**EDPR 3100: Donri Helmer**

**School:** Juniper Ridge Elementary

**Teacher:** Mentor: Hanna Storozak

**Grade:** 1

Reflective Journal 1

Upon arrival at Juniper Ridge Elementary, being greeted by a cheerful staff member made me feel welcome in the school. My Teacher Mentor, Hanna Storovak, welcomed Celeste and me into her classroom, which connected us with her classroom community. I find these initial moments at practicum were inspiring and set us up for a successful first day.

I enjoyed watching Hanna greet her students as they arrived in the morning and stayed with them while they transitioned from outside to their classroom. I respected how she managed her class with a couple of simple yet effective techniques. Something that stood out to me was how she treated them like "young, capable, students," not "little children." I feel that this is setting them up to be model members of society.

My most memorable moment of the first day was Hanna's math lesson for Mental Math, addition, and subtraction to ten. She kept it simple and basic, without too many, or confusing methods. There was the use of fingers as manipulatives, flashcards, and oral counting up. The problems were simple enough for all of the students to grasp the concept to varying degrees of success. In my previous experience with teaching grade 7 Math, I found that starting with the “basic” methods (and moving on to other methods if necessary) avoided confusion with certain concepts. Students were, of course, invited to learn and experiment with alternative methods. I appreciated observing Hanna use this same approach and it impressed upon me the importance of foundation while extending the learning with alternate learning methods.

I value how Hanna has taken on a genuinely nurturing mentorship role with Celeste and with me. Like a teacher does with her class, she continually sets us up for success. I regularly note the classroom management tips that she gives us, such as making sure there is consistency with transitions between subjects. On our second day, the students remembered us and greeted us with friendly smiles, which was a wonderful feeling.