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 the 6-9 year old 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 how wonderful or wonder-filled the world may actually be. Dr. Montessori was also committed to peace education and wanted the children to know about the world in which we live. By studying the world and its parts (continents, countries, biomes, flags, and people), she hoped that children in the Montessori classroom would become not only knowledgeable about the world in which they live, but also become advocates of peaceful resolutions.

With this in mind, this year, the Elementary 1 students have had much of their cultural lesson topics related to the study of North and South America. The two Elementary classes, named the Atlantic and the Pacific for two oceans surrounding these continents, have studied the people, countries, capitals, and flags of the continents. They have examined the biomes of North and South America, as well as which plants and animals live in each biome, depending upon its climate. We have also examined the arts of these people.

We will celebrate the children's studies and accomplishments at the Center's Annual Schoolwide Celebration, which will be held on Friday, February 28 at 5:30pm. There will also be some performances by the children at this event: including Primary songs, an Elementary 1 play, "The Great Kapok Tree," inspired by the South American rainforest, and the E2 student parade of their own hand made parts of the plant cell. The Center's Annual Book Fair will also be open in the middle school building that evening. We look forward to seeing everyone there! It promises to be a fabulous night so please save the date.

In honor of the upcoming President's Day, students conducted their own research on various presidents of their choosing. Following their research, they shared their projects with each other, as well as some interesting facts. We learned that George Washington and James Madison are the only presidents who signed the United States Constitution. James Madison was also the shortest president at 5' 4" while Abraham Lincoln was the tallest at 6' 4". We laughed to learn that President Lincoln stored letters and important documents in his stove-piped hat and that President Coolidge had pets such as lion cubs, donkeys, a wallaby and a pygmy hippopotamus in the White House. Other discussions included the various qualifications to become president.

Next week, we look forward to our field trip to Selby Botanical Gardens. Both the Atlantic and Pacific classes will visit the gardens on Thursday, February 20. The children should wear tennis shoes, bring a water bottle, and a lunchbox with NO microwavable food. Permission slips are due on Monday so that we may plan bus riders and cars, as well as an accurate count to Selby Gardens. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to chaperone. Permission slips can be found attached in this Friday Folder Email. We appreciate your kindness and willingness to support us in providing a fun, educational morning away from school.

Finally, today the children enjoyed sharing some special time together in the afternoon while exchanging their Valentine cards. We read about the history of Valentine’s Day, as well as the Greek myth, "Cupid and Psyche." With our hearts filled, we also discussed Random Acts of Kindness Day. This national day will be officially observed on Monday; however, it is certainly in our minds each day. Students engaged in a lovely discussion of what random acts of kindness they could do for their friends and family.

As a reminder, in honor of President's Day, we will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2020. We wish everyone a spectacular long weekend!

Sincerely,

The E1 Teachers
It’s Elementary My Dear Parents!

Elementary 1’s Weekly Report.