



Tidewater Times

Special Thanks to:

All of the families who participated in our Thanksgiving Feast

Ms. Laura, Ms. Lana, Ms. Rose and children, and Ms. Nancy for putting up the gorgeous Hospice Tree



We would like to begin to offer **Extended Care until 6 pm** as soon as we are able to find someone who has completed the 45 hour Childcare Course and has a current CPR and First Aid certification. Please call Nancy immediately if you can recommend someone for this position.

Volume 20, Issue 3

December 2005

The Holiday Season Arrives!

To all of our Tidewater Families, I and the entire staff wish you the very best of holidays. We have the option to make this season one of great joy or intense stress. As you make the lists of who gets what, remember that the best gift you can give to anyone is yourself. Your children would love big empty boxes to hide in with you as you tell them the story of your childhood. Give the family the opportunity to explore the roots of love that hold you together.

The Tidewater Book Club will be exploring traditions and rituals this month. If you did not come to the first couple of meetings, please know that you can still join us! The qualification for membership is friendship toward others so know that you are welcome!

Tidewater's children will be enjoying the season too. We love to celebrate with the friends in a way that affirms them and allows them to understand the traditions of many throughout the world during this season. As we celebrate at school, we wish to encourage the children to understand the differences and to respect them. We also encourage the children to present their questions to you about beliefs and traditions. The stories are rich and lovely. We welcome you to come and share your favorite stories with us!

As we tell the stories to the children, the message is that children are precious and that every child is born bringing a message of love, hope and peace to us. Let us receive the message this season in a courageous way that we can make a difference for one another. Go gently into this day, breathing deeply and refresh yourself. Life is good! May the joy of this season be in our hearts everyday! Merry Christmas! Happy Chanukah! Joyful Kwanza! Peace on Earth!

Ms. Nancy

Photos from our Thanksgiving Feast



PK friend with his Dad



Tidewater friends play under the loft.

Elementary Friends' Thanksgiving Musical



More Special Thanks to:

All of our families who supported Tidewater's Angel Tree Project: Gifts for Birthright. It is not too late to send them in!

Ms. Tracey and our Elementary Friends for the Great Thanksgiving Musical!

D. F. for the lovely book for our Library - in honor of her birthday!

A. P. and J. G.'s families for the beautiful setting for the PK Powwow!

Mr. Robert Gajays, a Native American Sachem for the informative PK visit

All of the gracious hosts / hostesses at our Open House

All of the gourmet bakers who made such delicious treats for the Open House

Rick, Kay and C. for the PK Basketball Hoop

Book Club Hostess with the Mostess: Ms. Heather!

Ms. Celeste for donating her store credit at the *Second Look Books* to us!

Pre-Kindergarten News

It is hard to believe that December is here isn't it? It has been a busy month in our classroom. Native American life has been our focus and we have learned so much! The children took native names, prepared for tribal meetings by making bead necklaces and clothing, made sweet bags and sampled the fruits of the harvest. They howled at the tale of the coyote and sat mesmerized during the story of the turkeys who saved seeds during the great flood.

We were fortunate to have a visit from a young man of the Susquehanna tribe who taught us about the sacred animals who supplied his people with tools with which to grow crops and build homes and skins to protect him from the cold winters. Just before Thanksgiving, we were honored to have an elder from the Mohawk nation visit us and share his own experiences within the family structure of the turtle clan. Such experiences bring our lessons alive for the children and they carry their knowledge about Native Americans with great dignity.

In mid-November Mr. Buckingham was our host at the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Mobile Aquatic Laboratory. We learned about horseshoe crabs and took home our own little slice of the Chesapeake Bay replete with sand, rocks, aquatic plants and both saltwater and freshwater creatures. We are grateful for the opportunity to visit the lab.

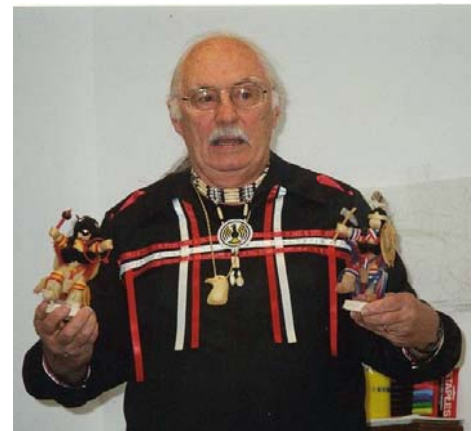
The next few weeks will be filled with excitement as we celebrate Sweden's Santa Lucia eve, the Jewish observation of Hanukkah, and Italy's Christmas customs and the story of La Belfana to name a few. Of course we will build gingerbread houses! While we remain busy in December, we try to remember that young children can find this time of year overwhelming. Routines are an important tool in maintaining balance in their lives, so we will continue our lessons with the sensorial, practical life, math and language materials.

As you may have noticed, we celebrate a broad variety of holidays at Tidewater throughout the year. In doing so we hope to convey to your children that there is great meaning behind celebrations in every culture. This is such a wonderful age for non-judgmental discovery. As always, we invite you to share with us any holidays that are important to your family.

Ms. Laura



Our Native American Visitors



PK friend reads her **first** book to Ms. Nancy.

WOW!

Kindergarten News

The Kindergarten Pilgrims have had a wonderful month of exploring Colonial life. We have been reading various books to help us understand what life was like long ago—with no stores, no cars, no electricity and no television. We discovered that children as well as the adults had daily responsibilities and jobs to complete as the children did not attend school.

One of our favorite jobs was milking our cow Bessie. We used the cream from her milk to make butter. We put the fresh butter on our bread...yummm. (But you should see what color our bread and butter are now! Pilgrims didn't have refrigerators and we're discovering what happens when food is kept at room temperature. We have a colorful mold garden!)

We tried our hand at washing clothes on a wash board, wringing them out and hanging them out to dry. We found out what a tricky job it is to hold the clothing on the clothes-line and get the pin securely clipped on the corner. Without stores, we had to sew our own hats and pockets to wear on the outside of our clothing. Did you realize there were no buttons, zippers or pockets in clothing years ago?



Kindergarten friends sewing on their tea towels.

We were unable to bathe or change our clothing during our travels. We made little bags called "sweet bags" to wear under our shirts to camouflage our body odor. They smelled so sweet when we filled them with our crushed herbs-- lavender, rosemary, lemon balm, lambs ear and topped with a few rose petals.

Our pilgrim children enjoy sitting in sewing circles while they sew designs on their dish towels. It takes lots of concentration to talk and sew—without getting your thread in a knot!

It's been fun making toys like the Pilgrim children would have used. We each made a doll by tying knots in the corners of cloth for hands and stuffing the heads of our dolls with a soft piece of lambs' wool. We've played catch the button in the cup, catch a fish on a stick and tried spinning various kinds of wooden tops.

It's been challenging to practice our writing using a feather dipped in berry juice. We've learned if you push too hard, the ink sprays all over the paper; and you can only write one letter before you have to dip the feather into the ink jar again. It takes a long time to do one page of writing.

We were saddened to read that out of the 102 original Pilgrims on the Mayflower less than 50 lived through the first year at Plymouth Plantation—and half of that number were under 16 years!

We are thankful that they were so brave and hard working to survive such difficult circumstances. We are thankful, too, that the Native Americans shared their knowledge of planting, hunting and trading with us. We enjoyed sharing our feast of Thanksgiving with you, our friends and family.

Ms. Suzanne



The Kindergarten loft is the best place to play after our Feast!

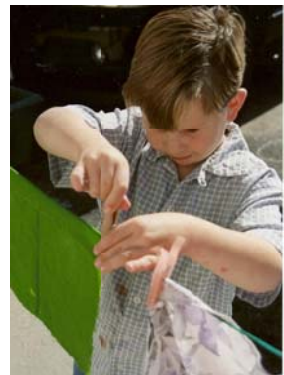
Reminder: We are still collecting items for the Christmas Birthright party. Please send in any baby/toddler items such as diapers, wipes, lotions, onesies, outfits, and toys. We will be donating them to those who really need these essentials. Birthright estimates they will have 80 mothers and even more children attending!



Milking Bessie, our cow



Writing with a quill pen



Kindergarten friend hanging clothes

IMPORTANT: There is a very special china serving bowl of Ms. Nancy's missing from our Thanksgiving Feast. If you carried it home by accident, please bring it in right away. It has great sentimental meaning to her. **THANK YOU!**

More Special Thanks to:

All of our Veterans who touched the hearts of our children and staff at the Veteran's Day Celebration

Ms. Tracey for all her work preparing for the Elementary Thank-giving musical

Ms. Pat for helping LE with the Hospice decorations

Ms. Holly for the wonderful seed hanging

K., M., and their moms for the crickets (the frogs and toads are very appreciative)

LE friend M. T. and her family for watching Daisy over Thanksgiving

Ms. Rose for helping with our recycling

Ms. Holly and Ms. Alison for working with LE on the Christmas parade float



Becoming an insect with Mr. Buckingham

Lower Elementary News

The Lower Elementary class has been learning about leaves, seeds, and trees during the past month. The students learned the parts of the leaf and how leaves function as food-making factories for the plant through a process called photosynthesis. We collected leaves from oaks, tulip poplars, sweet gums, maples, ginkgos, magnolias, hickories, and hollies. Each student then made leaf identification cards with the leaves found. We also studied the parts of trees and seeds.



LE friend making a picture of our Solar System

The Students have also been learning about our planet earth. We have studied the hydrosphere (water), lithosphere (land), and atmosphere (air) that make up our world. We have also gone below the crust of the earth to learn about the mantle, inner core, and outer core. The children learned that the Earth's crust is made up of plates that fit together like a jigsaw puzzle and move over the liquid layer of the mantle. Where plates collide, separate, and slides along side each other, earthquakes occur and mountains are formed. We are waiting for several students to give us a report on volcanoes. We will be learning about life on our planet during December; from trilobites, to dinosaurs, to the creatures that inhabit our world today.

The Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary made beautiful ornaments for the Hospice Tree. The ornaments were made from paper pulp using paper scraps from our recycling bin. I hope that you were able to see the Tidewater tree.

Our Veteran's Day celebration was so wonderful. The children heard stories from each Veteran about their time in the military from World War II to the Gulf War. The Upper Elementary children prepared and presented speeches and the Lower Elementary lead those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance. We then ate a red, white, and blue lunch prepared by the Upper Elementary. The children also made special Veteran's Day pins and decorated the LE classroom for the occasion.



LE friend making a Veteran's Day pin for her dad

Ms. Megan



Working on decanomials



LE friends sewing their turkey costumes

Lower Elementary News (continued)

Football by K. B.

Hi! My name is K. Football is so fun!
I am on offence off-guard. It is great!
Offence off-guard. I LOVE football!

Congratulations to K. B. !

She was presented with the Jarod Tompkins Award for her courage, respect, knowledge and passion for football. She was the only girl playing on the Prince Frederick Eagles 65 pound Green Football Team and they came in second place for their division, winning every game but two.



LE friend with her JT Award for Football



A Story About My Cat Lily

by S. A.

Lily is my cat. She is very sweet. She loves people. She has gray and white stripes. I love her. She is very funny. When I get home she is always by the door. When I have butter on my finger she always licks it. When I throw a ball she chases it. She is the best kitten in the world.

Staff Training: Literacy and Phonics, Auditory Processing Disorder

Laura and Nancy attended a workshop addressing **Literacy and Phonics**. Once again, it was reiterated that the only approach to reading that is validated by research is phonics. As we listened to the sequence of development, we felt very affirmed about our approach at every level at The Tidewater School. From PK on, the children are challenged to progress through the developmental hierarchy that is well documented for reading success. The young child must learn to attend to sound and listen to its organization. As the PK child develops finer listening skills, s/he is able to clap out the beats of a word, most often referred to as syllables. The child then must learn to isolate the beginning sound on a word, generate other words that begin with that sound, and enjoy the play of nonsense also with this sound experimentation.

Rhyme patterns are also established at this early age. Once the child can isolate consonants from consonant-vowel-consonant words, the child is challenged to blend the isolated sounds back into words. When the child can successfully master this skill, we then introduce the letter that represents the sounds. This makes for success! The stages continue with regular practice with decoding words to build fluency with sounds. Fluency then extends to sentences and comprehension becomes the goal.

Our language makes sense. We are privileged to offer individualized instruction for reading which allows each child at Tidewater to progress at their own unique developmental pace without fear of labeling or humiliation. That one word, **HUMILIATION**, was the motivating factor for the professor who presented this seminar to understand reading. She experienced this and became passionate in her belief: **No child should have to deal with failure from reading. Timing is to be honored, not to be ignored.**

Suzanne and Nancy also attended a workshop on **Auditory Processing Disorder**. The strategies recommended for children with this processing difficulty are a part of our every-day strategies for all of our children. Organization skills are so important, regardless of whether we have great strengths or weaknesses.

Auditory processing is best tested by an audiologist; sophisticated testing is necessary to assess the integrity of the auditory pathway from the ear to the brainstem to the cerebral cortex of the brain. While research does not present data that this is a disability that can be corrected, it is very apparent that strategies for compensation provide for success in both the academic and social settings. The earlier the diagnosis, the earlier the compensatory strategies can be perfected and internalized by the child.

Auditory processing weaknesses are apparent in children who have a confused look on their face when verbal information is presented. They do not process sound in a meaningful manner. It is not unusual for an individual with an auditory processing disorder to have what is called a specific ear advantage, which means that one ear hears and sends the message to the brain faster than the other ear. This creates a distortion of phonemic processing... sounds are out of order.

When a concern is noticed, parents and teachers need to meet to make certain that every effort is made to identify the cause of the auditory confusion and to begin to make specific learning style strategies available for the child.

Help Wanted:
Please! We need
YOUR assistance!

***We are wanting
to improve our
website through a
Question and
Answer Section.

Please send us the
questions you have
or have had in the
past that needed
clarification for you
about Tidewater.

We will use these
questions on our
website in an effort
to explain ourselves
more explicitly.

Whether you are
new or "old" at
Tidewater, we are
sure that there are
questions and with
your help in
formulating them,
we can respond to
you and help
others.

Thanks so much!



Upper Elementary News

The UE continues to study the exploration of the world. We have realized all of the important events that coincided with the expansion of humankind throughout the world. Writers, artists, musicians, rulers, inventors, scientists, dictators, despots and religious leaders were involved and enhanced the rise and fall of civilizations. The Mona Lisa was painted when Ponce De Leon, Balboa, Cortes and Magellan were exploring. Charles Dickens was writing The Christmas Carol during the signing of the Missouri Compromise. Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) and Charles Dickens (1814-1870) were writing at the same time. Verdi, Manet, Dickens, Bronte, Thoreau, Dostoyevsky lived when the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad began, Oberlin College accepted women and Texas declared independence from Mexico. Samuel Morse was building the telegraph, Charles Darwin published Zoology of the Voyage of the Beagle and John Couch Adams discovered the planet Neptune during the 1800's. Wow!

We are gearing up for all the Holiday activities and celebrations. We will attend The Nutcracker and A Christmas Carol. We love to decorate the gingerbread houses and can't wait for our Christmas party. We will join the primary and kindergarten when they celebrate St. Lucia Day and Hanukkah.

Ms. Tina

The Thanksgiving Feast and Musical

By M. N. and K. W.

UE and LE had a wonderful musical called The Eagle and the Turkey. Everybody liked it. It was about who should be the national bird. We spent many hours rehearsing to get it just right.

The feast was delicious. Thank everyone who brought food. Everything was so much fun and delicious. Thank you Ms. Tracey for helping us with the musical.

Aquatic Lab

by T. A. and J. C.

We went into the lab two times a day and six times a week on November 9, 10, and 11th. We tested how dense salt-water and fresh water were and what kind of water was good for fish and how much sugar was in some drinks. The teacher, Mr. Buckingham, was really nice. We would go into a big van and sit down and get a little lesson and then do the experiments. After we wrote down our conclusions, Mr. Buckingham would review our information. The experiments were fun and interesting. We were active participants in the learning process.

The Maryland Ag in the Classroom Program is presented by the Maryland Education Foundation. In its 16th year, MAEF provides quality hands-on experiences for students and teachers.

We Celebrated the Heroes *by D. A.*

On November 11th, 2005 the U.S.A. celebrated Veterans' Day. Veterans' Day is a day to celebrate the Veterans of America. A veteran is someone who has served in the military in times of war and peace. The school celebrated Veterans' Day on the 16th and we gave speeches and there was a lot of food. We thanked and honored our special guests. If you would like to read my speech, please proceed: My Speech on Heroes and Heroines

Once you join the military I think you become a hero, or heroine, because you protect American and anyone in need. When you protect America you protect it from deadly opponents. When you protect someone in need, you protect them from any threats. You become a hero or heroine when you give up your life, home and family to protect and defend your home country from enemies. You're great examples for other Americans because you're fit, strong, brave and courageous. HERO: A man admired for his achievements and qualities. HEROINE: A woman of courage and daring. HEROISM: Heroic conduct. HEROIC: Exhibiting or marked by courage, daring or desperate enterprise.

Español at the Tidewater School

Hello Friends, Happy Holidays! November was a short school month with the Thanksgiving holiday; however, my friends have accomplished a lot this month.

While Pre-K and Kindergarten were learning new vocabulary words and having fun listening to stories and singing songs, Lower and Upper elementary students were very busy bees preparing for our yearly “Dia de los Muertos” (Day of the Dead) celebration, which was held November 2nd.

Our dear Ms. Cecelia was the first to introduce this fun celebration to The Tidewater School. The children who knew Ms. Cecilia have such fond and wonderful memories of her during this time.

For those who are not familiar with “Dia de Los Muertos” (The Day of the Dead), it’s a tradition celebrated in many Latin American countries as well as parts of the USA to honor deceased relatives. In the homes as well as gravesites, family members honor their deceased with “ofrendas” or offerings which may consist of photographs, bread, other foods, flowers, toys and parades.

Our Upper and Lower elementary students at Tidewater do the same. In the two weeks prior to the celebration, we prepare for the day and talk about why and how this Spanish tradition started. The children also help prepare a wonderful Latin American luncheon feast for the day of the event.



The DeSoto Family with Ms. Nancy

Following the feast, the children hold a mini parade around the playground with Spanish music. The parade is where the children proudly display their works of art (masks and puppets). This year, by the request of many students, we added a new tradition. The students asked if we could continue our mini parade with

flowers, songs and a story at Ms. Cecelia’s gravesite at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Prince Frederick. What a beautiful thought and appropriate time to honor the special person and teacher who started this tradition at Tidewater.



UE, LE, and the Desoto’s at Ms. Cecelia’s grave

We were honored to have Ms. Cecelia’s family join us. They were very touched and moved that we’ve added this new tradition to the celebration.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

- Names for clothing items (shirt, pants, sock, shoes...)
- Bedroom and Bathroom nouns
- Thanksgiving vocabulary
- Stories (The Little Red Hen, The Mystery of the Cheese, Señor Perez’ Surprise Pet, Dia de los Muertos)
- Songs

Lower and Upper Elementary

- Review Bedroom and Bathroom nouns
- Verbs (stand, walk, bring me, stop, touch)
- Day of the Dead Festivities
- Thanksgiving Vocabulary
- Songs

Spanish Vocabulary

<u>Colores</u>	<u>Color</u>
Rojo	red
Orange	naranja
Blue	azul
Green	verde
Brown	café
Purple	violeta
Yellow	armarillo
Pink	rosa
White	blanco
Black	negro

Ms. Lily

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Coming up
in January:

OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 29TH
1 - 3 P.M.

We're on the Web!
www.thetidewaterschool.org



Coffee Time with Board of Directors: January 11, 2006 at 7 PM

You are invited to come and have an informal evening of discussion with the Board of Directors about The Tidewater School. This is an opportunity for you to meet the team of hard workers behind the scenes who make certain that our budget is balanced, our building is safe, and that we are adhering to the goals and philosophy for Tidewater's children. Come and share your vision for Tidewater. Come and ask the questions you have. Come and share your concerns. This is YOUR evening and the Board will listen and respond.

PARENTS:

Please send in one bag of colorful candy
(no nuts) to decorate the little gingerbread houses.

MORE THANKSGIVING FEAST PHOTOGRAPHS TO SHARE!



PK friend enjoys Thanksgiving with his family.



Elementary friend shares our Feast with her Dad.



PK friend finds his vest under the table!



PK friend shows her little sister how to draw.