Dear Primary Parents,

August 30, 2019

Through the countless hours Dr. Maria Montessori spent in scientifically observing children, a number of wonderful discoveries in child development were made, which to this day still stand the test of time and are often validated by current research. One of those discoveries is that children are social beings who, from birth and on, are in a constant state of absorbing from and acting upon their environment in order to grow. By choosing for your child to join our school, you have made an important decision in providing him/her with an extension to your home environment. Because our primary classrooms often provide children with their very first experience outside of the family unit, they are bound to put their natural powers of adaptation to use and learn to grow and become independent members of a dynamic community.

Throughout the first six weeks of school, our main goal is laying the groundwork for the upcoming months of our time together. This work is intangible and can easily be overlooked by those unfamiliar with the Montessori philosophy, and yet plays a crucial part in creating a culture of respect within our primary classroom communities. In just the past few days of school, much of our daily work with the children revolved around numerous Practical Life lessons known as “Grace & Courtesy.” These presentations provide the children with clear models for the general functioning of the classroom and pro-social patterns of behaviors in an age-appropriate and supportive manner so that children integrate them as their own.

As we strive to create a culture of respect in each of our primary classrooms, here is a list of some skills that we will continue practicing and encouraging throughout the school year:

1. Learn to focus on the speaker and make eye contact.
2. Learn to use appropriate ways of getting someone’s attention.
3. Learn to follow the classroom and playground rules.
4. Learn to handle materials carefully.
5. Learn to act in respectful ways towards self and others.
6. Learn to use words to ask for what is needed.
7. Learn to wait one’s turn.
8. Learn to use manners.

In your child’s early years of life, there is no better teacher than modeling. We will continue to consistently and patiently model and provide concrete examples of these skills throughout the year. We also strongly encourage our families to take part in the wide array of parent education events our school offers for better understanding of our Montessori curriculum as well as parenting support. For your consideration, we would like to share with you two wonderful parent education opportunities that are coming very soon:

The first event is called “the Silent Journey.” It will be held on Friday, September 6 and Saturday, September 7. This is a great opportunity to visit each classroom level at the Center, and 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 the opportunity to manipulate the beautiful and purposeful Montessori materials. Childcare will be provided with prior registration. Please contact the office for more information.

The second event is for anyone interested in discussing and getting support for parenting issues, the Elementary 1 teacher, Rachel, will be facilitating this parenting course called Redirecting Children’s Behavior (RCB). RCB is based on the work by Dr. Rudolph Dreikurs, acclaimed therapist, researcher, and author of Children the Challenge. This exceptionally inspiring course 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. Because we value this course as a school community, RCB will also count towards the Center’s required parent volunteer hours. Please find the registration in your child’s Friday envelope. You may contact the office or Rachel directly for more information.

We wish you all a happy Labor Day Weekend!
Primary 1

Emmit working on the nuts and bolts activity.

Maverick counting 9 golden unit beads.

Lorenzo working on the colored bead bars by associating a quantity to a numeral.

Andery cutting and arranging flowers to embellish the classroom.

We would like to thank Sarah’s family for offering snack to the classroom this week and for the colorful bouquet of flowers they sent.

We would also like to thank the families who helped their child bring a small potted plant to class to take...
Trohpym is using our Buddha Board to practice is handwriting, creativity and concentration.

Suri practicing writing her numbers.

Camilo relaxing in our quiet area, after working hard on his Kindergarten work.

We would like to thank Ethan and Colton for the last 2 weeks contribution to community snack and flowers.
Max is practicing the use of touch, smell, and taste to try figs.

Christos is pushing his friend Aurora on the swing while Max is patiently waiting for his turn.

Ian and Christos are socializing by having snack together.

Jayden is getting our earth boxes by turning the soil with the help of a volunteer.

We want to welcome long-time CMS employee, Giannina Ricci, to the P3 classroom. Giannina received her Primary teacher training this summer and is now interning under Ms. Betty while she works as the P3 assistant.