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# The Tidewater Times

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Volume 18 Issue 6

April 2004

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## Tidewater Children Spread Messages of Peace

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**The Calendar:**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>:** Cloverbuds for K

**April 6<sup>th</sup>:** UE 4H Easter Basket Sale 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>:** Bookmobile

**April 8<sup>th</sup>:** PK and K Easter Egg Hunt at Gramp's Farm (same wonderful place where we had our Pumpkin Patch Trip in the Fall!) Permission slip is attached.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>:** Noon Dismissal for Spring Recess. Enjoy your break!

**April 19<sup>th</sup>:** School Resumes

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:** Bookmobile Kindergarten will go to see Corduroy in Annapolis.

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** PK and K in-school event: The Lost Caravan Theatre will present *The Golden Goose*.

**April 26<sup>th</sup>:** PK and K staff will attend evening dance workshop at The Kennedy Center. All PK and K children MUST be picked up by 3 pm on this date.

Looking Ahead:

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Tidewater's Family Fun Day Event

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** LE will be performing "The Wack-a-doo Zoo". The program will also include music performed by the UE class.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>:** PK and K's trip to the Baltimore Zoo

**May 14<sup>th</sup>:** Upper Elementary trip to Philadelphia

**May 21<sup>st</sup>:** Conference Day

**May 28<sup>th</sup>:** Graduation Ceremony for our 5<sup>th</sup> Graders: All Tidewater children will attend the service. You are welcome and encouraged to join with us for this extremely special morning!

**Special Notice:** Community Activity to Share: April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 to 12, the first 100 children will have a free lesson as they decorate a ceramic egg at the Southern Lady Collectibles Store at the Calvert Country Market in Prince Frederick. Sounds like fun!

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Last day of school – noon dismissal

***Very Important:***

A number of our library books, both for children and parents have been borrowed this year for extended periods of time and need to be returned. Of great concern are reference books from the Parent Library, some of which were loaned in the Fall during the Parent Workshops. Books are so expensive! We ask that you please send all borrowed books back now. Ms. Trish is completing the

inventory of books for upstairs and soon will begin the processing of books for elementary. We have an outstanding collection and want to maintain this quality by keeping all that we have. *Thank you!*

We would like to express our sympathy to Jesse's family. Jesse's maternal grandma died this past weekend. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time.

**Special Thanks to:**

All of the families who donated inkjets in our collection boxes. We received a check for \$45.00 which goes toward our playground project! Every cent helps!

All of the families who gave the state book fund money to Tidewater – all of the funds have gone to our playground!

All of the families who send in Box Tops for Education – all of the funds are going toward our playground!

All of our families for your fall support for Sally Foster Gift Wrap – we were able to purchase the new storage sheds for the play equipment!

Jonah and Nate – two special pre-PKers who have been working as volunteers in the garden area each Friday. What a great job guys!

Julia for the very special Pokey Little Puppy Book for our library in honor of her 4<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Maria Ulbricht for taking the PK on a lovely trip to Paris!

The Fears Family for the lovely Spring Surprises popping up in the front garden!

### Help Wanted:

\*\*\*\*Sherry Betz will be retiring at the end of this year as our outstanding motivator and collector of our Box Tops for Education. If you would like to volunteer to take over this very important spot for Tidewater, please call Sherry immediately so that she can guide you as you transition to help the children out. This is a very worthwhile endeavor for us and costs zero dollars!!!!

\*\*\*\*We need to place a mailbox in front of the school. The box has been purchased but we need someone to install it. If you can do this, please call Nancy ASAP. Thanks so much.

### **Operation Shoe Box:**

Elementary friends have been so busy preparing cards of inspiration for our military troops overseas. This special project has been directed by Ms. Charlotte, our elementary assistant. How it would be wonderful if we could spotlight every card written but that is impossible! So, we have selected two to give you a sample of the minds and hearts of our elementary children regarding soldiers, peace and war:

*You're a hero. I hope you win. I really think that you can do it like everyone else and the tools you will need are friendship, power, health, and friends, a smile and most of all your heart and believe for believing yourself the whole world is*

*counting on you which makes you special forever. Families are counting on you for more justice. You are a great soldier. From: Caylyn.*

*I care about you.... Because you care about me. You are a hero. Love Marina*

Humbling thoughts for sure.

### **Playground and Yard:**

The Tidewater School has always believed that education takes place everywhere. Have you seen our new outdoor classroom area? Yes indeed! The playground is a classroom area where children run to exercise the physical frame that provides the stamina to focus their attention on higher cognitive thinking. The slides allow children to challenge their bodies against gravity as they climb and to adjust their focus as they move. The sandbox digging area will provide great fun for socialization and sensory exploration.

### **PK News:**

Greetings from Asia! We have spent a spirited month traveling through Europe with visits to France, Italy, and Spain. Our visit to Italy was fascinating for the children as they learned about Michelangelo and the Sistine Chapel. Using an outstanding collection of art books from our very own Tidewater library, the children heard the childhood stories of famous artists such as Michelangelo, Giotto and Picasso, to name a few. They loved hearing about how they played as children with stone (Michelangelo); drew on the walls of the living rooms (Picasso); or herded sheep and drew in the dirt (Giotto). The best part of Italy is always the food (the 3 P's: Pizza, Pizelles, Pasta) and the music. Such fun indeed!

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Giotto Chalk & Egg framed in the style of Michelangelo and Botticelli

Ms. Maria took us on an excursion in Paris, complete with croissants and yummy French cheeses! We studied Monet and then painted lovely watercolors as we listened to the moods of Mozart. In Spain, we studied Picasso and did moods of blue.



We have spent time in Asia, traveling to hear the drums of Nanto Hanto in Japan and learning their special skills of origami; walking the Great Wall of China and finding our fortunes in fortune cookies; and doing Batiks in India as we avoided the tigers. We loved the story of Little Sambo who had to give his clothes to the tigers in exchange for his life. He then watched the tigers fight over who was the grandest, only to end up melting into butter! Little Sambo then took back his clothes and ate the butter on 100 pancakes, just like we did! YUMMY! We shook the cream so hard to make it turn into Tiger Butter!

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As we have journeyed far and wide, our eyes have taken in the vast differences in how people live, work and play. Our ears have enjoyed the rhythm of the world with special guidance from Ms. Tracey. We have learned new songs, musical games and dances, and instruments from other lands. You may have heard some of these musical melodies at home!



All of our art work has been great fun but challenging for understanding for many of the young friends. I believe that my job is to gently sow seeds. Some germinate immediately. Others take a little while longer, and that is just fine! My friends really began to take more notice and interest in their artistic creations as their lovely art gallery took form. It was so special to watch them present to you, their parents, on our special evening in the classroom. I was amazed the next morning at all they had shared with their parents. Little ones absorb so much more than I ever give them credit! I stand in awe of them. I continue to be inspired by their enthusiasm and joy for learning.



Expressions in Blue  
Inspired by Pablo Picasso

In addition to our traveling this month, we experienced a very unexpected visit by the wee people, also known as leprechauns! They must have been watching us in the room for we never caught one of them. They are so sly. Even with the most sophisticated technology developed by our PK inventors, we were unable to snag one. There were impressive shamrock glue traps designed by Maya, Emma and Ethan that were placed about the room; and detectives gathered an expedition party to search with their spyglasses for those sly fellows throughout the school including Ms. Nancy's office! As we worked in our classroom room, we found further evidence that they had been in the area: GOLD! Imagine that!



We also presented Ms. Cecelia with a big beautiful bouquet of flowers when she returned to school after a few days of resting from her eye surgery. My goodness! She had no idea how much we missed her until she returned. The children made her sit in a circle and each child gave her an eye test to make certain that she could correctly identify how many fingers they were

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holding and in which direction they were pointing. I am pleased to share that she passed the testing just fine and is glad to be back with her friends!



Our final stop before we head home will be Australia. This will be a quick stop, just long enough to enjoy the wonderful animals of the down under continent. Our PK friends are very anxious to move on to Easter celebrations. They announced weeks ago that we needed to get ready for the Easter Bunny. Ms. Nancy and Ms. Cecelia cannot delay this special time much longer!

In honor and in respect for children everywhere, the PK children are participating in the Heifer Ark Project to collect funds to help children around the world. This is one way that the children can respond to the needs they discovered as we traveled:

*Some children go to bed hungry at night.*

*Some children do not have a home.*

*Some children do not have fresh water for bathing or drinking!*

*Some animals are facing extinction on every continent due to pollution and destruction of habitats.*

The stories of children though who are hungry and need fresh water pulls on all our heartstrings the most. All Tidewater families are invited to join PK in the Heifer Project. All funds will be given to Heifer to purchase animals or seeds for farming or to dig wells in areas of need. The Heifer International is a world-acclaimed humanitarian effort. If you are interested, please call Nancy. Thank you!

## Kindergarten:

Jambo! (Hello in Swahili) There are hundreds of languages spoken in the 54 countries of Africa. Our guide greeted us wearing a dress made of authentic mud cloth and a hat made of leather. She had collected many interesting handmade items to share with us. There were ebony statues, carved beads, stamped fabric, woven baskets plus shakers and drums. She gave each of us coins and we had to figure out from which African country our money came. We made masks, puppets and listened to the Zulu legends of How Zebra Got His Stripes and How Lion got his Roar.



Guess where we are—this country is shaped like a boot and looks like it is kicking a soccer ball? —Italy! We met our guide in Pisa. He was anxious for us to see the Leaning Tower of Pisa. It's where Galileo performed many of his experiments many many years ago. Our guide also showed us vases and serving trays made from Italian cork. He served Pizza before we headed to Pompeii. We read the true story of Pompeii and did an experiment about volcanoes. We hope the sleeping giant never wakes again!



Our pilot whisked us to France in his speedy Concord jet. The countryside was dotted with chateaus, villages and vineyards. Our visits to the Museums and Cathedrals in Paris inspired us to try drawing, painting and sculpting like Monet, Renoir, Matisse and Michelangelo. (Maybe our art work will be in a Museum someday!) We couldn't resist stopping at a sidewalk Café. Our guide knew just what to order: grapes, cheese and baguettes, and an Apple Galette. We could see all the famous landmarks of Paris from the Eiffel Tower. It's twice as tall as the Washington Monument! We read our favorite French stories about Madeline, King Babar and Anatole. We even got to see the classic The Red Balloon movie!



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Hola! We've finally made it to Spain. Our tour guide had made a huge map to show us all the places we could visit—mountains, farmland or miles of beaches. We studied the art of Picasso and tried to recreate faces; then we made a class sculpture using his style. You'll have to check it out in our Library area. Our guide offered to take us to the bull fights in Madrid but we decided to just read about our friend Ferdinand instead. Farmers grow oranges, clementines, olives and grapes. Just like Spanish peasants of long ago, we each brought an ingredient, mixed them together and let it cook while we did our morning work. When it was lunch time we shared our Spanish Paella—with chicken and shrimp. It was delicious!



Our tour guide is wearing a ski hat, sweater, knickers and long stockings. Guess where we are now? In the beautiful mountains of Sweden—with thick forests and 100,000 lakes! He had pictures of the log houses, churches and countryside. We couldn't decide whether to go skiing, ice skating or ice fishing! We remembered being

in Sweden for our St. Lucia Day celebration in December. He had an authentic Dala horse-- carved out of wood and painted red with beautiful flower designs painted around its neck. We read the *Trouble with Trolls* and the *Tomten*, the friendly trolls who make nocturnal visits to all the residents of a wintry farm. Then, he served us Swedish pancakes with whipped cream and fresh apple cake. Yummy!



We found an abandoned castle in the United Kingdom. We had a wonderful time pretending we were the noble Kings and Queens. We noticed that each family had a special coat of arms that they wore on their clothes, armor and shields. We had fun designing our own coat of arms. We helped the Queen count her golden coins before being treated to a Royal Tea Party. We impressed all the guests with our crowns, raised pinkies and fine manners as we sipped tea and hot chocolate from china tea cups and enjoyed scones and biscuits (that's what they call cookies!)



Our next stop was Russia. Our tour guide introduced us to the onion-domed buildings of St. Petersburg. We learned about Ivan the Terrible and Catherine the Great. She shared her collection of Matroska dolls with us—traditionally, five or seven wooden dolls that fit inside each other. The dolls are carefully painted in traditional clothing or sometimes are painted with famous Russian scenes. Our guide showed us a photo her Aunt Beverly's Russian tea pot called a samovar. She served us Russian alphabet cookies with our hot tea. We found out that when Russian children lose a tooth, they put their tooth under the bed and the Tooth Mouse leaves them a surprise!



We left our shoes at the door as our tour guide invited us on a tour of India. We each had our own pillow to sit on while she told us about India. Did you know there are 1 billion people living there? Two of the most famous Indian citizens are Gandhi and Mother Teresa. She showed us beautiful carved statues, silver jewelry and bowls, elephants of different sizes and shapes and the most beautiful sari fabrics. There were special shirts, vests and dresses waiting for us to try on. When everyone was dressed in their Indian clothing, she passed out sticks to use while dancing. It was so much fun -- tapping our sticks to

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the side, behind us, above our heads—everyone moving to the beat! She served us mango juice, a flat bread called rotli and sev mumra (a spicy puffed rice snack). We read Rudyard Kipling's *Rikki Tikki Tavi* and *How the Elephant Got his Trunk*.



What an amazing world we live in! We have some terrific photos to share with you. We'll be home in time for the Easter Egg hunt. See you soon.  
Love, The Kindergarten Travelers

### Lower Elementary:

Have you ever multiplied a number beyond a googol!! Anthony can tell you that he has! Thomas is also working on an ENORMOUS multiplication problem. We will have to go out on the playground to see how long it is because the classroom is now too small. Jess is working on the longest addition problem ever and has proclaimed himself king of math. We actually now have quite a few members of math royalty complete with crowns. Kelsey, Dawson, Jesse and Tyler have also joined the big math craze and no doubt others will follow suit. Danielle told me the other day that she wished Tidewater went all the way to college. Just think of how long our math problems would be if we worked on them that long!!

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Back to School Night was such fun. The students became the teachers and the parents became the students. I hope you enjoyed seeing some of what your children do each day in class. The parents participated in estimating Easter egg candies. We had some pretty interesting results. Haley was our winner with a guess of 200 eggs (there were 195 eggs in the container). We shared the eggs out between the 35 estimators. Each person got 5 eggs. Haley was given the remainder of 20 eggs. To find out how many eggs there were, we multiplied the number of participants by the number of eggs and added the remainder.



Working on geometry

We have had so many wonderful reports this year. I hope that everyone was able to see the Eagle Report complete with life-size nest and flying eagles. Anthony, Tyler, Thomas and Jess presented their report to Pre-K. The nest is big enough to hold seven children with room to spare. Megan, Ian, and Marina presented their report on birds to Kindergarten. They made a beautiful diorama to go with their report. The students are also working on reports about England, Africa, cheetahs, dinosaurs, horses, chickens and space.



Looking at a skeleton during Echoes of Nature

We studied the art of Paul Klee in March. Paul Klee experimented with different media. He tried painting on cloth and cardboard and he mixed oil paints with water colors. His paintings are abstract, bright, and cheerful. We experimented with mixing an oil based medium (oil pastels) with water colors with great success. Tyler painted a linear abstract on cardboard. Next month we will study the works of Albrecht Durer.



Writing stories

Anthony and Thomas brought in two praying mantis egg cases several weeks ago and we now have hundreds of babies! Luckily we had them in a jar with a lid! Anthony and Sarah are observing and caring for a wooly caterpillar found on the playground. Speaking of insects, we are eagerly awaiting the 17 year cicadas. We have been learning as much as we can about these unusual creatures. We read

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that the cicadas will not be as far south as Huntingtown, but those of you who live in Upper Marlboro or towards Annapolis may see as many as 100,000 per acre in mid-May.

Marina and Haley have started a school recycling program. They are encouraging everyone to recycle the bottles and cans that are normally thrown away.

The LE would like to thank Philip and his family for donating 815 pennies to our 10,000 penny collection. We now have almost 7,000 pennies!

I would like to thank the 4-H leaders for bringing the "Bunny Lady" to Tidewater. The children really enjoyed holding and petting the bunnies.



Holding a bunny during 4-H

We are looking for someone who is good at woodworking/repairs. Our one million cube has fallen apart and needs to be put back together. If you would like to help restore the million cube to its former glory, please let me know.

The LE will be performing "The Wack-a-doo Zoo" on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The program will also include music performed by the UE class. I hope that we will see you all there. You won't want to miss it!

## Upper Elementary:

It is so pleasant to feel the warm breezes. We are presently experiencing The Spring Equinox and it is exciting. The plants are budding, the birds are calling, the days are longer and we spend time outside learning and playing.



We are also excited about our end-of-year performance. *The Elephant's Child* (Rudyard Kipling) rehearsals are going well and we have started our costumes and scenery. We will let you know the performance dates in the next newsletter. Everyone is invited!



Our 4H Project for April will be the Easter baskets. With the help of Ms. Holly Budd, we will grow grass in beautifully decorated baskets and afterwards we will add spring flowers. Our Easter Basket Sale will take place April 6, 2004, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. It will be an UE 4H fundraiser. Please look for our 4H friends selling their wares.



### I read a 734 page book!!

by Katie

I read *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (Book 4). It took approximately three months!! It was very exciting!! The people moved around a lot; therefore it was wild!! I recommend this book to any people who like Harry Potter!!

### Back to School Night

by Kelvin

Wednesday, March 24, 2004 was back to school night where elementary classes brought their parents and gave them lessons on geography, S.R.A., map test and more. The parents and kids in the class got a chance to teach and learn and some parents might have even learned what they didn't when they were in school. As students learn more, we will teach more next year.



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### The Allen's Farm

by David

Recently more animals were born on the Allen's farm. Seven more baby animals, not including Cupid, were born. So far all of the baby animals have been sheep, not including Cupid. There are two more animals (sheep, goat) that are expecting babies.



### New Equipment

by Kelvin

Thursday, March 25, 2004

This March we have had the new playground equipment inserted in mud pits on the playground. We will fill the pits with mulch so we can remove the *do not cross* lines. We have an equipment shed, a two-side divided slide so two people can slide at once, a sand box (we haven't got the sand yet), a new swing set and a new basketball hoop. By next week we'll be using the equipment!

