

DECEMBER 2008  
Volume 23, Issue 3

### Special thanks to:

Dorothy and Dennis Rader for helping with our Thanksgiving Feast at the Huntingtown United Methodist Church.

Ms. Geneva for putting together a fun program at our Thanksgiving Feast with dancing, singing and musical instruments.

Kay Weber, Valerie MacKrell and Karyn Brim for getting the float organized and decorated for the Christmas Holiday Parade in Prince Frederick.

Parents for the donations of food, flowers, and baking of turkeys for our Thanksgiving Feast.

Contributors to the Pop-Pop Schoelkopf (Nancy's Dad) Memorial fund.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This month has been wonderful! Despite the hectic rush in the outside world, the children have been so busy doing such amazing work. There are Piedmont Geography lessons and germ discoveries happening in LE. UE is absorbed in preparing for the Nutcracker Ballet. The focus of PK is so special to watch. If I could be invisible, I would never leave the room. They are so curious and investigative. The kindergarten friends are social yet very festively creative. I hope that you have had an opportunity to see their magnificent Christmas tree.

As we prepare for the New Year, I wish to share some opportunities for Tidewater. The first is that Karyn Brim and Andrea Zolt will be offering the Tidewater Toddler Program through Parks and Recreation. We are so glad to have parents offer to step in and help share Tidewater in our community!

Another project has been given to us by **nature** and the **Tidewater Groundhogs** (our digging friends!). The children, both boys and girls, love to dig in the soil. In record time, they dug too far into the hill. This brings two needs to our attention:

- We need to establish a safer place for the children to dig.
- We need to repair the hill and address the erosion at the base of the hill (at the ridge that abuts the mulched area).

As a staff, we sat and brainstormed this problem. The children have been digging for sensory stimulation. It is an important developmental task and we need to honor it, BUT not on the hill. We would like to develop an area toward the back of the play area, closer to the nature trail. As we address this problem, it is important to involve the children in examining and understanding the current dilemma, and problem solving the correction. Trish is trained in landscape design and suggested that we repair the hill (in the area damaged) with terracing for gardens. We may need to put in some form of retaining wall at the ridge.

As a collective body and out of concern and respect for our children, we (meaning staff and parents) need to be creative and address this problem. If you have expertise in solving problems such as this and/or equipment to move dirt to help fill the hill, please step forward. I know we can put together a dynamic team of "experts" to develop a plan and then harness our collective energies to make this happen. There is concern that we could have further erosion on the hill with snow and then melting. Would it be advisable to fill the area with stone at this time and wait until spring? Your assistance is needed. Please call the office (410-257-0533), send an email ([tidewaterschool@cheaspeake.net](mailto:tidewaterschool@cheaspeake.net)), or stop by to share your thoughts. We will plan to meet as a creative committee in January.

May your holidays be joyful!

Blessings of Peace,  
Ms. Nancy

**Special thanks to:**

Erin Quicker for ordering and delivering the Holiday Scrip Orders.

Parents and friends who have contributed to our Circle of Friends Fund.

Parents for the time given to be Gingerbread House helpers.

Kay Weber for her help with the 4H Parade, Poinsettia Sales, Chesapeake Garden Fundraiser.

Volunteers for putting together the Montessori Services orders to send home.

Karyn Brim for being Hostess for our Open House.

Michael Santini for finishing the shelves for Elem.

Parents for field trip transportation.

Parents for their insights presented at our Director's "Breakfast Chats."

Rose Futchko for computer help.





**Special thanks to:**

The Alveys, the Zolts and the Santinis for sharing photos.

Parents and students who decorated our Hospice Tree at Huntingtown High School.

K parents for driving to Asbury-Solomon's Island for caroling.

Parents for sending in candy for the Gingerbread Houses and for the Holiday Parade.

Tidewater friends for the generous donations of hats, mittens, socks and scarves for the Angel Tree project.

Parents for supporting the 4H Poinsettia Sale and the Scholastic Book Club program.

Birthday Book club members for Nov. and Dec. - Erik, Sophia A., Owen, Teddy, Abby, Emma A.

Parents for classroom gifts from the Montessori Services order.



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**We're on the Web!**  
www.the  
tidewaterschool.org

You can place a special message or advertisement in The Tidewater Times.

Send us your information by January 19 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.

# TIDEWATER OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, January 6 at 9:15 am

This will be a special Open House for Kindergarten parents to visit our Elementary classrooms. Parents will be greeted in the library area by our Director, Ms. Nancy, and following a brief orientation, they will be guided through our Elementary classrooms. After touring and observing, the group will gather for questions once again in the library. Please call the office if you would like to reserve your spot as space will be limited out of respect for the classes.

