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# The Tidewater Times

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Volume 18 Issue 6

May 2004

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## Spring Weather Finally Arrives Just In Time for Lots of Playground Fun!

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The Calendar:

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Family Fun Day!

Be sure to enjoy this time with your child and Tidewater friends!

**May 5<sup>th</sup>:** Book Mobile

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** 9:30 am Elementary Spring Music Performance

**May 10<sup>th</sup>:** PK and K will travel to the Baltimore Zoo.

**May 11<sup>th</sup>:** LE: Maryland Hall

**May 14<sup>th</sup>:** UE: Philadelphia.

**May 17<sup>th</sup>:** Rain date for Family Fun Day

**May 19<sup>th</sup>:** Book Mobile

**May 21<sup>st</sup>:** Conference Day  
Child Care for Tidewater families is provided for the time of your conference if scheduled *between* the hours of 8 am and 4 pm.

**May 25<sup>th</sup>:** Elementary Boat Trip

**May 28<sup>th</sup>:** Tidewater Graduation Day: On this day, all of Tidewater's children and staff pause, reflect and celebrate the accomplishments of our 5<sup>th</sup> year graduating class. What a special morning is planned: Graduation under the Big Top Tent in the yard; Special Music with Ms. Tracey;

Awards from the United Nations for Tidewater's Children; Graduate Speeches; Special Recognition; and delicious food in a Mexican Theme. Every Tidewater family is invited to join us for this occasion to remember. Hope to see you at 10 am on this special Friday!

**June 1<sup>st</sup>:** PK will visit Gramp's Farm for a fun morning adventure.

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Noon Dismissal for summer recess!

**Special Thanks:**

To Josh in PK for the collection of beautiful art books for our school reference library and the wonderful library books Animal Book of Questions and Milo in honor of his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

To Ms. Katie for Rainbow Fish, a new friend for the PK Class

To Dawson in Elementary for the gift of phonetic readers to PK for the Buddies Program. ( Please read the note in PK News about the Reading Buddy Program. Dawson was one our first Reading Buddies!)

To Ms. Gale for the gifts of pencils and tablets along with the wonderful lessons and book for Earth Day.

To all of the parents who helped fill and hide eggs for PK and K.

To Cally, Maria and Pat for helping in the Tidewater library.

To Isabella and Lynn for the ribbons and flowers for K's Easter bonnets.

To Katie and Peyton in K for the rainsticks for Mr. Hill.

To all of the parents who helped with our World Tour.

To Jocelyn for the scarf from Italy for our souvenir box.

To Justin for the book What is Your Language? for our library

To Gina for the Fiesta decorations.

To Ms. Charlotte for K's book of postcards from Hawaii.

To Philip and his cousin Hayden for sending us postcards for the World Tour souvenir boxes.

To Ms. Kathy for the papyrus paper for the World Tour souvenir box.

**Giant Gift Certificates are still available. Please support Tidewater and buy yours today!**

**Help Wanted: A Box Top  
for Education Coordinator!  
See Ms. Nancy ASAP!**

### Tic... Tic... Tic...

The season has arrived for this pest to make its appearance. Please carefully check your children and consult immediately with your doctor if you notice any rash formation or irritation following a bite. Most doctors request that you save the tic and bring for examination of species to rule out a deer tic bite.

### Sand Box Concern:

Tidewater has always made *safety first* our number one priority. The empty sand box is a testimony to our determination to hold to safety first. The majority of sand on the market that is sold to parents and schools for play contains harmful elements that irritate children's lungs and can cause permanent damage. We have been involved in an extensive search for 2 tons of sand to fill the box. The cost for the safe sand is outrageous: about \$2500.00. Since the school year is close to ending, we will not fill the box this year. (Our original site plan for the playground was projected at \$10,000. We ended up paying over \$20,000 as we wanted the playground to be the very best possible for all of the children.) **Our playground not only passed the state inspection, we were told Tidewater's playground surpasses safety regulations and appears to be the safest inspected for schools and day care facilities. Hooray for our children! We will continue our search over the summer so that come Sept. the box is ready for fun!**

### PK News:

It seems impossible to believe that spring has arrived and we are in our final quarter of the school year.

The PK children were so busy just prior to Spring Recess and have returned following their R & R break with amazing enthusiasm and energy.



Prior to our recess, we completed our World Tour and arrived home just in time for Easter Bunny Fun. We created many lovely crafts and giggled with each new finger play and song we learned. Our greatest joy was "playing the Country Bunny Play." Would you believe that was the very item of discussion in our first circle time following the Easter Break? The children arrived and wanted to know "when can we play Country Bunny again?" My goodness! All Ms. Cecelia and Ms. Nancy could do was smile. As we gazed at the children, we could not help but notice that each child looked like 2 inches of growth had occurred over the week recess!

Our lessons for April and May are focusing on animal and plant life. Spring is the best season for this opportunity to explore. We went digging for worms in the front garden and caught quite a few. They are now residing in our classroom wormry. Our readings about worms have been fascinating and surprising. Worms are master recyclers, changing decay and garbage into dirt! Their tunnels also help create air channels for healthier root systems!

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We also have been searching for large black ants to create an ant colony inside our classroom. As we discussed the strength of ants, we struggled to understand how something so tiny could be so strong. If we were as strong as ants, given body size ratio, we should be able to lift a car! During one of our ant searches, we noticed movement in the mulch. With quick but gentle manipulation of the mulch chips, we discovered a very large black beetle digging in the dirt. We also discovered a giant grub which we have placed in large glass jar filled with dirt in the

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classroom. Our PK scientists are using the magnifying glass to make observations to determine if any metamorphosis is about to occur. Speaking of metamorphosis, we are very busy and excited as we are observing our caterpillar larvae. If all goes well, we will have beautiful painted lady butterflies soon. Right now, our caterpillars are becoming bigger and bigger each day! All they do is eat! One very important lesson involving language helped us to understand that butterflies emerge from a chrysalis and moths emerge from a cocoon. This created quite a controversy and debate for some friends because one of our favorite books by Eric Carle (**The Big Hungry Caterpillar**) states that the butterfly came out of a cocoon. Try as we may to teach this difference, we have some believers who are not to be dissuaded "because the Big Hungry Caterpillar made a cocoon. The book says so." Smile! Every lesson has a season!



In addition to all of our insect friends within our room, we have Rainbow Fish, a lovely Siamese Fighting Fish. He is a graceful swimmer and soothing to observe.

Studying animals and plants helped us understand our Earth Day Lessons. We must take care of the

planet earth. Ms. Gale, mother of Ian in Elementary and Emma in Kindergarten, gave our school a lovely book about a letter from Mother Earth. The children were so silent and entranced as this wonderful reflection was shared. They have made a commitment to care for the animals and plants of the world as well as remaining faithful and compassionate friends to each other. This book helped us remember and reflect upon our filling of our Heifer Arks to help children around the world.



We enjoyed an *in-school field trip* when The Lost Caravan arrived to perform the Golden Goose. What a riot! We all laughed so hard and had so much fun being in the audience. Some of the friends were chosen to perform with the cast of actors! Check out the pictures and see if you recognize any Tidewater players!



PK had a great time celebrating Bike Day. The children brought their bikes to school for a fantastic bike parade. We wore our helmets and there were no crashes at all! The children were assisted with spotters from Upper Elementary who volunteered to make certain that our young friends enjoyed riding safely. Following our fun,

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we sat together under the shade of the trees and enjoyed lunch with our stuffed animals! This was so much fun that we may just do this again!



PK readers would like to thank our "Reading Buddies" in Lower Elementary who come to visit us each day. They arrive around 10 am and sit so patiently providing listening ears for one-on-one time with friends who just love to read books! This approach has motivated other children to seek special lessons because they are so hungry to read too. It is without a doubt one of our greatest blessings as teachers when we see a child discover the power of sounds blended to make a word. Once that mastery occurs, there is a hunger that far surpasses any physical hunger. Tidewater's goal is to keep that hunger alive by encouraging and providing the best environment for intrinsic motivation. The use of multi-age instruction is one of our most powerful tools. The faces of the elementary friends match the joy of the little ones and their words offer an affirmation that makes the day extra special. No wonder the PK friends are learning to read the clock! They long for their reading buddies to arrive each day and miss them terribly when they have the nerve to go on a field trip! Imagine that!



## Kindergarten:

Dear Friends:

When we arrived in busy Beijing China, our guide was waiting for us just outside the Palace of the Forbidden City. He showed us a chess set carved from jade, pearls, hand embroidered silk clothing, beautifully hand painted umbrellas and fans. His carved jade turtle felt smooth but cold.



Our guide taking us to the Forbidden City

In the Hall of Protected Harmony's Throne room, our guide sat on the throne and pretended to be the young Emperor. We remembered to remove our shoes and bow as we entered the dining hall. Most of us were successful using our chopsticks to eat Chow Mien and rice from rice bowls. He served us nuts, dried fruits and oranges from the tray of Togetherness. We concluded our celebration of the New Year of the Monkey by opening our red envelopes decorated with gold writing (and found money inside our envelopes)! We tried our hand at writing Chinese characters, painting our own designs on fans and making pandas. We hated to leave but the wonders of Australia awaited us!



Students wearing their silk kimonos, using their hand painted fan

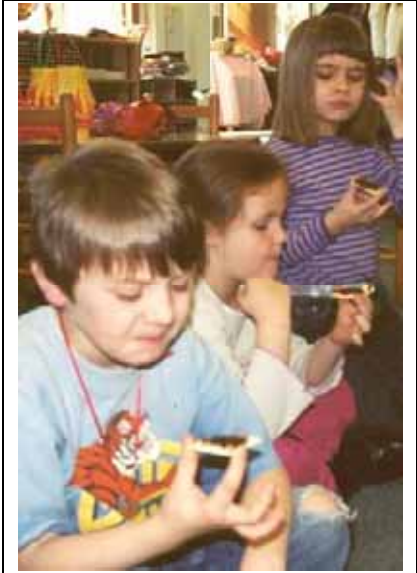
We're a long way from home...about half-way around the world! Our guide and his trusty cockatiel, Cockers, were waiting for us in Australia. He told us that millions of years ago Australia broke away from the other continents, so many of its plants and animals are not found anywhere else in the world.



Our guide and Cockers showing us the inside of an Australian Passion fruit. Some of the animals certainly looked pretty unique, especially those funny kangaroos and cuddly koalas. We learned more about marsupials, their pouches and how tiny the babies are at birth. All Aborigine stories begin "long, long ago in the dreamtime..." We read Aborigine tales about how the kangaroo got his tail and why the kangaroo paws are black. Our guide showed us a boomerang, rainstick and didgeridoo that were painted with Aboriginal designs. You should hear him play the didgeridoo! His Mum served us vegemite sandwiches, steak pie, pavlova, lamington cakes and minties. (You'll have to ask which one was our least favorite). We had great fun creating our own mini-Great Barrier Reef.



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Students tasting vegemite sandwiches

We have had the best time traveling together. We have had fun remembering our favorite places, our favorite foods, our favorite games and famous landmarks. We have discovered that there are not only endangered animals but endangered peoples, too. We want to continue learning more. We may not look the same, speak the same language or dress the same way but people all over the world need food, a place to live and love from their families. We care about our world. We want to make a difference. We've decided to save our money for the month of April. We're going to bring our collections to school, sort and count the coins and buy an animal(s) for a family through the Heifer International Project!

We loved exchanging letters with our Flat Stanley buddies. Now we are offering our hand of friendship to a young girl in India and a combination first-second grade classroom in Michigan. We're excited to have new pen pals!

We were disappointed that the unexpected spring showers cancelled our trip to Gramps' Farm. We did get to search for eggs in our classroom, have Italian egg butting contests plus various egg races.

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The Kindergarten Class invited our local Channel 7 weatherman Doug Hill for a visit. He gave us information to help us better understand our spring weather plus told us some general safety rules to remember. Katie and Peyton gave him weather sticks (just like the one we have outside our classroom) to consult for his WTOP radio & WJLA-TV forecast reports. We think this will improve his forecasting accuracy!

### Cloverbuds:

Cloverbuds celebrated Earth Day on Thursday with Emma's mom, Ms. Gale. We talked about all the ways we can help take care of our planet Earth. She read us the book *Dear Children of the Earth*, a letter from Mother Earth to her children reminding us of the responsibilities we all have to protect the world in which we live. It poses, then answers, the question, "What can we do to help save our home?" It suggests that when each person does a little something to help, it makes a very big difference. A very good difference. We talked about using both sides of paper when we are writing/drawing, recycling plastic and cans and turning off the lights and turning off the water while we brush our teeth. Ms. Gale gave us pencils and a pad of paper to jot down our ideas so our whole family can work together to make a difference!

### Lower Elementary:

The Lower Elementary Class has been very busy working with Ms. Tracey on our upcoming musical *The Wackadoo Zoo*. The show will take place Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the morning. We have been learning the songs, dances, and lines as well as making masks. I hope everyone will be able to join us for the show.

Megan and her mom brought us 26 duck eggs in an incubator. We will see how many eggs are fertilized sometime in the next week. The ducklings take approximately 28 days to develop before they hatch.

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Elementary students sorting oysters

Our field trip to the Captain Avery House and fishing boat was great fun. We learned about oyster fishing and life in the early 1800's. Thank you to all the parent drivers and volunteers that helped out.



Students on boat trip



The fishing boat ride

We will be going to see Amelia Bedelia on May 11<sup>th</sup> and then on a boat trip/nature program arranged by Danielle and Sarah's Dad on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

We have almost reached our goal of 10,000 pennies. If each elementary UE and LE were to bring in 60 pennies, we would meet our goal. The money collected (\$100) will go to UNICEF. We are close to becoming ambassadors this year (raising \$1,000). This is a great accomplishment for such a small school.



Making a jelly bean graph

I would like to give a special thanks to Katie's mom and dad for fixing our one million cube. It is fantastic! The million cube is so important to the math curriculum of the LE.

Thanks also to Jess and his family for watching Petunia over spring break. She returned healthy and well rested.

The LE would like to thank Ian's mom for bring in pencils for Earth Day. As a part of our Earth "Week" work, the LE students are planting flowers in our planters. We have also been recycling and working hard to keep the playground trash-free.

Conferences are May 21<sup>st</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet on the LE bulletin board.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year students have started taking the Stanford Achievement Test. We will continue testing for approximately 45 minutes a day for the next two weeks. First year students will begin individual Albanesi Montessori testing soon.



Painting geometric shapes

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We will be studying the artist Vincent Van Gogh this month (when the irises start blooming).

### Constitution

April 29, 2004

I think that everybody should have peace on the earth. You should be free like everybody else. I hope that UNICEF and my school helps 1000 people who don't have much stuff. You should be treated like everybody else.

Love,  
Haley  
Age 8

## Upper Elementary:



### Our trip to Captain Salem Avery's House

Captain Salem Avery was a waterman. He lived in the 1800's. His wife was Lucricia Avery. He had 9 kids. Some of the interesting facts that we learned were that he sold his oysters in Baltimore, he was a very popular oysterman, his wife was married before him, he used big tongs to catch his oysters, he sold oysters on a buyboat. What we did: We acted like watermen. Then we toured the house and saw some of his old things. Then we acted like one of the members of the Avery family. Then we went out on a fishing boat and caught creatures. We caught an anchovy, a striped bass and a mud crab. Then we learned about oystermen by talking to one. He told us all about his life as a fisherman and showed us his tools.

By: Marta



### Mount Vernon

The UE's trip to Mount Vernon was unbelievable! It was huge. The house was very old, but it was gorgeous. After we toured the house, we went farming. Then we saw the caskets of George Washington and Martha Washington. We also saw graves of the slaves. So, our field trip was really great!



Some of the interesting facts that we learned: In 1858, Mount Vernon was purchased by the "Ladies Association." No part of an animal used by the Mt. Vernon inhabitants went to waste.

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George Washington was a surveyor. George Washington had many jobs, but always thought of himself as a farmer. Comments of Tidewater friends: "My favorite part was the house tour." "I liked surveying." "I loved the beauty of Martha Washington and George Washington's caskets."

By: Marta



### Ms. Charlotte's Grandbaby

Charleigh Marie

Born: April 25, 2004, 2:18 p.m.

Calvert Memorial Hospital

Weight: 9 lbs. 5 oz.

Height: 21 1/2 inches long

Parents: Teresa and Grady

Proud Grandparents:

Charlotte and Phil

**Thank you to all parents for a great year.**

**Special thanks to all 4H volunteers.**

**Special, special thanks to Holly Budd and Susan Allen.**

