Dear E1 Parents,

We hope everyone enjoyed the fall break and a wonderful Thanksgiving. The children excitedly reconnected with friends and easily settled back into our regular routine and academic rigor. It was a great week filled with peaceful, purposeful, and appropriately challenging work (and of course, some play!).

Following lessons and work cycles in reading and math in the morning, the children continue to enjoy their cultural studies and research projects in the afternoon. The children are working on learning all of the countries of the world, as well as the capitals and flags of each country. We have also continued our studies of North America and South America, the biomes of these two continents, as well as the animals and people which inhabit the different biomes of these continents.

Part of the Montessori cultural and peace curriculum is teaching the children about the people who inhabit our world, how we are similar as human beings and that we can appreciate and respect one another’s differences. One way this happens is by learning about customs, traditions, and beliefs from around the world. We have been reading about the holidays that are celebrated during this time of year such as Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanza. The children delight in hearing the stories, familiar and new, and know that they believe the story that their family believes. It is a beautiful time to come together in peace while celebrating the beauty, promise, and innocence of childhood.

With this in mind, we have also been busily preparing for the Center’s Annual Holiday Music Concert. The children are looking forward to sharing their performance with you tomorrow morning, Saturday, December 7, at Neel Auditorium at the State College of Florida. The program begins with a video and welcome, at 9:50am, and the children’s performance at 10:00am. The E1 students should be dropped off to their teachers and to their assigned seats in the auditorium between 9:35am-9:45am. The E1 students will know exactly where their assigned seat is located. Following the E1 performance, parents can pick up their children from the same place in the assigned seat. The Holiday Music Concert is a wonderful tradition and we know you will be delighted.

Finally, the 3rd graders will be managing the Center’s Annual Holiday Shop next week, from Wednesday, December 11 to Friday, December 13. This will be a fun and meaningful practical life experience for the E1 third year students. We know that this will also be a fabulous experience for the Center children who can shop in our store and present their loved ones with “surprise” gifts that they shop for independently. Profits from the shop will benefit local charities in our community including All Children’s Hospital, The Ronald McDonald House, and Turning Points: A Coalition for the Homeless. We truly appreciate every family who chooses to support our little shop – we are showing the children that they can make a big difference in our community!

Again, we look forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Music Concert tomorrow, Saturday, December 7. Please arrive no later than 9:45am. We will be merry and bright!

Sincerely,

The E1 Teachers
It’s Elementary My Dear Parents!

Elementary 1’s Weekly Report.

We are reading tons this week with the upcoming holidays in mind.

A Story of Christmas by Jane Ray
A Great Miracle Happened There by Karla Kushkin
How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss
The Story of Kwanza by Donna L. Washington
The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg