August 30, 2019

Dear Elementary 1 Parents,

Dear Elementary 1 Parents, We are happily in the swing of things for the new school year! The classroom is a busy hum of purposeful and peaceful work as we tend to not only our rigorous academic lessons, but also important lessons in social skills and respectful problem solving. Our mornings begin with a class meeting based on the philosophy of Dr. Jane Nelsen’s Positive Discipline, followed by a morning meditation before beginning our academic work cycles. The children are learning how to problem solve peacefully with lessons such as taking turns while talking with one another, making eye contact, listening to each other, looking for win/win solutions, and considering each other’s different perspectives. We are working on building our classroom community with cooperative games and tasks, as well as reading many different children’s books that include important lessons in kindness, empathy, cooperation and friendship. This week, we read Enemy Pie by Derek Munson and The Buddy Bench by Patty Barzo and Mike Deas; both fun and beautiful stories about making a friend and being a friend.

Further inspire kindness, cooperation, creativity, and learning, we will also celebrate certain “National Day of...” from time to time throughout the school year. On Monday, the children celebrated National Banana Lover’s Day with tastes of bananas and delicious homemade banana bread lovingly prepared by Ms. Rachel. We also celebrated National Tooth Fairy Day by reading the books, The Tooth Fairy by Tom Paxton and Throw Your Tooth Upon the Roof: Tooth Traditions Around the World by Selby Beeler, as well as learning about the Parts of the Tooth. This afternoon, we took a short break at the end of our day to celebrate Dr. Maria Montessori’s birthday with Italian ice. The children were of course thrilled! Throughout the week, the children received lessons on Maria Montessori, her philosophy and her timeline of life. Dr. Maria Montessori, Italy’s first woman physician, observed children over many years and in various cultures. Her scientific observations led her to develop a philosophy for education, referred to as the Montessori Method. This method includes the prepared environment, a teacher understanding of the Montessori Method and philosophy, and age appropriate materials which guide the children in their learning. Her belief of following the child to his or her own potential ensures that each child will have appropriate work as an individual, with no ceiling or limits to his or her academic achievement. She was a brilliant woman who let the utmost respect for each child as an individual guide her life and teachings.

We would love to share more about the Montessori philosophy and how it relates to our plans for a fabulous school year for your child at the E1 Back to School Night. Please mark your calendars for this important event, 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 with a class meeting demonstration.
It’s Elementary My Dear Parents!

The E1 Back to School Night is different from what you may have been accustomed to in the Primary classrooms. The 1st year parent meeting is for parents only, as we have much information to present to you and know you may have many questions about the E1 environment, schedules, and procedures. The 2nd and 3rd year students are invited to attend the second meeting of the evening to participate in the class meeting demonstration. Childcare is available by reservation in the office and will be held in the reading classroom.

We are excited about another wonderful parent education opportunity coming next weekend. 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, 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 opportunities to manipulate the beautiful and purposeful Montessori materials. Childcare will also be provided. Please contact the office for more information and to reserve your space.

We are grateful to be able share in such a special time in your children’s lives. We thank you for your trust in us and the Montessori Method. It is our wish that we may all work together for the benefit of your children. Please know that if you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact a teacher directly. We will be grateful for your communication and happily clarify any questions and solve any problem that may arise.

Finally, thank you to all of the parents who attended the Center’s Annual Parent Sunset Evening last weekend. We know that a wonderfully fun time was had by all. We are especially grateful to the Bettle family for hosting this marvelous event.

It’s a long weekend; have lots of fun and get lots of rest! We wish everyone a safe and happy Labor Day and we look forward to seeing everyone when we return to school on Tuesday.

Sincerely,
The E1 Teachers
It’s Elementary My Dear Parents

Elementary 1’s Weekly Report

Class Meeting Lessons
It’s Elementary My Dear Parents

Banana Day!