Did you know the English alphabet has 26 letters but 59 sounds in speech? Think about how many ways there are to spell the same sound. **As you can imagine**, this is very confusing for our beginning readers! Here at Center Montessori School we use a reading program called Words in Color to teach children to read, write and spell. Dr. Caleb Gattegno is the creator of this program. He identified all 400+ sound-spellings in the English language and organized them into 59 colored groups. Children are attracted to color and with color they can see how a word is spoken. This approach also provides a logical approach with a phonetic basis for decoding and reading words.

So how does this look in the classroom? Over time, each sound-spelling is introduced to the child through various “games.” Starting with our youngest children in the Nest, students are invited to play these games individually, with a teacher or in small groups. These games explore words, sounds, and spellings. The difficulty of these “games” increases as the child is ready. Some examples of these games involve sentence finding that tells a short story, word finding on the same chart with the same color/sound, or writing these words out on a chalkboard or on paper, with the support of what we call the movable alphabet. Like with Montessori, the Words in Color approach also includes manipulatives, laminated objects which are cut out letters in the color associated with the chart. The child moves the cut out letters around to make words.

The result of this process ends with the child mastering the skills of reading, writing, and spelling in a much more natural way. It is believed the key to its success is the Words in Color approach: (1) follows the child, as Maria Montessori advocates, (2) ignites a child’s natural drive for learning by creating awareness and permitting experimentation with the manipulatives, and (3) confronts difficulties and ambiguities of the written English language in a way that supports the actual learning process as opposed to relying on memorization.

To learn more about this colorful de-coding of our complex English language please join us for the Words in Color Reading Discussion & Demonstration:

**Thursday, October 17 at 6pm presented by E1 Teachers, Ms. Rachel.**
Thank you to Cameron’s family for offering snack and flowers to the class this week.
Below are photos of primary children working with Words in Color alongside visiting old friends from E1

Thank you to Olive for the yummy snack and beautiful flower bouquet contribution this week!
Primary 3

Lola and Isabella planting celery in our Earth Boxes

Lola is learning the parts of the leaf.

Ian was happy to plant Lemon Balm in our Earth Boxes.

Aurora is practicing her math by using a Cards and Counters activity.

Lily is refining her fine motor skills by using a Practical Life activity.

Ian is working with Life Cycle of the Turtle.

Thank you to Max G. and Aurora P. for providing the Community Snack and fresh flowers for our classroom.

Reminder: Monday October 14, Teacher Parent Conference.

Thursday October 31, Halloween parade 9:00 am - 10:00 am.