August 23, 2019

Dear Elementary 1 Parents,

Welcome to the Elementary 1 class of Center Montessori School! We were thrilled to welcome your children into the classrooms and had a fabulous week! The children are excitedly making new friends, reconnecting with old friends, and purposefully attending to their work and lessons. The mornings are filled with academic rigor in reading and math. The children are placed into small groups for lessons each morning and receive individual lessons as well for reading and math. Lessons are presented according the child's skill level and each child will be followed to his or her full potential. Our studies in language arts include reading, spelling, grammar, word study, research, creative writing, and handwriting. In the math classroom, students are developing the amazing powers of the mathematical mind by working on math operations, fractions, time, money, and word problems.

In the afternoon, we focus on our cultural studies in geography, history, science, botany, zoology, and art history. This year, some of our focus will be related to the continents of North and South America. Thus, the two E1 classes are named the Atlantic and the Pacific, of course after the oceans shared by these two continents. The Pacific received lessons on the maps, mapping and the four cardinal directions. Their studies have also included the countries and flags of North America. The Atlantic began with a creation myth from the Iroquois people, as well as a Caribbean myth about why the sun and the moon live in the sky. The children were then presented the scientific theory of the beginning of the universe with the Big Bang, acknowledging that there are many beliefs about how the universe was created and that students should talk to their own parents about what their family believes. In addition, both groups were reintroduced to the beautiful Montessori puzzle maps, which show the political boundaries for countries on each continent. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, the children travel in small groups to music with Ms. Alicia and PE with Coach Taylor. Ms. Connie, a local professional artist, joins us on Fridays for yoga and art instruction. We are also learning about magical powers of meditation for calming the mind. We thank Ms. Susan, a long-time student of meditation, who happens to also be a Center alumna teacher and now Center grandmother, for her special care with the children in these beautiful lessons. It is a truly wonderful life these children lead as we strive to educate the whole child!

While there are endless lessons within the Montessori cosmic curriculum, the most important characteristic we want to help develop in your child is the love of learning. By sparking an interest in and enthusiasm for learning on the entirety of the cosmic curriculum, we hope that the children will grow to become life-long learners.

We will share more information about our plans for the year, as well as Dr. Maria Montessori’s Planes of Development of the 6-9 year old child at our E1 Back to School Night, which will be held on Thursday, September 19. We will meet in the math classroom with 1st year parents from 6pm-6:45pm and with 2nd and 3rd year parents from 7pm-7:45pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Montessori philosophy in the E1 environment, as well as the progression and continuum of development in our 3-year cycle. We will also be available to answer any questions regarding our schedules, policies, and procedures. Please contact the office if you need childcare. We hope to see everyone there!
It’s Elementary My Dear Parents!

There are two other wonderful parent education opportunities coming soon. First, the Silent Journey will be held on Friday, September 6 and Saturday, September 7. This is a great opportunity to visit each classroom level at the Center, and to observe and understand the continuum of development throughout the Montessori classroom environments. Teachers will be available to present lessons at each classroom level and parents will have opportunity to manipulate the beautiful and purposeful Montessori materials. Childcare will also be provided. Please contact the office for more information.

Finally, for anyone interested in discussing and getting support for parenting issues, Rachel will be facilitating the parenting course Redirecting Children's Behavior (RCB). RCB is based on the work by Dr. Rudolph Dreikurs, acclaimed therapist, researcher, and author of *Children the Challenge*. This is an exceptionally inspiring course that will provide proven methods for changing inappropriate and unacceptable child behavior, while encouraging the strengthening of familial relationships and bonds. Topics addressed include power struggles, sibling rivalry, temper tantrums, encouraging cooperation, and solving problems peacefully. RCB will be held on two non-consecutive Saturdays, October 5 and October 19, from 9am-3pm in the E1 reading classroom. Registration is $100 per person; $150 per couple. Checks should be made payable to Rachel Reid. Because we value this course as a school community, RCB will also count towards the Center’s required parent volunteer hours. Please find the registration in your child’s Friday envelope. You may contact the office or Rachel directly for more information.

We hope to see many E1 parents at the Back to School Parent Party, tomorrow, Saturday, August 24, from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Thank you to the Bettle family who so kindly offered their home for this fun event. Their house is located at 4124 Riverview Blvd, Bradenton, 34209.

We wish everyone a wonderfully fun weekend with your families!

Sincerely,

The E1 Teachers
It’s Elementary My Dear Parents
Elementary 1’s Weekly Report