
The Tidewater Times

Volume 19 Issue 5

February 2005

Winter has **FINALLY** arrived! Elementary Friends help us shovel out from under!

www.thetidewaterschool.org

410-257-0533

The Calendar:

Feb. 1 Cloverbuds

Feb. 7 K goes to Kennedy Center, "Musical Opposites"

Feb. 9 Bookmobile

Feb. 18 and 21 – No School
President's Weekend

Feb. 23 Bookmobile

Feb. 23 6 pm, Elementary Seminar
The Elementary Years/
The Essence of Montessori

Mar. 2 6 pm, Elementary Seminar
Materials across the Curriculum/
An Integrated and Imaginative
Approach

A Very Special Surprise:

Upon returning after a weekend of play, Tidewater staff and students were surprised and delighted with a gift placed in Elementary. We wish to acknowledge and thank Jim Bolyard for the awesome computer that he **designed and built** for the school. Check out these pictures of it: an opening on the side allows the students to observe the internal working of the computer. The outside is decorated with The Tidewater Script and Logo. It is so cool! Jim is an incredibly talented

young man who is completing his degree in computer science, not to mention, engaged to our very own Ms. Katie. Through her enthusiasm and appreciation of Tidewater, Jim has become fascinated with the joy in learning of our students. Check out the computer! It is more than a computer: It is a statement of artistic talent and incredible creativity. It is so Tidewater!



Special Thanks:

Tidewater thrives because of all that is done for the children by parents and friends who care. You are our life line and we thank you. If we have missed placing your name here, forgive us. You ARE appreciated more than you will ever know!

To all the Tidewater Parents for our beautiful Poinsettia trees and gift certificates to Barnes & Noble.

To Mr. John for all of the wonderful surprises he brought back from Mexico to Tidewater: beautiful dolls, a Sponge Bob Pinata, a wooden Don Quixote, lovely cups, and wooden toys!

To Mr. Paul and Ms. Carol for ALL of the time and effort placed in getting the word out about our Open House and posting the signs on Route 4.

To Ms. Lana for the books for our staff and parent library. The books address cancer in children.

To Ms. Pat for her gentle presence as assistant with the children of parents attending the STEP program!

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To parent drivers to the *Willy Wonka* performance at the Kennedy Center

To Eric, Sean, Kevin O., Kevin W. and Sophie for library books in honor of their birthdays

To Koryn's Uncle Frank who cleared away our old swing set and another one he found in the woods!

To Ms. Carol for the table Love, Spunky (the hamster)

To Ms. Michele for your support and many acts of kindness. Also, thanks for the CD music from around the world for the Kindergarten trips.

To Ms. Pat for your art and craft projects.

Special Friends Return to Tidewater:



Jocelyn and Ethan shared their wonderful friends, Ms. Eti and Mr. Felix with us once again. This time they came to celebrate the Jewish holiday TuB'Shevat, a time when we are reminded that the earth is always in the process of creating new life. TuB'Shevat is the celebration of trees. It is at this time of year when we tend to think they are "sleeping" but in reality, their sap is moving and preparing for the budding of spring. We enjoyed eating many different kinds of fruits, dried and fresh and discussing how prunes start as plums, raisins start as grapes, and how delicious they all are! Just an interesting side note that we did not discuss: The fruits of the harvest are representative of the characters

of people – Some of us are hard on the outside, but soft inside once you get through the façade. Some of us are soft on the outside and hide a wounded heart of stone. And some of us are "mushy" all the way through! Interesting! It was fascinating to learn that 100 years ago, there were NO trees in Israel, only swamp land. With support from around the world, people "bought" a tree to be planted there. Now there are trees everywhere in honor of individuals all over the world who cared and made a difference. It makes us think about our own Tidewater children and the difference they are making, here and around the world as they grow into responsible and dynamic young people!



Wish List:

We have been given some wonderful bird houses which need to be placed along the field. Please help if you can.

ABC... Children are....

Attached to this newsletter is a beautiful collection of words that describe children. It was displayed at Hospice and I requested a copy for you to ponder and enjoy.

Ms. Nancy

Snow Policy:

We usually follow the Calvert County Public Schools for opening and closings. However there are times when we will differ due to their concern about buses. We will email you if the decision is a conflicting one to the public system. Please check your email periodically if you have a question. We are also working to set up an

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update on our website that will alert you as to any changes. If we do not have your email address, we will call you on the phone and let you know IF we are changing the plan. Otherwise, please follow the decision of the public schools. Thank you. Hope this is not too confusing!

News from Iraq:

Our boxes of beanie babies were received and appreciated by the soldiers who then shared them with the children. We have received letters of thanks for our... "kindheartedness and caring... rest assured that you have made a tremendous impact on someone's life. From the smallest to the biggest, they are all treasured!"Major Linnie Cain.

We have been encouraged to ask for every family to "adopt a soldier for this year. I know from experience that it helps the morale of the soldiers when they receive a letter or package in the mail. Your efforts are appreciated dearly"SSG Buffie Hall

"I would like to take a moment to thank all of you. The support we have received from those at home has been overwhelming. WE are humbled by all that you have done for us. You will not be forgotten by the Marines and Sailors of Alpha Company. Our time here in Iraq is coming to a close. We have accomplished a lot and much remains to be done. It has come at a huge price. Some of our friends who came here with us will not be making the trip back with us. They have either been wounded or paid the ultimate sacrifice so that others can some day enjoy the freedoms that we as Americans enjoy daily. They are all heroes. We hope that your holidays were filled with love and peace. We would like to wish all of you a great year in 2005. Our thoughts and prayers are with you."Rodney Carrico
1st Sgt. USMC

PK News:



January is such a wonderful month. The children arrive back to school full of enthusiasm, not only for the return to their favorite things but the return to friendships that are forming. The young child thrives in an ordered environment. Here, they trust the consistency and will risk new learning adventures. Historically, January is one of the most rewarding months for teachers, especially those who guide the youngest. They return from the holiday with equilibrium, balance, and curiosity. They are ready to settle down and really focus on doing “work.” Pencils, scissors, tack punchers are now tools of creating as opposed to tools to learn to use. Imaginations are soaring. The room is like a hive. Children are intensely focused on counting the units, tens, hundreds and thousands. Some friends have emptied our “bank” and had to visit the banks in Kindergarten and Lower Elementary to borrow thousands to complete their display of the base ten number system!



Working with the metal insets

It was exciting to return to school to see Mr. John arrive for our first Spanish lesson of the new year. He came in wearing cowboy boots made from an armadillo and he told us all about the wedding he went to in Mexico. The children were fascinated to learn about the train on the bride’s dress. Smile as you visualize the image that came to the minds of PK children! We had a wonderful lesson that morning!



Working with Blocolo

We are busy preparing for our World Tour. Through our lessons, we have learned that the world is round and that we stand on it pointing out into space, but we do not fall off of it! Our feet cannot feel the curve because the world is so large! Gravity keeps us grounded. We have examined and discovered that water travels in its cycle all over the earth. We are drinking and bathing in the same water that was here with the dinosaurs! Last year, the water we swam in might have been in China or Africa the year before!



Planting a paperwhite bulb

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And rocks are equally amazing. Each rock tells a story about where it is from. Some rocks have fossils hidden deep within or maybe visible on the surface. We examined some very ugly rocks, called geodes only to discover that they are so beautiful inside. As we make our maps, we are learning that there are many different bodies of water: oceans, bays, lakes, rivers, ponds.... And bodies of land: continents, islands....And countries with names and flags and children who are just like us.

We have departed on our trip out west, first taking a long walk over the hills of southern Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay. At that point, we boarded our motor boats and headed south to Virginia. Once we returned to land, we decided to do some biking through the southern states. We took a break to do some work then headed out once again, this time on horse back. With our hats tied on, and our cowboy/girl scarves around our neck to keep the dust out of our mouths and noses, we galloped off toward Texas. We had our campfire and roasted our hot dogs and smacked our lips with good ol’ s’mores! We sang songs and really enjoyed living the life of a cowpoke!





Soon we will be in Mexico and then South America. We are looking forward to a visit from Dylan's mom who will teach us special Spanish songs and music during the first part of February.

The children continue to have socialization as their number one priority. Within our community, the important life lessons of giving and receiving information are being practiced on a daily basis. Our conversations are becoming more connected. There is very apparent evidence that we are moving from the egocentric world of 'ME' to a greater awareness of others.

PK friends have joined in supporting the Elementary in their drive to collect for UNICEF. We will be sorting and counting our change as it arrives in school on Monday January 31st. We are very excited to help children of the world. This is such a powerful introduction to our world tour.

Well, if you hear that the suitcases have been packed and that there is a plane, or train, or boat, or bus, or bike, or jeep..... to be caught, please do not worry. We promise to always return to Tidewater by noon for dismissal or lunch!

Kindergarten:

Happy New Year to all our friends and family! We are happy to be back in the classroom, back to our routine and back working with our friends.

We continue to work diligently each day on our language and reading skills. We're enjoying reading to each other, sounding out longer words with the moveable alphabet and writing with more ease. When you visit our room you can read some of the stories we have dictated to go with our art work. Some friends are sounding out their own words and sentences.

The children are getting to be experts with the decimal cards. We are laying out the number cards sequentially for units, tens, hundreds and thousands (from 1-9000). Sometimes we make such big numbers that we need to borrow golden bead materials from PreK and Lower Elementary. Friends are discovering how to add units, tens, hundreds and thousands together to make NEW, BIGGER numbers. All our counting experience will come in handy when we begin to sort and count our money for the Tsunami victims.

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We're learning the names of the continents and how to read maps. We've drawn maps of our room, our road and our county! We've discovered that some of us live in the same town; some live in the same county; and we all live in Maryland!

Have you heard about Flat Stanley? —a young boy who was flattened by a bulletin board and then makes the best of a bad situation by mailing himself to a friend in California. We decided we would like to try taking an adventure, too. We've made paper tracings of ourselves, folded them up and sent them off to friends and family. We're anxiously waiting to get packets back about our adventures. Our map is ready to mark our travels and we're anxious to learn more about our adventures with family and friends.



Our annual World Tour will begin with our adventures across the USA. Then, each Kindergarten student will be an "expert-guide" for a country/continent and have the opportunity to share information of interest with peers. Our trip provides a festive way to explore geography, share cultures of many nations, and discover what people of all nations have in common and to promote an appreciation of the differences.

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As we travel, the classroom changes to reflect the colors, sounds and smells of traditional food, music, animals and crafts as we actively learn more about our world.

We're hoping to meet "Guest-experts" along the way, too...if you've traveled or have souvenirs to share please let Suzanne know a.s.a.p. so she can include you in our travel itinerary.

We continue to monitor our weather by consulting our weather stick. We are finding that even though the weather stick is pointing up (good weather) it doesn't mean that it is warm. However we do so much running, climbing and swinging outside that we don't mind the cold. Please remember to wear a jacket, hat and mittens each day as we will go outside most days.

CloverBuds –

The Kindergarten CloverBuds group met the first Wednesday in January. The project for the month was to make a colorful door decoration for the residents at the local Nursing Home. To bring color to their rooms on these gray winter days, students used colorful flowers, leaves & ribbons to decorate each hat. We hope the residents and guests will have sunny thoughts and a brighter day when they look at the colorful decorations.

Kindergarten Reminder:

We need additional film (4 rolls) to capture our around-the-world-travel adventures plus record our successes with our daily work. Our photo albums are our favorite books—and continue to bring smiles for years to come.

5 Friends from Japan- Children in Japan Today Now – February 13th

The National Building Museum & the National Children's Museum present this experience of

contemporary life in Japan through the eyes of five children. An age appropriate exhibit where children can dress up, learn to write in Japanese, visit a Tofu Shop or practice aikido moves with the help of an instructor! (Located on the second floor of the Bldg. Museum.) Mon- Sat. 10 am – 5 pm; Sun 11-5 401 F Street NW between 4th & 5th at the Judiciary Square Metro Station (Red Line Metro) 202-272-2448 www.NBM.org

Lower Elementary:



Teaching P.E. to Pre-K

The elementary children have been working very hard to raise funds through UNICEF for the youngest tsunami victims. The UNICEF motto is "Children Helping Children" and the elementary children are very proud of the fact that they have already helped so many children throughout the world over the past several years. Even before the tsunami disaster they raised nearly \$700 for UNICEF through bake sales, popsicle sales, and trick-or-treat for UNICEF. They have now raised nearly \$800 more. The children will continue to collect change (even pennies help) at the flagpole each day for the rest of the month.



Working on skip counting

As the snow was falling down last Wednesday, the lower elementary children decided it was time to

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create a play about snow fairies and dragons, and warriors, and a little girl named Rose. I stood back and watched in amazement as Marina wrote the script, Sophie directed the other children, snowflakes were made, parts were cast, costumes were found, swords were painted magic wands were created from anything shiny and sparkly that could be found, music was arranged, conflicts arose and were settled, order came out of what seemed at times like chaos, and now we almost have a play. All that is left to do is polish things up a bit. It is so wonderful to see such spontaneous creativity!



Working on photo-journals

We would all like to welcome Keith to our class. Keith is a first year student. He is a welcome addition to our class and we are so happy to have him join us.

The elementary children were visited by an actress who told the story of Coretta Scott King through drama and song. It was an informative and moving performance. We learned about Ms. King's life including her love of music and her role in the civil rights movement. Ms. King has four children and she is now in her late seventies.



Researching for a report

Please try to have your children to school on time. We are starting later and later. Your children should be in class ready to write their journals by 8:45. Our most important work time is in the morning; therefore we need to be ready to go with lessons by 9:00.

Thank you!
Ms. Megan

Upper Elementary:

UNICEF Jug Raiser By Kelvin

This month a terrible tsunami hit Indonesia. It left hundreds killed, injured and homeless. Tidewater is going to help UNICEF do something about this. Tidewater classes 1st-5th grade made posters with UNICEF theme pictures. So now you can help UNICEF by driving around back and cropping a donation in the jug or one of the students will take your donation and put it in our jug. Thank you.

Coretta's Story By Kelvin

January 18, a woman from Children's Theatre Association came to tell 1st-5th grade about the life of Coretta Scott King and her life with Martin. She showed pictures of Coretta and told facts unmentioned. I can honestly say it was a lesson we won't soon forget.

A Slide to Remember By Kelvin

The past three days we slipped, spinned and slid down different directions on the snowy hill of Tidewater. The classes of 3rd-5th have really ripped up the hill. The first day was cold and the snow was fresh. The second day we went on the blacktop to play in the snow, and then we sledged, but the snow got a bit thinner. Afterwards

we went inside and drank hot chocolate. The last day we thought we might have to divide the time, but in the end we all went out so it turned out to be a snow day we won't forget.

Above articles were written by:
Kelvin
Year 2005
The Chinese New Year of the Rooster

Winter Reading by Caylyn and Haley

Every child in Upper Elementary read a chapter book over Winter Break. After they finished their books they read, they did book reports on the book they read. Haley read, The Sweet Valley Kids and the Wild West and Caylyn read, Wishes Kisses and Pigs. We did dioramas for our book report demonstrations.

The End

The Human Body By Tyler and Kelsey

The UE students are doing human body reports. We tell the class about the body systems that keep us alive. These are called oral reports. Tyler gave his report about the Nervous System. He felt proud and he sure did learn a lot. Kelsey will do hers about the Digestive System.

Resident Poet Ms. Ritchie and Mr. Al Griffin help Elementary friends put poetry to music.



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Ms. Ritchie brought her friend, Mr. Al Griffin to visit the Elementary students. Mr. Griffin is a musician, writer and historian who will be staying with Ms. Ritchie for the winter. He will be doing research in Washington, D.C. for a history book he is writing.

Mr. Griffin taught the children that poetry is part of the musical industry and they worked together to put their limericks and other poetic creations to music.

