Greetings Parents,

Last Friday at the parent-coffee session we shared how we go about promoting literacy in our EY classes. We encourage parents to refrain from instructing their children how to read and write, as this is a technical part that our teachers have become proficient at after years of thorough learning and training with experts in the field. Inappropriate strategies might result in your child approaching reading and writing as a task not as a source of enjoyment or learning. If you ask what we recommend that you do with your child at home, we say,

- read to and with them
- spend quality time together
- listen to them with your heart
- engage them in deep conversations

We urge you to read to your child on a daily basis. Lap reading is a special time for you and your child to bond and enjoy your time together as well as a learning opportunity for your child to expand their conceptual knowledge and their vocabulary bank. “Children are made readers on the lap of their parents”. Remember that all ACS parents are welcome to check out books from our lower school library. In addition to lap reading, set aside a reading time every day when everyone at home is sitting in the living room with their book. One of the factors that help children develop the love for reading is when they see their parents value reading since parents act as role models at home. Make it a daily ritual where you turn off the TV announcing reading time. “Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift.”

In my last Monday Mail I talked about how to help your child feel ‘Competent’. Here are some suggestions to help you as you nurture your child’s sense of self-worth. Children have a natural inclination to be independent and do things on their own. This is a healthy part of normal child development. As children grow, they learn to do more and more tasks. To help them become independent allow and encourage them to take responsibility for themselves whenever possible. It can be faster and less messy to do things for children, but they learn so much from doing things for themselves. When children practice self-help skills such as feeding and dressing themselves, they practice their large and small motor skills, gain confidence in their ability to try new things and build their self-esteem and pride in their independence. Make sure that at home they practice hygiene and toileting, self-feeding, dressing and grooming, and helping with daily chores like table setting and picking up toys. Self-help skills are worth the time and effort. The secret to success is to give children age-appropriate experiences and provide the appropriate support to help children be successful. Remember that adults are important role models. We model self-help skills; children learn a great deal from watching us.
Self-help skills are highly fostered and encouraged at school; children at this time of the year are required to reflect a great deal of independence and problem solving. Unless these skills are promoted at home, the child will exhibit learned helplessness and a sense of incompetence.

Today your child will bring home the first term progress report which in EY at ACS we call ‘Teachers’ Reflections on Your Child’s Learning’. Please read it carefully and come prepared to discuss it with your child’s teachers next Monday, Feb. 1st at the parent-teacher conference day.

This coming Friday, the EY teachers will be engaged all day in interviewing more than 130 new applicants to the EY division. Therefore, there will be no classes in EY.

I would like to commend parents on their vigilance in keeping children home if they are sick especially if they have a fever. Working together as a community will help us maintain a healthy community in the school.

Afterschool Program at Bright Beginnings ACS

This program runs from 1:30pm until 4:00pm on school days. Our after-school program provides a stimulating and comfortable environment for children. Time is allocated for lunch, free play, arts & crafts, baking, drama, music & movement, story time, construction toys and outdoor play.
Should you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

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Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember:

Jan. 29       New Student Interviews—No Classes for EY children only
Feb. 1        Parent-teacher conferences—No Classes for EY children only
Feb. 9        St. Maroun Holiday