in managing the gift shop. First, the children had to unpack the merchandise, price the items, organize the inventory according to price codes, and display the items in a pleasing manner on the tables in our shop. The third year students practiced important grace and courtesy skills in inviting Center students to come to our shop and assisted them with their purchases. Math skills were involved in keeping track of how much money each student had spent, managing their purchases, and in counting items for our final inventory. It was truly amazing to observe these young children managing themselves and a business.

The children worked extremely hard, conducting themselves with great responsibility and self-discipline, and had a great time. Several of the third year students commented, “This is the best day of my entire life!” and “I cannot believe we didn’t have to work for 3 whole days!” – which is quite amusing to us because these were the days in which they probably worked the hardest! We believe this experience was also meaningful to the Center children who could shop in our store to present their loved ones with “surprise” gifts that they had shopped for independently.

We truly appreciate every family who supported our shop. With your kindness, we were able to donate a significant amount of money and much needed items to local charities including Turning Points: A Coalition for the Homeless, All Children’s Hospital, and The Ronald McDonald House. We also want to thank all of the parents who helped us wrap the children’s presents. Finally, we also are so grateful to have had the help this year of the 4th graders and many of our middle school students in setting up and running the shop. We could not have the Center Holiday Gift Shop without the generous contribution of your time, kindness, patience and support. Thank you!
As we look ahead to next month, we will be happy to welcome the children back to school on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 (Monday, January 6 will be a Teacher Work Day).

Please save the date for “Follow the Child,” which will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020. The open house will take place from 6pm-7pm with formal classroom previews held from 7pm-8pm where 3rd graders and their families are invited to visit the E2 classroom. This is a wonderful opportunity to observe in each classroom level, meet with teachers, and gain an understanding of the Montessori Method, as well as the continuum of development for your child at the Center.

Finally, registration for the 2020-2021 school year will open in January for current Center families. We are deeply honored to have earned your trust in your child’s education thus far. We hope we will partner in your child’s education with you for many wonderful years to come. If we can be of any assistance to you or answer any questions about your child’s academic, emotional, and social development at school in preparation for the next school year, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to meet with you.

We hope everyone enjoys a happy holiday season with their families. We wish everyone much peace, health, and happiness in the New Year!

Sincerely,

The E1 Teachers
It’s Elementary My Dear Parents!

Elementary 1’s Weekly Report.