
The Tidewater Times

Volume 18 Issue 5

March 2004

Our Baby Has Arrived!

The Calendar:

Back to School Evenings:

March 24th 6:30 to 8 PM

Parents are invited to join their Elementary children in their classrooms for an evening of lessons. This is the night when children become the teachers to show you, the parents, all of the wonderful lessons they are mastering. Please plan to attend. Parents are requested to leave siblings at home.

March 25th 6:30 to 8 PM

Parents are invited to visit the PK and K classrooms with their children. Once again, it is important that siblings not attend as this is a special time for Tidewater children to share their activities with one on one parent attention.

Special Thanks:

To: Ms. Sue for the awesome Jump Rope for Heart morning! Without any doubts, that was the best ever! We all had such fun jumping around for such a worthwhile cause. We all left with good ideas for exercise and healthy eating. When you see Ms. Sue, make certain you thank her again for her great job coordinating the event and collecting all of our contributions. It is not too late to submit your envelopes so please send them back if you have not done so. Thank you also to all the parents who helped.

To: Maya in PK for the beautiful books about nature and crafts *and* for the Ladybug Habitat, given in honor of her 5th birthday!

To: Ms. Maria, Liam's Mom for coming and reading special stories in PK in honor of Liam's very merry unbrithday!

To: Ms. Terry, Michael's Mom for being our Tour Captain on the PK cruise down the Nile River.

PK News:

We have had such fantastic adventures everywhere we stop on our World Tour. Our trip through the U.S. was on horseback, with a campfire for roasting hotdogs, marshmallows. We even made s'mores!



We then ventured south into Mexico. What a fun time we had when our families traveled down to meet us there for Valentine's! Some came by car; some by train; some by plane; some by bikes; some by boat. It is amazing all the different ways that we can travel. We enjoyed our Valentine's Party

with dancing and treats as we sat by our large Love Mural. Mexico is famous for its murals so we did one too!

From Mexico, we continued into South America for a journey through the rainforest. Children have such a respectful attitude about the earth and understood all of the lessons about the delicate nature of the rainforest. It is humbling to watch children grasp what adults fail to understand. They are so wise.

Antarctica was soooooo cold. We ended up taking an ice breaker to reach the mainland. We were so surprised to discover the many types of jellyfish living in the cold waters around the mainland. We watched penguins dive and swim and studied about the role of mother and father penguins. Did you know that the father sits on the egg which is tucked inside of a pouch that is like a sleeping bag? He sits on the egg for 60 days, going without food while the mother swims at sea harvesting food that she will literally bring back in her stomach to share with her new chick. The baby chick will hatch while she is at sea. Upon her return, the father will then go to sea to eat. Our art project for Antarctica involved lovely watercolor drops, pressed with salt to create an image of crystals. After such a cold stop on our trip,

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we decided to go to the desert, the great Sahara Desert of Egypt. Ms. Terry (Michael's mother) came to join us for a trip down the Nile River. We made pyramids, both triangular prism and rectangular prism pyramids just like the ones we saw as we sailed. There was even a crocodile in the water with its very own toothbrush! Please ask a PK friend to explain that! We learned about the wells on the desert and all of the PK friends carried a basket on their heads, just like those Egyptians at the water holes! This was very hard to do but with our patience, we could do it too!



We made cuneiforms out of clay so that we could purchase things at the old market place in Egypt. Our special Egyptian cookies were a big hit with most of the children. Treats from other countries are a special way to experience the culture.

Our next stop was the great grasslands and jungle areas where we hopped on a jeep and went on safari. We had a wonderful tour guide for this adventure. She modeled the beautiful mud dress, played a musical gourd with shells

woven over it, and beat patterns on a drum of sheep hide. She then shared her clothing with friends who wanted to be Africans also!



We will be learning about the famous French painter, Rousseau and how he loved to create pictures of the large African animals! We will learn how he never went to Africa to do this. He just used his imagination!



We would like to thank the parents who have volunteered and helped make our adventures so real and exciting with the special show and tell items, stories and photos. Snacks from the different lands are always appreciated.

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Kindergarten:

Postcards



Howdy! We're almost half way across the States and right in the middle of farm country. This is certainly a vast and varied country. We packed our suitcases, loaded up our camper and started our travels snacking on blueberries in Maine. We saw the Make Way for Ducklings statues in Boston; read about Flat Sophie's visit to Connecticut; then on to see the Statue of Liberty! We even got to go ice skating at Rockefeller Plaza.



Now every time we look at a nickel or a penny, we are reminded of our famous Presidents and their memorials that we saw in Washington, D.C. We met Flat Isabella and her Grandparents in North Carolina. They treated us to delicious North Carolinian Moravian Ginger Cookies.

We couldn't believe how hot it was when we stopped to purchase oranges and strawberries in Florida. We had to roll up our sleeves and pant legs! We sang songs along the way and knew how to spell Mississippi by the time we got to the River.

Following the river northward to Chicago we were able to see the tallest building in North America, the Sears Tower. We have a few more days of driving before we reach the West coast. We hope we don't get caught in a blizzard as we travel across the Rockies to Yellowstone Park. There are so many interesting sites to visit in the USA.

Aloha! After our long flight, our guide was waiting for us in Hawaii. She took us on a tour of the Islands. First she took us to see the volcanoes; then we saw the colorful flowers, plants and birds. She played her ukulele for us while we snacked on fresh pineapple. Later, we dressed up in leis and grass skirts so she could teach us how to do the hula. We love it here!



Hola! We learned that South America has everything from tropical rain forests, to dry deserts, to rolling grasslands and the world's longest mountain chain, the Andes. It also has some of the world's most spectacular waterfalls, lakes and islands. Our guide was ready to take us into Ecuador's Rainforest along the mighty Amazon River. She helped us understand the layers of the forest—floor, understory, canopy and emergent layer. We spotted lizards, iguanas, snakes, a jaguar and a sloth, plus "oodles" of birds and butterflies amongst all the vines, plants and huge trees. We spied a baby poison frog—he could have fit on a dime—living in a bromeliad. What an amazing place! Unusual animals, such as the

giant anteater and the giant tortoise were spotted during our visit to the Galapagos Islands.



We joined a Valentine's Day Fiesta—featuring tacos, rice, fresh fruit and vegetables. We loved all their foods, music and piñata! The piñata was filled with South American candies—chicklet gum, coconut candies and suckers. Yummy!



When we arrived in Mexico, our guide greeted us with Mexican flags and maps. We sat around her colorful serape as she welcomed us (in Spanish!), told us important information about her country and showed us pictures. But before we could take a siesta, her Mother and Grandmother started the music for the Mexican Hat Dance. It's a good thing Ms. Cecelia had been practicing with us—we knew just what to do! Our skirts were swirling, our hands were clapping and our feet were jumping. It was so much fun! Our guide's Grandmother fixed special Mexican

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doughnuts called churros—long strips of dough with NO holes. We'll always remember dancing in Mexico!



Did you realize Antarctica is only 600 miles from Cape Horn South America? Our tour guide arranged for an ice cutter to plow our way to Antarctica. It never gets above 32 degrees. And it gets less than 2" of snow per year. It's really an ice desert!



Our guide helped us spot all kinds of penguins: Chin strap, Adele, Macaroni, Rock Hopper and Emperor. (Frost thought the spiky-haired Rock Hopper should have had a guitar!) She also told us that penguins eat shrimp & krill; the elephant & leopard seals feed on the penguins; and the blue whales feed on the seals. It's a food chain. We couldn't imagine just "how" big a whale might be—so we took a piece of string, wrapped it around the 12" ruler 93 times then stretched the string around the room and out the door clear to the road! WOW! We've completed our scientific experiments so will be leaving soon.



From one desert to another: We joined the Tuarey Tribe in the Sahara Desert. They travel across the desert on camels, wearing turbans and veils to protect themselves from the hot sun and sand. Their homes are portable tents made from goat skins. We sampled their food: dates, flat bread, hummus and sweet cookies. When we saw the palm trees, we knew we must be close to the Nile River. We were surprised to see children riding donkeys. In the streets of Cairo, we saw donkeys pulling carts to market on the same streets as cars! They sell food, spices, papyrus and handmade cotton goods at the marketplace. Many of the houses don't even have roofs because it only rains once or twice a year.

We traveled down the Nile with Bill and Pete to the pyramids. We still can't figure out how they lugged those stones without damaging the edges to build the pyramids. We are studying with archeologists and have unearthed special artifacts. Some of us plan to come back in search of the tomb of King Tut's father.



Tomorrow, we head farther south to Kenya. We are having fun trying our hand at the various native crafts, tasting interesting foods and keeping up with our lessons. We'll keep you posted!

Lower Elementary:



The Lower Elementary has been learning about early humans and the fundamental needs of humankind. We discussed the basic needs of early man and how those needs have both changed and stayed the same for modern man. The need for food/water, shelter, clothing, transportation, defense, and spirituality (art, beauty, religion) can be seen throughout human history from humans as a hunter/gatherer to humans as farmers to humans in our modern world. Along with our study of early humans we have been learning about the evolution of language and math: from cave paintings to hieroglyphics to the early Greek alphabet, to medieval illuminated letters. We have been learning about how numerals were represented throughout human history: from Roman numerals, to Greek numerals, to Egyptian numerals.



In February, we studied the great French Impressionist artist, Edgar

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Degas. We learned that Degas drew, painted, and sculpted primarily ballet dancers and horses. Degas' favorite medium was pastels. He found that he could capture the movement of the dancers and the play of light more effectively than with paint. As Degas' eyesight failed, the artist turned to sculpture as his favorite medium. He was the first sculptor to add fabric to the ballerinas he created in bronze. We will be studying the modern artist Paul Klee in March.

Jump Rope for Heart was a great success. Everyone had fun jumping rope, doing yoga, using the parachutes, exercising with Ms. Sue (Dawson's mom), and learning about how to keep our hearts healthy. Thank you, Sue, for sharing your time and knowledge with us.



We will be visited by Echoes of Nature on Friday, February 27th. This is the first of three visits they will make to UE and LE this year. We will be learning about food chains.

I hope that you have seen our ever-growing list of compound words. I would like to thank Thomas and Anthony for contributing so many words. We now have 160 compound words.



We are still collecting pennies in our 10,000 penny jar. We have 5,767 pennies at this point (all pennies go to UNICEF).

Upper Elementary:

Our 4H Mascot is Born

On February 14, 2004, our school mascot, a baby goat named Cupid, was born. He was born on David's farm. The little miracle's mother is named Lois. The U.E. 4H went to see Cupid on Thursday, February 19, 2004. Ace Photographer, Casey, caught Cupid and Lois on film. When the U.E. went to the farm, Cupid was five days old. Monday, February 23, 2004, Cupid was nine days old.

We will erect a fence and create a paddock at The Tidewater School for the month of May. After May, Cupid will go back to David's farm until next school year. The U.E. 4H will enter Cupid in the Calvert County Fair in September.

The following pictorial was shot on location by our Ace Photographer, Casey.



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---Story was written by Andrew and Casey.

Jump for a Healthy Heart

We went to Jump Rope for Heart at the Sunderland Community Center on February 11. We donated money to the Heart Association. We jumped ropes and played the limbo. We used a parachute and did exercises with Ms. Sue and Ms. Maria. We talked about smoking. We did yoga with Ms. Nancy. We talked about being healthy.

---Katie



Good News:

Our playground will soon be complete with more swings and new slides! Thanks for your patience. We will need help with the mulch-spreading the first week of March, so please consider bringing your rake to make the area safe for landing!