
The Tidewater Times

Volume 19 Issue 2

November 2004

Autumn Weather Greet Tidewater Friends at Pumpkin Patches Friends Begin Thanksgiving Preparations

www.thetidewaterschool.org

410-257-0533

The Calendar:

November 3, 4, 5 The Ag. Lab will be at Tidewater to conduct experiments with participation of each class. Please refer to your handout.

November 3 Cloverbuds
November 3 Bookmobile

November 4 PK will travel to the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons.

Nov. 5 Kennedy Center

November 17 Bookmobile

November 23 at 10 a.m:
Thanksgiving Feast for all at Tidewater. Plan to join us as we count our blessings at our annual celebration with family and friends.

Special Thanks To:

Ms. Rose and Ms. Laura for PK-K water cooler and monthly supply of delicious refreshing water!

Mr. Paul for posting our Beanie Baby Sign on Route 4!

Ms. Katie for the great collection of books about Christmas celebrations in other lands AND the plant holder for the front yard.

Mr. Greg for his Nature Adventure with PK through Tidewater's yard.

Gramps and Gram for the gorgeous day and great fun they provided for PK and K's Pumpkin Patch Trip.

All of our friends who have supported our Beanie Baby Collection for the Children of Iraq.

Ms. Laura, Ms. Kathy, Ms. Carol and all of the Parent Helpers for sponsoring the Treat or Treat Table at the Anne Marie Gardens Halloween Event.

Dr. Vivek for all of the treats for the Halloween Event at Tidewater's table at Anne Marie Gardens.

All of Tidewater's Friends and Families who have contributed to our Memorial Garden. Two garden sculptures of children have been selected along with a river stone which we will have engraved.

Congratulations to our Tidewater Parent, Dr. Mary Ayers for receiving the Gradiva Award from the North American Advancement of Psychoanalysis Association for her book *Mother Infant Attachment and The Eyes of Shame*.

Spanish Time:

Mr. John has begun Spanish with the children and they have welcomed him with the same enthusiasm he has extended to them. Here is a picture of the PK friends enjoying some Spanish conversation with him. The PK and K children are practicing their colors, numbers, and the names of fruits, animals and body parts. The elementary students are having more directed lessons with conversational exchanges. It is so good to have Mr. John here as our new friend.



Congratulations To 4-H

Our 4-H friends did an awesome job at the fair and we are so proud of their accomplishments. It took such courage and confidence to show the goats in the ring in front of the judges and crowds. Enjoy the photos of our friends!



Visits from Old Friends:

We are always glad to see old friends. They are so special to us and will forever be a part of our Tidewater Family of Friends. We are asking your help though, to let them know that when school is in session, lessons are planned, and that is not the time to visit the classroom. PK, Kindergarten, and Lower Elementary's policy has been and remains the same: Visits are to be made at the end of the class day. It is too disruptive to the routine to have friends come in during school hours. Upper Elementary's policy will continue to have the guidelines of one week's notice to request of Ms. Tina a special visitation time in the classroom. This has worked out well in the past due to the maturity level of this age group. If you see an old friend, tell them we'd love to see them and how to best schedule their visit with us!

Beanie Baby Goal: 1000

Wow! We have reached it! We have one more week to go so maybe we should set a new goal of 2000! The response has been overwhelming from all over Calvert County and even from a Girl Scout troop in Howard County! Spread the word and help our children reach out to make a difference for the children in Iraq!

THANK YOU! – We packed and mailed 2,774 Beanie Babies to Iraq!

A SPECIAL RIDE.....

Sheila Abbott, of one of our Tidewater families, has a very special gift of working with children and animals. If you know of a child with balance or special needs who may benefit from a gentle riding experience on a small pony, Sheila is very willing to offer time to help. You may contact her at the number in our school directory. There is a website about other opportunities for children with special needs and the benefits of riding. Visit: www.NARHA.org.

PK News:

October has been such a great month of fun and friendship in the classroom. We are able to recall most of the time the names of our classmates and that makes the room a friendlier place than just being "that boy" or "that girl." The children have also become accustomed to the plans, routine, and lay out of the materials. There is a sense of pride and ownership for the most part in the class materials. Sometimes, a friend will "borrow" a piece of one of our special materials because they are indeed enticing. Parents, if you find something that belongs to Tidewater at home, please just return it. Children at this age do not intentionally plan to "steal"... they are borrowing. That is how

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we explain it and provide a lesson in asking permission and why or why not a certain material is allowed to go home. Thanks so much for your gentle understanding.

October has provided the perfect back drop for lessons on nature. We have gathered and sorted the apples, peeled them and made even more applesauce. We are freezing our secret recipe and will thaw it at Thanksgiving. We enjoy making and eating lots of pancakes with maple syrup.

Fireman Dave from the Huntingtown Fire Department drove his huge yellow Fire Truck right to PK's front door. He let us try on his jacket and sit in the truck. We learned that he looks scary in his fire uniform with the big tank and mask but that we do not need to be afraid. He told of us to tell our parents and friends to check those smoke detectors regularly to make certain that the batteries are good and to clean the chimneys at least once every two years. He also talked about the Family Fire Plan – a safe place to meet outside if the house is on fire. The children responded very well to our guest and enjoyed having the Lower Elementary Friends as our helpers for this "field trip."

Another in school adventure happened when Pinocchio came to visit us and share his learning experiences about telling the truth. He sang and danced with Gideon and Foulfellow and we met his father Gepetto. At the end of the play, the actors clapped for us because we were such a polite and fun audience.



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Our Show and Tells about nature have been very stimulating.... Lots of exciting language as we describe the turtle shells, the deep sea creatures, the seed pods, etc. We placed a large caterpillar in our bug box and within hours, it had hidden itself within its cocoon. We will anticipate the emergence of a Luna Moth in the spring. We also released about 100 ladybugs into our garden. We observed them for about one week before we let them go. What fun we had watching them fly onto the flowers and US!



Music has started. Ms. Tracey was able to begin lessons on beats and rests already with the children. They are amazing to watch as they pick up the sound rhythms.



Our tasks within the class have focused on cutting, tacking, and completion of tasks, also known as clean up! We are working on balance both with yoga and the bean bags we have made. One of the favorite activities is the exercise table, a place where one child at a time can go sit and exercise their mouth with sounds, postures, tooth brushing and chewing.



We have had such great adventures outside with the highlight being the trip to visit Gramp and Gram at the Pumpkin Patch. Without a doubt, that mountain of dirt was a major attraction. Sadie Kadie kept the children amused with her honking and hissing at them as they jumped nearby. Parents, you may want to keep that dirt mound in mind as you prepare the holiday gift lists! Another favorite was the bales of hay.

Soon we will begin our Thanksgiving unit, becoming The Tidewater Tribe. Each child will select a Native American name for the month of November as we attempt to assume new identities with our imaginations! We will look forward to your visit with us for Thanksgiving. Be sure to come hungry to our celebration. We are very creative and good chefs!

I personally thank each one of you for the time and thought you placed in our conferences. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I value your thoughts and insights..... Ms. Nancy

Goodbye to A Special Friend

PK friends are very sad to see our friend Gavin move away but we know that he is going to make new friends! We will be his *pen pal club* and send him Tidewater news.

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Kindergarten:

We've been taking fall walks and looking for signs of autumn. We've gathered up a wonderful collection of leaves. Chase brought us some unusual leaves from upstate New York to include in our collection. We're sorting the leaves according to their leaf margins-smooth, wavy and toothed. We used some of them for leaf rubbings, for prints and for tossing in the air! It's been terrific weather for playing outside-rolling down the hill, zipping down the zip line, pumping the swings higher and mastering the monkey bars.



Look who's visiting or living in our train-shaped bird house! A TOAD!

We had a wonderful morning at Gramp's Farm-petting the rabbits and goats, checking on the chickens and ducks, tossing the hay, bobbing for apples, and picking the perfect pumpkin! We have enough pumpkins to paint some, carve some and have one left over for cooking. We have so many ideas for the cooked pumpkin-pie, cake, pancakes, muffins and cookies.



Mixing up our Pumpkin Streusel

Earlier in the month, we divided our class into cooking teams for making two pumpkin streusel cakes. Friends helped read the recipe, organize the ingredients,

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crack the eggs and use the mixer to stir it all together. Other friends prepared the pans, timed the baking, made the icing and washed up all the dishes. Whew! We realized that many helping hands make for fun and delicious treats. We sampled one cake at the end of the day and served the second cake at the Parent Seminar.

We're all working hard on our individual plans. We are discovering patterns in our room, on our clothing and in our homes. We are creating the most beautiful patterns for bead necklaces, parquetry block designs and pattern peg designs. Sometimes we follow pattern cards-practicing reading the patterns left to right and top to bottom; and sometimes we get to make up our own distinctive designs. Friends are working hard discriminating sounds and blending sounds into words.



Working with the bank game materials

Would you believe that some of our number/bank work fills up more than one mat? It's amazing how much work gets done in just one day. And we save time to read our favorite stories, hear about Uncle Wiggily's Adventures and sing songs. We've been reciting an October poem before lunch each day. And, now we know it all by heart!



Columbus Day boat races

With our October Scholastic Book orders, our Pre-K and K students helped donate 30 books through Scholastic's charity partner First Book to help replenish bookshelves in schools that were devastated by the recent hurricanes. Thank you for your Scholastic orders!

We're preparing to set off on another sea adventure-as Pilgrims heading toward the New World. We're packing our trunks and hope to see you-our friends and family-soon.

Clover Buds

On October 6th, Cloverbuds went on a field trip to the Fire House. We listened to firemen from the Huntingtown as well as the Prince Frederick Fire house talk to us about fire safety. They urged each family to develop a fire safety plan in case of an emergency to include designating a meeting place outside of their home and not to move from that spot once there. One fireman put on all his equipment and talked to us as he was breathing air through his mask from his air tank. He looked very strange and his voice sounded like a robot. If your clothing catches fire -stop, drop and roll. He reminded us NOT to hide in a closet or be afraid. The firemen want to help us escape. The firemen showed us all of the apparatus on a fire truck and let check it out closely.

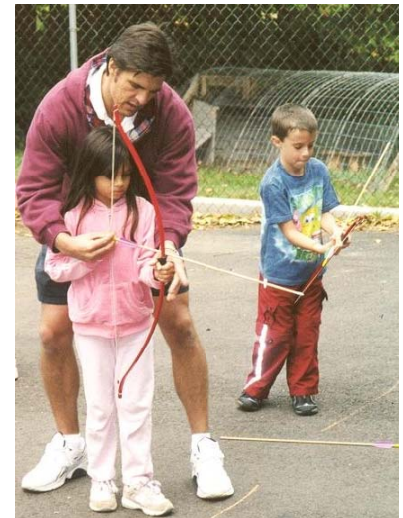
After listening to the firemen, we took turns practicing fire safety in the mobile smoke house unit. Parents and children crawled through a simulated smoky house-stopping along the way to feel if the door was hot-and up the stairs before climbing out the window and down the ladder! Our hearts were pounding but we all had the courage to participate!

Lower Elementary:

The students have been busy preparing for our Day of the Dead celebration on November 1st. In this Hispanic celebration, those who have died are remembered through food, song, games, and

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worship. This has always been a very special celebration for the Tidewater elementary students. Ms. Cecelia spent days cooking with the children in preparation for our feast. On the day of the celebration, we would erect an altar and decorate it with flowers. Each child would place a photo or drawing of a loved one who had died next to the altar. Ms. Cecelia would then read us a story about the Day of the Dead, sing Mexican songs with us, dance with us, play musical chairs with us, share her special Mexican food with us, and lead us in a parade. The girls would wear Mexican skirts and all the children would throw marigold petals along our path. This year we will dedicate our celebration to Ms. Cecelia. She loved spending this time with the children and we will always remember her joy and the joy of the children. This year we have been so lucky to have Ms. Lily (Lauren's mom) help us carry on the tradition. Ms. Lily has been with us all week cooking, making skeletons, and decorating sugar skulls. We can't thank her enough for all that she has done to ensure this very special Tidewater celebration lives on. Thank you! Thanks also to Ms. Pat who has been assisting the children in making painted wooden skeletons that we will use to decorate our classroom.



Mr. Tim teaches Tidewater friends how to shoot with bows and arrows.



Working with the bead frame

We had a great time at Bowles Farm. The children went through the corn maze twice. This year the corn maze was in the shape of an F-18 jet. We then went on a hay ride, picked out a pumpkin, and visited the petting barn. According to the children, their favorite activity was playing chase in the "hay pit".



Working with the checkerboard

On our visit to Jefferson Patterson Park, the children learned about Native Americans and Early Settlers who lived in the 1600's along the Patuxent River. We made pinch pots and grass twine jewelry during our study of Native Americans and we used hand tools to make a cedar roof shingle. We also played a game with hoops and sticks that the Early Settlers would have played.

We would like to welcome a new friend, Madison, to our class. Madison has a brother, Spencer, in Pre-K. We are so happy you are here, Madison!



Tidewater friends giving a report on tigers

I would like to thank Sophie for the magazines that we can use for reports, Peyton for the Halloween pencils and special gifts from California, Katie for sharing her video on grammar, those who have donated to our Beanie Baby drive (we have collected hundreds!), everyone who has brought in leaves and boxes, and Ms. Holly for shortening our aquarium stand.



Writing a story

Art History: In art history class, the UE and LE students learned about portrait painting. We looked at examples of portrait art throughout history and studied the proportions of the human face. The ideal face has very specific measurements. Artists throughout time have used these measurements to create work of art in many unique styles. The children have had the opportunity to practice portrait painting this month. The UE are closely studying the human face, making careful measurements, and using the

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information learned to create their portraits. What could be better math and art together in one lesson!

Upper Elementary:



The Calvert County Fair
by Philip

September 22, 2004

I woke up and Mom told me that I could stay home. I was excited because it was the fair day to show Spotty. That was the day Lauren and David would show Chrissy and Casey. At 10:30, I came to school for my pictures. After my picture was taken, I went downstairs to my classroom and I said goodbye to everyone. Ms. Tina told me to get plenty of rest. I arrived at the fair at 3:21 pm. David, Lauren and I practiced before the show. We got our goats and then waited for a while until it was our turn. Then it was our turn to go into the ring. Lauren, David and I walked our goats around the ring with the other competitors. Then we stopped on the left side of the ring. The judge asked us what kind of goats we owned. I answered "Miniature Pigmy." Then we walked around the ring again and we stopped. One of the competitors got 1st place, I got 2nd place with Spotty, Lauren got 3rd place with Chrissy, another competitor got 4th place and David got 5th place with Casey.

All of the teachers from Tidewater came to see our 4H show. After the goat show, my mom and Ms. Tina and I walked and talked as we left the show area. The three of us went to the 4H building to see my sunflower and lavender projects. After leaving the building, we started toward the reserve parking lot, said goodbye to Ms. Tina and then my mom drove me home. I was so happy because I got 2nd place and that was one of the best moments of my life.