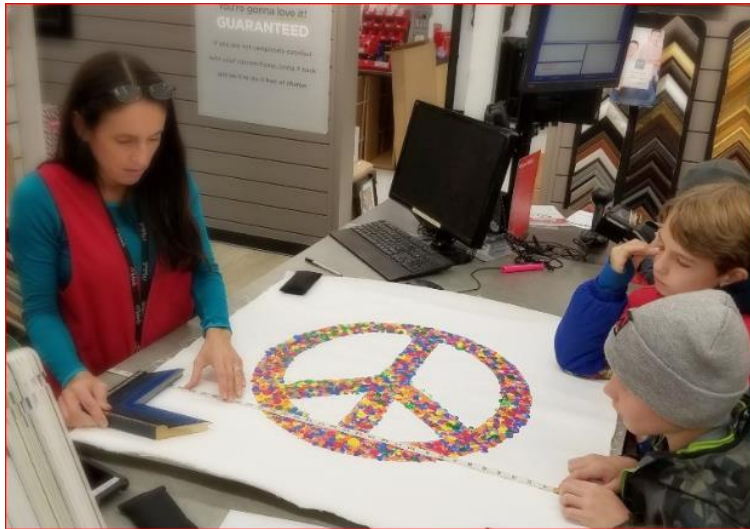


Elementary – October 19, 2018



Going-Outs are an essential part of the Elementary program. Maria Montessori conceived the idea of going out through her observation of the development of the children. The elementary children are developing independence from the family and becoming more interested in connecting with society. It is the progression of, "When I was little I needed my parents to carry me" to "Now I can do things on my own. I can buy my bus ticket".

This week the Peace Keepers of TMS went on a Going-Out to the art store to look at frames for a piece of artwork created by students in their Peace Keeper work last year. Before they left, the children discussed what frame to buy. The children talked about what would look nice against the wall where the art will hang. It is not always easy to come to a decision when there are different opinions, and in preparation for that, they planned on voting as a fair way to agree on what frame to purchase. Once at the store, they needed to think about how much of the background was going to be visible and about the dimensions of the frame. Multiple decisions had to be made! In the photograph this week you can see them measuring it out. As an observer of the children, it was a beautiful sight to see the older students take a lead role in the process.

Some Upper Elementary children also went on a Going-Out trip to the library to view an art gallery and participate in a workshop. The trip provided the children with an opportunity to see other artists' work and explore their sense of artistic styles through hands-on activities.

Dr. Maria Montessori understood that the elementary child is not satisfied with just a little bit of information, but want to understand the whole world around them. Sometimes you will hear that the elementary classroom is not only within the four walls, but beyond: outdoors, going-out trips, and field trips. The trips provide the children with the opportunity to **explore deeper, make connections to a topic they are learning about, and build relationships with the community.**

This week Trista's class went on an exciting field trip to the Dinosaur Museum. What followed was just as exciting as going on the trip. We all learned that it was National Fossil Day! The students learned how to classify various fossils. They created an enormous chart and placed all the various artifacts under the appropriate heading. The children were able, through this experience, to **reason, imagine, work in a group and arrive at a harmonious agreement** about where the fossils should go. The learning was exciting, and for many, it hopefully created a memory of joy. Maybe it even opened up the door to a future paleontologist.

The experiences that the children have often have **joyful stories** attached. This week's story is about **community, determination, flexibility and the joy of surprises.** The story began when Carla's class was making applesauce. The children were trying to locate a tool to mash up the apples. There were many attempts to find the right one. The

children went to various classrooms to ask if the class had such a tool and on three different occasions they returned to Lower Elementary, but not entirely with the right one.

They returned with a Mortar and Pestle (not quite right) and a tool that shaved the apples into small crinkles (maybe), and in the end, they used a small masher. Eventually, the applesauce was made, but the story of their learning goes on. They were surprised when they began to eat the applesauce because it was warm.....and chunky! The verdict was that it was very delicious anyway.

A friendly reminder and an invitation for you to attend the first **Montessori Parent Workshop on Saturday from 9-12**. The topic is the Mathematical Mind. It will include a pedagogical overview, a silent journey through the classrooms, followed by hands-on exploration of the materials. It will close with a Question and Answer session.

The leaves are falling, and the temperature is changing. Please check in with the children to make sure they have the appropriate outerwear for recess.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Lisbeth and the Elementary Team