September 20, 2019

Dear Elementary 1 Parents,

Today, we celebrated International Peace Day, which was declared by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1981. Throughout the week, we had interesting and thoughtful discussions regarding ways in which we can practice peace within ourselves and with each other every day. The children were presented lessons on peacemakers throughout history, including Nelson Mandela, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Dr. Maria Montessori. Montessori’s wish was to establish peace through educating children about people and countries around the world. She stated, “Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.” In fact, Maria Montessori was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times during her lifetime. We ended the week by creating our own peace signs in the driveway outside our classrooms and creating Posters for Peace. We hope you enjoyed seeing them at drop off and pick up.

We were grateful to see everyone who attended the Elementary 1 Back to School Night last night! It was wonderful to gather together and talk about our favorite subjects: your children! We hope you found the information helpful and now have a better understanding of our philosophy, the Montessori Method, and curriculum, as well as your child’s daily life at school. We also discussed Montessori’s Second Plane of Development and how the E1 environment so perfectly supports the needs and development of the 6-9 year old child. Perhaps the highlight of the evening was witnessing the class meeting demonstration by the 2nd and 3rd year students. We hope you were impressed by the respectful way in which they spoke to one another and adeptness at solving problems peacefully. For any parent who missed the meeting, the notes and handouts from Back to School Night are enclosed in your child’s Friday envelope.

We are proud of our rigorous academic Montessori curriculum and lessons. We believe it is crucial to not only offer academic lessons appropriate to each individual child, but also important life skills in learning how to problem solve peacefully. To this end, our teachers are not only trained in the Montessori Method, but also in the Adlerian philosophies of Jane Nelsen’s Positive Discipline and Kath Kvols’ Redirecting Children’s Behavior. We use tools from the Responsive Classroom and are proud to be working with Dr. Ross Greene on Collaborative Proactive Solutions. Forty Carrots will host Dr. Greene next Thursday, September 26, as their annual fall speaker. We hope you have your tickets. On Friday, September 28, the faculty has the privilege to spend the day with Dr. Greene for our Teacher Retreat, as we did in March. We are committed to educating the whole child, as Dr. Montessori advocated. Teaching children how to communicate, be heard, and share their feelings and needs in problem solving in a safe place is an important part of educating the whole child.
It’s Elementary, My Dear Parents!

In fact, current research also proves how important it is for children to feel safe, before any true academic learning can occur. Thus, we believe that by helping the children feel safe and capable of solving their own problems, they then may excel in all areas of their academic studies. We are thrilled with our students’ academic excellence, as well as their enthusiastic love of learning, which thrives in an emotionally and socially safe environment.

If you would like more information regarding positive discipline and our peaceful problem solving techniques, Rachel will be facilitating the parenting course Redirecting Children’s Behavior (RCB). This is an excellent 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 contact the office or Rachel for more information.

Finally, we look forward to our first field trip next week! We will visit the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature. On Tuesday, September 24, the Atlantic class will visit the museum and on Wednesday, September 25, the Pacific class will attend. On both days, we will depart school about 9:15am and return to school about 1pm. We thank everyone who has turned in the permission slips on time and those of you who so kindly volunteered to chaperone. We could not provide these wonderful educational opportunities outside of the classroom without you.

We wish everyone a wonderfully fun weekend with your families!

Sincerely,

The E1 Teachers
Celebrating International Peace Day today, but practicing peace every