It’s Elementary, My Dear Parents!

September 13, 2019

Dear E1 Parents,

We hope everyone has saved the date for our E1 Back to School Night next Thursday, September 19th. We will host parents of 1st year students from 6pm-6:45pm and parents of 2nd and 3rd year students from 7pm-7:45. For 1st year parents, this will be a wonderfully informative event to help you gain a better understanding of the Sensitive Periods of the 6-9 year old child and how our environment supports the needs of that child. We will discuss the Montessori Method, our philosophy, and the educational plans we have for your children. We also strive to provide you with a better understanding of your child’s daily life at school, as we endeavor to follow the child to his or her own potential. For 2nd and 3rd year parents, we have invited your children to host a class meeting demonstration so that you may gain a better understanding of our practical life lessons in grace and courtesy, as well as ways in which the children problem solve peacefully and communicate with each other respectfully.

This week in the reading classroom, the 2nd and 3rd year students received their spelling lists to keep in their reading folders at school. Spelling lessons for List #1 included classifying the words according to the vowel sounds on the Words in Color Fidel Charts, using the spelling words in sentences, and symbolizing the parts of speech for each word. We will continue with spelling lessons each week with a variety of activities to facilitate the development and mechanics of becoming excellent spellers. We know that current research proves that spelling tests do not create good spellers; more practice in reading and writing will only accomplish this feat. Therefore, there are no spelling tests in the E1 classroom. We will continue our spelling lessons together with a new list each week in the classroom for the remainder of the school year. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel directly.

First year students also study spelling in the classroom with the Words in Color reading charts and Fidel, as well as with a variety of Montessori materials. They continue to have reading lessons on the Words in Color charts on a daily basis.
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For more information about learning to read and spell with Dr. Caleb Gattegno’s Words in Color, Rachel will be hosting an evening event with parents on Thursday, October 17 at 6:00pm. As a Center alumna, Rachel learned how to read with Words in Color in Janice’s class over 40 years ago. Now, trained in Words in Color and teaching in the Center reading classroom for over 20 years, Rachel is thrilled to share her knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for this educational method with you. The meeting will be held in the E1 reading classroom and childcare is available by reservation in the office.

Finally, we are excited to announce our first field trip! We will visit the South Florida Museum in downtown Bradenton for a Live Star Talk in the Planetarium, a presentation in the manatee rehabilitation aquarium, and a guided tour in the museum. The Atlantic class will have their field trip on Tuesday, September 24. The Pacific will visit the following day on Wednesday, September 25. Both classes will leave school at 9:15am and return to school about 1pm. Students should bring a lunchbox for a picnic lunch at the museum with NO MICROWAVABLE food. The children should also have a water bottle and wear tennis shoes. Please find the permission slip attached in the Friday folder email and also in your child’s Friday envelope.

Parent chaperones are always welcome and appreciated. Please indicate on the permission slip if you are interested in being a chaperone. If you sign up to chaperone, we will confirm the departure time and details the night before the trip. Your time will of course count towards the Center’s parent volunteer hours. Thank you!

We wish everyone a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

The E1 Teachers
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- Celebrating Dr. Maria Montessori’s birthday last week with Italian ice. The children also received lessons on her timeline of life, as well as her important contributions to the world of education and advocacy for peace.