

*Elementary – February 22, 2019*



This week, it is noteworthy to reflect upon the learning and caring that happens beyond the classrooms and the importance of working in groups. Maria Montessori recognized that children between the ages of 6-12 years old have a strong drive to be social. The children in "The Second Plane of Development" want to be with friends; starting the process of separating from the immediate family (such as parents and siblings), as well as feeling the importance of belonging to a group, and allows them to discover about the world around them together with their peers. The sense of community and unity was brought out repeatedly over the last few weeks with the Montessori Model United Nations, the Elementary Sing-Alongs, and the Lion King auditions.

Last week, three of the Upper Elementary students attended the Montessori Model United Nations. Over 1500 Montessori students from around the world gathered together. They started as strangers, but before long, the students were working together on issues such as racism and economic and environmental issues. As an observer, it was amazing to see the children working together. The children were able to rise up to a new level of grace and responsibility.

The Elementary Sing-Alongs brought the children together in voice and creative expression. It takes a lot of group work and collaboration to bring songs together in one voice. It takes patience, support, and partnership to make it all come alive. It sure was a success!

This week has heightened the level of energy for the children with the auditions for Lion King. Each group was mixed with 6-12-year-olds that were dancing, singing, and reading lines together. The children engaged with peers whom they have not yet had the opportunity to work alongside. Once again, the children demonstrated unity in is such a way that we could all look to them as role models and examples for world peace.

Hakuna Matata,

*Lisbeth and The Elementary Team*