



# Tidewater Times

## Special thanks to:

Ms. Lily for preparing a fantastic feast for our Day of the Dead celebration for K and Elementary students.

Our Open House Hostesses Karyn Brim, Jen Behe and Denny Wayson.

Parents who provided snacks for our Open House guests.

All of our families for Thanksgiving!

Dennis and Dorothy Rader for arranging our feast at the Huntingtown United Methodist Church.

All of our families for participating in the Food Pantry Project and our Elementary students for their help at the Pantry.

All of our families who are supporting Tidewater through Escrip, Ink Cartridges, Box Tops, ....  
\*\*\*We just received \$177 from Staples for used ink cartridges!

Parents for recycling:  
A great example for our children!

Katie Kachurak ,the Frederick family and the Santini family for decorating the Hospice Tree at Huntingtown High.

Volume 22, Issue 3

December 2007

## News from the Director

'Tis the season to be jolly and indeed we have good reason to be! As others are scurrying about trying to make last minute purchases, Tidewater children are peacefully building futures through their deductive reasoning skills with the outstanding materials in their classrooms. We do celebrate a great deal at Tidewater and some may think that "it is too much." I am grateful that our families understand the value of the *Tidewater Way* and know that our children are exploring knowledge at incredible depths.

Let's reflect on Tidewater's Thanksgiving: Lessons took place in every classroom with the content focused on learning about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. One cannot study these diverse cultures without lessons in how and where they lived, not to mention the historical and geographical environments of the time. The children at every level researched, listened and learned the story of our ancestors.

Now let's reflect on December: Lessons have been given on Divali, the New Year in India with the focus on the customs, clothing, foods, and culture of another land. The children will reflect on how others celebrate and contrast that to our own heritage and culture. The children will also celebrate Eid, the last day of Ramadan. We will be blessed this year to have guests come and present a personal reflection on how Chanukah is celebrated in their home. We will make the latkes and savor the applesauce on them! We will play with the dreidel, each class at their own level. PK friends will delight in trying to place their fingers just so to make it spin. Kindergarten friends will play the game with the pennies, learning nun, gimmel, heh and shin as they trade. Elementary friends will be ready to hear the importance of the dreidel, understanding that the game consisted of two levels: a game of chance and fun and the other as a recitation of the Jewish story of captivity. As the Romans and later, the Nazi soldiers came to the doors of the Jewish families, the game would appear as family fun, but in actuality, it was a time to remember their past and to hope for a better future.

And so our human story will continue throughout December with St. Nicholas in Germany; St. Lucia in Sweden; gingerbread houses throughout Europe; nutcrackers and the lovely ballet in Russia; Santa Claus in the United States; and the story of the very first Christmas day with the birth of the baby Jesus. It is so lovely to begin the lessons with the Jewish people and end with the Messiah. These are the stories of humanity and regardless of our belief, they are our stories to respect and understand. Our goal is to raise compassionate and respectful children. As our world becomes smaller and smaller due to our global mobility, we will need to learn even more stories, each with special meaning and beauty.

It is good to pause and give thanks. As this holiday month begins, make a commitment to reflect each day on what is important and let go of the media rush. Tell your children the stories of your life and theirs. Nothing is more enchanting to a child than to hear their own birth story and your anticipation of their arrival. Do not miss the miracle of Christmas, Divali, and Chanukah! The best place to find this joy is the grasp of your child's precious hand in your home. I wish you the very best holiday season ever, with prayers for peace of all.

Shalom,

Ms. Nancy

**Special thanks to:**

John and Connie Gott for hosting the PK Pow-Wow.

Ms. Trish for the wonderful slide show at the Thanksgiving Feast.

Parents for donating ingredients for our Feast cooking, preparing turkey sandwiches **and** for staying to clean up after the feast.

Rhoda McGrane for lessons on felting wool and dipping candles.

Cloverbud and 4H leaders for preparations for the Christmas parade.

Karen Schork for donating books to our Elementary Library

Parents for supporting the Elementary 4-H Poinsettia sale. They will be ready for pick-up the first week of December.

Tidewater families for participating in our Angel Tree gift project for Safe Harbor.

Parents for driving on our field trips and taking part in our out-of-school activities.

Parent photographers, Valerie MacKrell, Connie Gott and others who have shared pictures of school activities with us for our publications and the Thanksgiving slide show.

The Rodilosso's family for donating the train table to Pre-K.

**Pre-Kindergarten News**

November and December are a time of celebration at Tidewater. Children at this age are eager to join in the songs, hear the stories, taste the treats and create the symbols of holidays. Their experiences with celebrations old and new can help them to define their place in a culture, family and sometimes a religion. It just so happens that many cultures observe special days just before the start of winter, and we are fortunate to be able to share many of these with our students. I thought you might be interested in knowing what we will be celebrating this month so that you can share in your child's discovery. We also extend an invitation to each of you to share any special traditions or celebrations from your own family.



Tidewater's Elementary tribe visits Pre-K to trade with our own natives.

**Divali**- the Hindu new year, this is a festival of lights. Debts are forgiven, homes are cleaned and decorated, new clothes bought, and blessings given to friends and family. It is traditional for children to receive money from their parents. Families visit the temple and celebrate with relatives. Houses glitter with candles and lights, then fireworks are set off at night. Our celebration includes music, dancing, food and lots of beautiful clothes and fabrics.



PK friends give their fingers a workout by tack punching their Indian baskets .

**Santa Lucia**- a Christian observance in Scandinavia during which children don white robes and candle crowns. The holiday symbolizes the light of faith and promise of the return of the sun after a long winter. In our class, the Santa Lucia star children from Ms. Suzanne's class bake yeast bread and gather in a procession to deliver it to their younger counterparts in our class.

**St. Nicholas**- The European holiday of good will. It is believed that Bishop Nicholas convinced his followers to give the fruits of their harvest to the suffering children and families of a faraway town. Each year the Saint now sends good people to continue his work, to share gifts and to spread the story of the birth of Jesus. Children leave carrots and straw in their shoes the night before his arrival in hopes that he might fill the shoes with treats. Somehow he always manages to find us at Tidewater.



Golden Dog trades wampum with one of the big girls from Elementary.

**Eid al Fitr-** the Muslim feast celebrating the end of Ramadan, a month-long fast (usually in late October or early November) meant to cleanse the body and offer a time of soulful reflection and worship. Families gather at the mosque to feast on the fall harvest and look for opportunities to help those less fortunate than themselves.



Using the Montessori counting spindles on the work mat

**Hanukkah-** “A Great Miracle Happened Here”. The Jewish observance which celebrates the victory of the Israelites over the Greeks and the restoration of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. The lighting of the menorah over eight days represents the number of days the lamp of God burned in the restored temple with only one drop of oil. Families and friends gather and children receive presents from their parents. Warm, filling foods are served. We will hear the story of Hanukkah and enjoy latkes while we try our luck in winning chocolate gelt in the dreidel game.



PK friend gets organized with her number work.

**Las Posados-** The Mexican holiday in which children travel through their villages for nine nights carrying the crèche to find a place for the birth of the baby Jesus. On the ninth night they are invited in to homes for a party and celebrate with a piñata. Ms. Suzanne’s class will travel to our class to find a place at the inn. Will we invite them to stay?

**Advent and Christmas-** the conscious anticipation and celebration of the birth of Christ. This is a time for decorating, baking, exchanging cards and gifts and gathering with family. The nativity story is central to this observance. We will make decorations, bake goodies and make presents to prepare for the holiday.



Tidewater friends grind coffee together.

We will be making lots of gifts for family and preparing treats in the kitchen for many of these celebrations. Our annual gingerbread house day is coming up too! Please send in a bag of colorful candy by Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for this fun project. While it sounds like a lot, we try very hard to maintain a joyful (not stressful) environment for the children this month. Please plan to join us on Friday, December 14 at 9:00 for a Santa breakfast. A sign-up sheet is in the library if you would like to bring a special breakfast treat that morning.

Ms. Laura



Running Cheetah strings beads for our Pow Wow.



We all love to sort jewels at our Pre-K sorting party.

## Pre-K/Kindergarten News: A day in the life of a Pilgrim child in Ms. Suzanne's room



Pilgrim children got up at the crack of dawn to gather firewood and carry water back to the house for the family's daily needs.

A Kindergarten friend carefully polishes the copper brought over from England while others concentrate on weaving and perfecting screwdriver skills.



Morning chores also included gathering eggs and milking the cow. The Tidewater pilgrims enjoy talking about



their day as they take turns milking Bessie. We skimmed the cream from the milk and used it to make fresh butter.

Our Indian friend Samoset showed us how to dig a hole, place small fish in each hole, and plant the "three sisters"-bean, corn and squash seeds. We ground our dried kernels of corn and mixed the ingredients for cornbread, using a favorite recipe handed down from a friend's grandmother. Our cornbread was yummy with our fresh butter.



It's hard to imagine not having electricity for lights, refrigerators or washing machines. We discovered that food left at room temperature grows molds of various colors and some foods even change consistency. One friend was responsible for washing his cloth napkin on the washboard after snack and hanging it up on the clothesline to dry.



We were lucky to have one student's mother, Ms. Rhoda, give us lessons on dipping candles from beeswax. We enjoyed singing Thanksgiving songs as we took turns dipping our wicks in the hot wax, circling the room to allow the wax to cool and dipping again to build additional layers on our tapers.



We found many uses for wool. Tidewater friends show their baby dolls with faces made of wool.



The pilgrim children used dried lemon balm, rosemary, thyme, anise and sage to fill their dyed-fabric-sweet bags.



There were so many "sewing bees": several pilgrim children work on their sweet bags; others work on their pumpkin bags; while another tries his hand at making a quilt block.



One friend demonstrates carding the wool- straightening the fibers- so it can be spun into yarn. Ms. Rhoda showed us how to take a handful of carded wool batt, wrap it around a small piece of soap, tie it securely with yarn before dipping it into hot water and rubbing the wool gently.



We continued this agitation process by placing the "bundle" in a piece of nylon hose, the fibers began to "hook" together. We made felt!- the same fabric we used to make our hats and ornaments for the Hospice tree.



We gathered poke berries and saved our onion skins for days to have enough for fabric dyeing. We were



expecting the poke berries to make a beautiful purple dye but we were surprised to see the golden brown color made from the onion skins.



## Pre-K/Kindergarten News (continued)



If there was time after dinner, Father would give lessons on reading and writing. There was no formal school. Here, one pilgrim child practices writing with a quill pen and dips it in pokeberry-juice-ink.

We shared in Pilgrim fun by playing with spinning tops, wooden cup and ball games, three-legged races and our favorite tug-of-war. Can you guess which side was the strongest?



Another K friend uses her collection of leaves to make a swan.



One of our Tidewater friends has great success tapping the hoop and moves fast enough to keep up with it!



The Tidewater pilgrims looked very carefully for the perfect sapling to bend and secure as a deer trap. They had to gather rocks, leaves and acorns to bait the trap. The next day, they found deer tracks nearby but unfortunately didn't snare the deer.

After reading about the adventures of the Pilgrims and turning our classroom into a "colonial village", we have first-hand experience and a better understanding of the challenges those early settlers faced. Thank you for joining us at our annual Thanksgiving feast. We had fun celebrating with you and feel so blessed.



Ms. Suzanne





# December 2007

410-257-0533



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Music Chanukkah Celebration	Spanish Bookmobile St. Nicholas Eve in PK & K	Elementary - PE Music	Pizza: \$1/slice Spanish Gingerbread House Day		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Los Posados	Music	Spanish St. Lucia	Elementary - PE Music	Christmas Party Nutcracker Ballet - Elem NOON DISMISSAL FOR HOLIDAY RECESS!		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	NO SCHOOL-Holiday Recess Book Club Social - 7 pm at Red, Hot and Blue Restaurant	NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	No School: Holiday Recess	No School: Merry Christmas!	No School: Holiday Recess	No School: Holiday Recess	No School: Holiday Recess	
30	31	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5
	No School: Holiday Recess	No School: Happy New Year!	No School: Holiday Recess	Back to School!		

### Elementary News



Elementary, with "The Cat in the Hat" and "The Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly," celebrates Halloween with historical and book character costumes.



Elementary and Kindergarten have a feast and a parade on The Day of the Dead.



November ushered in a renewed sense of awe and wonder within our world and hearts. We began our month focusing on the ways, customs and wisdom of other peoples.

Our excursion to the National Museum of the American Indian offered the children an insight and awareness into the lives and history of a complex group of people allowing them to further their appreciation of different cultures. By sharing and trading "goods" with the PK children, not only did the tender bond between the two groups of friends



strengthen, but the reenactment taught an important lesson on respect and patience as the Elementary children approached their younger friends. Please see our "Trading Day" photos on Page 2.



Additionally, several of the students in our sewing club visited the Textile Museum in DC, again experiencing the myriad of techniques associated with the weaving and creation of cloth. They were able to have a docent-led tour of the small, unique museum further exposing them to the richness of textiles and the amazing place they hold in every culture and society. This visit was a wonderful way to tie in our weaving and sewing work within the class as well as our lessons on customs and traditions among different peoples. If you ever find yourself wanting to experience something different in DC, this is a small, private museum well worth visiting.





There were many gentle moments interspersed among our daily lessons this month as we prepared for the Thanksgiving Feast, created the egg ornaments and garland for the Hospice Tree, and decorated the food collection bags for the Food Pantry. It is inspiring and uplifting to listen to the conversations of your children as they participate in these activities...from innocent questions and observations to kind words of encouragement as



Elementary students deliver our yellow bags and help sort food at the Food Pantry.

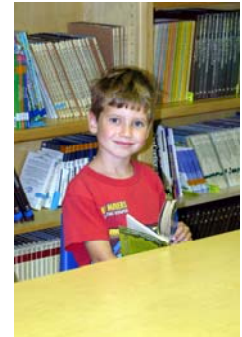
as different skills are tested and needed for a particular task. We have come together as a community and group and there is a level of support and partnership that becomes more evident with each passing month among the children.

As we approach the close of this calendar year, the holiday season brings to the forefront of our consciousness the importance of the relationships we strive to have and maintain both within and outside of our community. The energy and excitement of your children, as they imagine new and different ideas to build upon is nothing short of amazing. The sheer joy they bring to each of their days is a constant reminder for us to slow down and notice what is truly important: being surrounded by people who love and appreciate you **for being you**. It is under this umbrella of acceptance that the generosity of our spirit flows and our hearts open.

The holiday season certainly brings it out in us all. As one of the students said, "It's magical!"

Our wish for you all is that this wondrous, magical feeling stay with you throughout the year. Enjoy these days, particularly all of the "crazy, hectic" ones which always seem to bring out the creative-side of our children! From all of us *downstairs*, we wish you a peaceful and magical December!

Namasté,  
Karen, Ann and Pat



## Reflections about Reading

Whenever our faculty participates in a seminar, the goal is to gather the most current information to strengthen our program. I had the opportunity to attend an outstanding seminar in Baltimore on Literacy. This seminar was excellent in its content and affirming as to how Tidewater teaches language, reading and writing to children. Literacy is defined as *an individual's ability to read, write, speak, compute, and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function as an individual within a family, job and community.* There are five areas of literacy, each an integral part of Tidewater's curriculum:

**Phonemic Awareness** – the ability to hear, identify and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words.

**Phonics** – the understanding that there are systematic and predictable relationships between written letters and spoken sounds, also referred to as sound to symbol correspondence or the alphabetical principle

**Text Comprehension** – a purposeful and active reading with sufficient proficiency to be able to simultaneously understand what one has read.

**Vocabulary** – knowledge of word meanings at four different levels

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

**Fluency** – the ability to read a text accurately and smoothly, NOT QUICKLY!

With foundation set in early childhood, language is essential for building literacy. During these early years, the child plays with sounds, listening to the musical quality and feeling the rush or explosion of air in the mouth. This is the foundation for **phonemic awareness**. During these years prior to and including PK and K, children learn first to distinguish isolated sounds (not letters), and then enjoy rhyming patterns once they have internalized the sound patterns. It is at this age that children begin to distinguish syllables as beats of a word. These skills are the pre-requisites for moving onto the next level of literacy: Phonics.

**Phonics** provides the visual equivalency of phonemic awareness. The child has mastered the sound relationship within words for discrimination of initial and final sounds, beats and rhyme. Now the child moves from the auditory to the visual channel, mastering the sound to letter correspondence.

At Tidewater, the child experiences these lessons in a multi-sensorial manner:

**Auditory:** Continue bathing the child in sound, repeating the lessons of phonics.

**Visual:** Letters are introduced

**Kinesthetic:** Letters are moved, such as with both the large and small moveable alphabets, and numerous other learning tools

**Tactile:** Sandpaper letters, shaving cream, sand, foam, dough....

We know that human beings learn best when information is processed through more than one neurological input to the brain. We also know that as human beings, we are different in modality preference, which is why some children are so verbally fluent, others excel in manipulation of objects, such as puzzles, and some must watch intensely prior to initiating a task. As educators and parents, we must respect the learning style of each child.

**Text Comprehension and Vocabulary** require a child to decode sounds and understand the context. Once again, the sophistication of language comes to the surface as critically important. It is from this receptive log of knowledge that the child relates the words on the page and gives them meaning. The child shifts from **learning to read** to **reading to learn**. This demands great sophistication in discerning meaning from the words, organizing the sequence of the passage, and recalling the information.


The final step in reading literacy is **Fluency**. When a child is mastering fluency, the text should be less complicated than what is read for comprehension. This cannot be stressed enough. If a child is given a text that is too detailed, stress becomes a factor. This just makes sense. Think about your oral reading skills. Would you rather read aloud to your peers Shakespeare or J.K. Rowling? Children would rather read at a comfortable level for mastery!

And one last comment: Children must be given our greatest respect during these years of foundation for literacy. If we esteem them by following their pace, they will want to read. If we demean them and force them to be at a level beyond their competence, we are the creators of the negative behavior and attitudes. If your supervisor walked by your desk each day making comments such as: "Why don't you understand that? How many times do I need to tell you that? Why isn't this done yet?" .... Would you not have a bad attitude? As an Adlerian educational model, our goal is to understand the child's behavior, thus making certain that we are instructing at a level for success.

The holiday is coming and books are a wonderful gift, not only for giving but for reading together as a family. Enjoy and remember that we are never too old to enjoy hearing a story!

.....Ms. Nancy

Please join Tidewater Families at Panerra Bread in Prince Frederick for a "Night Out"



**The Tidewater School Fundraiser Night**

Join us for dinner with a sandwich, Crispani soup or salad! Or enjoy freshly baked breads, bagels & pastries from our bakery!

**Monday January 14th from 6-9 PM**

Market Square  
878 Costly Way. Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Panera Bread will donate a portion of our proceeds from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to The Tidewater School!

**A Special Thank You to:**  
Parents for buying our Tidewater Shopping Bags. We will continue to sell them at our front entrance for \$5.00 each. For more information on recyclable bags go to: [www.onebagatatime.com](http://www.onebagatatime.com). All proceeds from the bag sales are put into our Fundraising Account which pays for special activities for the children.

Would you like to place a special message or advertisement in *The Tidewater Times* to help us cover the cost of printing?

Send us your information by December 14th with a \$25 donation to The Tidewater School.

We will include your 2 inch x 3 1/2 inch ad (business card size) in our next issue.

**Looking Ahead:**


**Enrollment Open House**  
Sunday, January 27, 2008  
1 - 3 p.m.

At this time we begin accepting applications from the general public. Please let your friends know about our wonderful school and invite them to come visit!

Alumni News: Julia Walker  
Tidewater student 1998 - 2001  
is starring in this local show.

The Talent Machine Company  
*presents*

**HOLIDAY MAGIC**  
a joyous musical celebration of the season



**Show Dates**  
Dec 14 7:30 pm  
Dec 15 2:00 & 7:30 pm  
Dec 16 2:00 & 6:30 pm  
Dec 20, 21, 22 7:30 pm  
Dec 22, 23 2:00 pm

**Tickets and information**  
[www.TalentMachine.com](http://www.TalentMachine.com)  
410-956-0512

Reserved Seating: Tickets \$12  
Children (9 & under) \$8

SAVE \$2.00  
off ticket prices  
order before Nov 15

St. John's College, Key Auditorium, Annapolis, MD

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*The Tidewater  
School sends  
wishes to  
all of our  
Families for  
a very happy  
holiday season!*

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.thetidewaterschool.org](http://www.thetidewaterschool.org)



When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, you may want to include our American soldiers.

The "America Supports You" website, [www.americasupportsyoud.com](http://www.americasupportsyoud.com) lists more than 300 nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping our troops and their families. **Please note** that packages or letters must be addressed to a specific soldier or service member or it cannot be delivered.

**Will you be giving  
Gift Cards as  
presents this year?**

Purchase your holiday  
**Gift Cards** from  
The Tidewater School!

Deadline: Friday December 7

Thank you for your support!

**Montessori Services - Small Hands**  
[www.montessoriservices.com](http://www.montessoriservices.com)

\* The Tidewater School's Customer Number is 120740.

Individual orders from parents and families received before December 31 will earn Tidewater a 10% credit as long as our customer number is used. Orders may be placed online, by phone, fax or US mail.

Please support our sponsor!

	<b>LaFAYETTE LAW OFFICE, LLC</b>
	<b>RENEE LaFAYETTE</b> ATTORNEY AT LAW
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**Very Important  
Safety Reminder!**

Read the labels  
of the toys  
before you buy  
them and check  
for recalls online.

**Thank you to our Birthday Book Club  
friends for November!**

We have new books in our library  
in honor of your special day!

