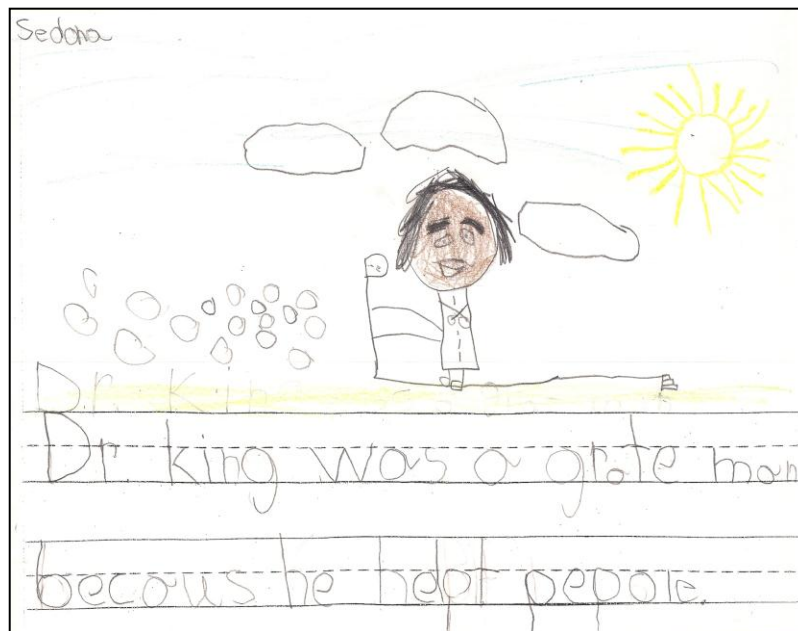


*“What is the greatest sign of success for a teacher? It is to be able to say, ‘The children are now working as if I did not exist.’”*

*– Maria Montessori*



Art by Sedona

**Primary 1  
January 25, 2012**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome back from the Winter Break! The teachers would again like to sincerely thank the wonderful parents of P1. Your holiday gifts were thoughtful and very generous. We truly appreciate all of your kindness and support.

After all the holiday excitement the children came back ready to work. And boy, are they working! In Practical Life, even our youngest children are enjoying larger works like soap grating, bubble making, and table scrubbing. These works require more steps and a greater level of concentration. Concentration helps develop the attention span!

In Math, the goal of reaching the Chains is being achieved by both 2nd year students and the "K"s. This big work has many valuable lessons and may take even 5 days to complete, as it did recently for one kindergarten student. Linear counting, less than/greater than, assisting with tricky transitional numbers...39, 40...49, 50 and as an indirect preparation for multiplication! Everyone benefits from this work not only the child who is counting to 1000!...but all who experience the visual length, the kinesthetic aspect as they navigate around it, and all who hear the language as older children count, 884, 885, 886,...1000! It is inspiring to all who watch in awe and are working hard to reach the same goal.

**Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** we will have our Valentine Exchange. Please decorate a box (shoebox size) and bring 27 Valentines addressed to “my friend” in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child’s name by 9am. Some friends would like to include small gifts with their valentines, please refrain from candy, though we will not be opening our Valentine in school, some children have severe food allergies. Possible considerations would be pencils, erasers, stickers, etc. *We will need two parent volunteers to help children “mail” the valentines.*

**Friday, February 3rd** is the celebration day for 100 days of School! We have been counting the days and will be celebrating with some fun counting activities. Please collect, count and share 100 of something in a small Ziploc bag. (beans, pennies, buttons, etc.) Please label the bag with your child's name. **Please note: Share on Friday instead of Thursday.**

Please plan on joining us for a **special visitation day on Thursday, February 23rd**. We have set aside the morning for our parent/child visitations. We will have two sessions. Each child and **one** parent are invited to come to the classroom for 45 minutes. The children will be giving lessons on the things that they have learned. The teachers will be the observers that day. The rest of the day will be scheduled for conferences. Visitation times and conference appt. times will follow.

**Reminder: Please be on time!** Arrival time is 8:45am to 9:00am. As your child's ability to concentrate and their attention span grows, we would like to increase their Montessori work time by coming in from the playground earlier. It makes it difficult for us to get started when so many are still arriving at 9:15 and 9:20. Your child is then out of sync with the rest of the children. It is important for them to have that little time outside to socialize and greet their friends, as well as be present for our morning line time. Line time is where many valuable lessons are discussed and the tone of the day is set. **Half-Day Dismissal** is 11:50 - 12:00pm. If you arrive past 12pm, please come to the **P1/P2 gate** for your child. At noon our attention must turn to the full day children at lunch and on the playground. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Thank you to:**

Mrs. Manfrey and Ms. Torok and all the volunteer parents for hosting our winter party!  
Avery's family for the new classroom puzzles!  
Lily's family for our new floor vacuum for lunch-time clean-up!  
Julian's family for the donation of board books, crayons and paper!  
To all of our lunch volunteers!!  
Everyone for your contributions of healthy snacks!

Did anyone get an iPod for the holidays?...Not sure of what to do with the old one? The P1 class is still looking for an iPod to accompany the iPod docking station that FoCD donated to our class.  
Needed: Fresh fruit needed with snack donations. Baby Jars for art projects.  
Happy Birthday to Lavi who turned 6 in January!  
Welcome Santiago (3) to the P1 class!

**Children's Line:**

**Friday**, Feb. 3rd – 100 small objects.  
**Thursday**, Feb. 8th – 100 small objects.  
**Tuesday**, Feb. 14th – 27 Valentines and your child's box.  
**Thursday**, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> – one quarter (25cents) with a state on the back.  
**Thursday**, March 1st – Continent - Africa

**Important Dates:**

**Monday**, Jan. 31st – **Reenrollment deadline** – Save your spot at Country Day!  
**Saturday**, Feb. 11th – **An Evening with Friends** – *save the date and get your tickets!*  
**Thursday**, Feb. 23rd - AM Parent/Child visitation morning - PM Conferences  
– **No School** for students after their visit with parent.  
**Friday**, Feb. 24th - Parent/Teacher Conferences - **NO SCHOOL**

**Sincerely,**

Lisa Elliott, Linda Gerwig, Kim Bergamo and Joanne Bossa