It's Elementary, My Dear Parents!

September 26, 2019

Dear Parents,

We were happy to be able to take the children on our first field trip this week. We value providing the children with varied experiences inside and outside of the classroom as we strive to educate the child. Field trips are also an important component of practical life activities with the Montessori curriculum. Practical life activities are designed to be purposeful works that lead the child to an understanding of his or her environment and how it works. These activities resemble everyday life, including Care of the Environment, Care of the Person, Grace and Courtesy, and Control of Movement (including fine and gross motor skills). Dr. Maria Montessori believed that it is through practical life activities that the children integrate their learning and reach a higher level of independence and intelligence.

Therefore, we practiced many important practical life skills during our adventure including how to travel safely by school bus or parent car, how to wait in line patiently and quietly, how to sit properly in a theater seat in the planetarium, how to be respectfully attentive in a lesson, and how to move with purpose throughout the museum without disturbing other visitors. Thus, field trips not only meet an important need for the 6-9 year old child, but also provide wonderful opportunities to practice important life skills.

With this in mind, we visited the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature, which is the largest natural and cultural history museum on Florida's Gulf Coast. The children attended a live star talk in the Bishop Planetarium and learned how to find certain constellations that are currently present in our night. We also had a fabulous docent led tour in the museum on Florida history. Although the manatees are always the highlight of this trip, the rehabilitation aquarium was empty during our visit. Fortunately, this means that their temporary resident manatees were well enough to be returned to the wild. However, the Manatee Care Specialists still educated us about manatee anatomy and nutrition, as well as ways in which we can help protect manatees in their natural habitats. As part of the Aquarium's rehabilitation program, the facility has housed and released almost 50 manatees back into the wild.
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The children were delighted to offer ways in which they can help protect our local manatees. We thank all parent chaperones who joined us. We could not provide these important educational opportunities for the children without your support. It was a great day!

Our next field trip will occur rather quickly. On Tuesday, October 8, we will visit Florida Studio Theater to attend the play, "Pinocchio." We will depart school at 9am and return about 11:30am for our regular lunch at school. Anyone who pre-ordered hot lunch will be able to enjoy it on this day. The seats in the theater are limited. Therefore, chaperone seats will be saved on a “first come, first served” basis with permission slips returned to school. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding concerning this matter.

The permission slip for the field trip was sent home in your child’s lunchbox and can also be found in the E1 section of this Friday Folder Email. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the teachers for more information. Thank you!

We hope to see many of you tonight at the Forty Carrots Fall Speaker Event with Dr. Ross Greene. Our school was proud and privileged to host Dr. Greene in March for a parent evening and a teacher workshop. We will take advantage of Dr. Greene being in town and will spend a day with him once again at our annual Educational Teacher Retreat on Friday. We are excited to continue to learn, evolve, and grow in our efforts to educate the whole child.

Enjoy the long beautiful weekend!

Sincerely,

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

Bishop Museum of Science and Nature