



# Tidewater Times

Volume 21, Issue 2

October 2006

## Special thanks to:

Paula Guffey, a community member who continues to volunteer countless hours as an engineer to assist Tidewater in building for the future.

Rose Futchko and Dawn Hundley for the total upgrade on all of the computers, including new computers, monitors, and keyboards for the front library and office, not to mention the gentle guidance provided in facilitating growth in skill for the new programs!

Peter Ebstein for seeing a need and jumping right to it: He took home one of our benches from the yard and replaced all of the wood slats. How lovely!  
Also, thanks Peter for taking a load to the landfill!

## News from the Director

Dear Friends,

It is so difficult to believe that we have been back in school one month. Yet to watch the children so connected to their work and community, it is as if they never left! This is not magic. It happens because of our longing to be valued and respected in community. The Tidewater School's philosophy is framed upon the work of Montessori and Adler's perspectives on community. Maria Montessori spoke of the spiritual needs of human beings to grow, to connect and to contribute to the world. As we watch maturity develop in our children at each level, this desire becomes so apparent. The children recognize needs and seek to respond, whether it is through an organized international effort such as UNICEF or through 4-H or local identified missions. Each child is growing in awareness of responsibility to care for one self and others.

Adler shared that we are born into family. We spend our lives longing to continue our membership both in family and community. We strive to belong and to be valued. Our youngest children enter Tidewater moving from that very egocentric perspective, learning to share, learning to wait a turn, and learning that their families and communities are cooperative units. It is hard work to differentiate one's ego to the awareness that there are others present with needs that may take priority over self. The young child is connected primarily to parents. In school, this ego of self transfers to others as tools to get what one needs. School must be a social community to allow this ego differentiation to occur. In other words, learning to wait a turn becomes a greater priority than learning to count. This is a life skill.

Life skills are mastered through environment, through practical and real life experiences. At the Math Seminar on Saturday, we witnessed first hand how social we are as human beings. Parents entered the rooms, gravitating to enticing materials or areas that met their spatial and comfort needs. When parents were instructed to begin their lessons in the kindergarten room, they chatted both on task and off task. When directed to refocus to the presenter, some continued to manipulate the materials. During the dialogue, some parents shifted from the chairs to sit on the floor; some decided to stretch and stand. No one viewed this as unacceptable or inappropriate. (It is so tragic that as adults we tend to view those same actions in children as disrespectful!) The outcome of the lessons in each classroom was successful learning and dialogue. This is what psychologists would challenge us to see as a parallel process. What you experienced at our workshop on Math is what your children experience when they are given a directed lesson at Tidewater. Within the school, your **natural** movements were respected as appropriate.

So! Welcome to Tidewater! This is how your children move about their days in their classroom environments. Hours of thought go into the presentation of the environment to meet the needs of each age group. Observations are a must on a daily basis in order to meet the needs of community and individuals. Only astute observation of the **process** of learning can provide us with the information we need to meet the individual needs of the

Continued on next page

**Special thanks to:**

Mike Barber for assisting Trish with the computer programs.

Paul Kachurak for the tremendous amount of enthusiasm in organizing to Grounds Committee to help maintain a beautiful area around the school for our children!

Dan Ahrnsbrak for assisting with lighting in our school building.

All of our parents who are assisting with the laundry needs of each class.

Our Birthday Book Club members for September for the lovely books donated to our library in your honor. A book plate has been placed in each book with your name and the date.

S. F. and B. F. for the donation of many beautiful books to our library

child. Formal testing measures provide a numerical score, a product that provides little insight into HOW the child is learning. With insights into how the child is engaged in the learning process, we can create respectful learning accommodations.

My hope is that you have come to a greater understanding of math through the seminar. More importantly though, I hope that you have a fuller appreciation of the incredible ability of the human being as a multi-sensorial learner and social being **throughout the life span**. Not only do our children deserve to be respected and appreciated for their uniqueness, so do we as adults. May you seek to understand and value yourself more completely.

I look forward to seeing you at our Language Seminar on October 14<sup>th</sup>. There is still time to enroll in the Setting Limits Workshop with Dr. Stein on October 7<sup>th</sup>. If you desire to do so, please send in your enrollment fee of \$65.00 single or \$75.00 couple. In order that your handouts can be prepared, you must enroll by October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Nancy

## Pre-Kindergarten News



Working at the Tidewater construction site

"You were a kid once". That was how a presenter at a seminar I once attended began her remarks. It is all too easy to forget that in the daily excitement of our adult lives. If you take a deep breath and look deep inside yourself, however, you can find that child within, and the journey can offer you insights into your own children.

If you were asked to remember just one experience from childhood, chances are that you would bring forth a memory that

involved being outside. One of my fondest memories is building forts in the woods and making dams in the stream beside our house. I grew up miles away from the nearest town, and there were virtually no playmates in the area where we lived, but I don't remember getting bored when the weather was nice. The "forest" as my city cousins used to call our backyard, was just brimming with possibilities for active play.



Tidewater friend masters the climber

It seems that the word "play" has gotten distorted over the years. When I read about education in this era of standards and testing I wonder if some of the policy-makers in charge of our system haven't lost touch with their own child within.



Swinging is great fun!

A friend in Pennsylvania shuddered when told that recess in her daughter's first grade class would be limited to fifteen minutes! Is play not meant to be a priority for six year olds?

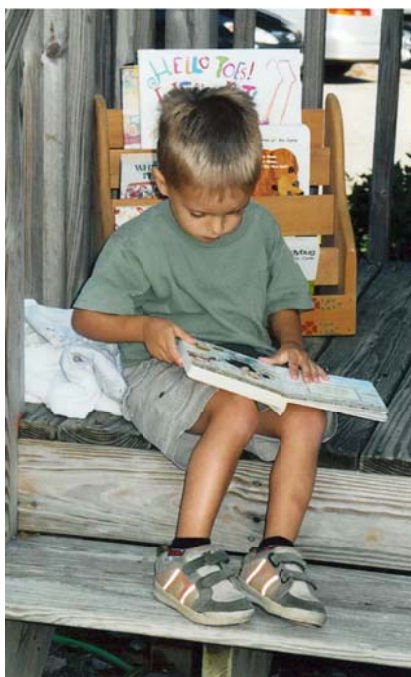


Enjoying a sensory water experience



Tidewater friend on the playground

Riding bikes, making mud pies, climbing trees, rolling down hills...these are sensory experiences which fuel gross motor development, engage the vestibular system, provide proprioceptive feedback, encourage creativity and most importantly, make children smile. Research shows us that they promote development in young children which serves as the foundation for so many other "academic" pursuits. At Tidewater we both recognize and embrace these ideas.



Reading a book outside

**Special thanks to:**

Karen Schork for the beautiful books on peace.

Our parents who take our recycled materials to the local sites.

Karen Schork for making a caterpillar cocoon for PK friends!

All of our parents who signed up as Parent Volunteers over the course of this year. We will be calling upon you as those special times arrive!

Connie and John Gott for the contribution of four cases of small drinking cups!

Renee LaFayette for the book: *If the World Were a Village*

Thank you to our families who have sent in the copy cartridges for recycling! Wow! Keep it up! We really can see a profit for the school in this effort!

So on these wonderful days of cool temperatures and sunshine, play with your children. Regale them with tales of your own childhood adventures, and hang upside down from a tree to look at the world once again through the eyes of a child.

Ms. Laura



Sensory training is great fun!



Important work looks like play. We are learning to share and to care.

## Kindergarten News

Meet the Kindergarten class: an energetic and enthusiastic bunch of friends. It didn't take us long to learn the names of friends and feel comfortable sharing daily news at Magical meeting time.

Our classroom is a special place to us. We are learning how to care for our mutual space by setting the table for snack, watering the plants, sweeping up messes, and scrubbing lunch trays. The children are very serious about their work and seek opportunities to refine their skills. Children are learning how to become more independent in taking care of their own needs: zipping, buttoning and tying. We're working on social graces and courtesies such as waiting for a turn, not interrupting, saying excuse me and using words to create a



Mary Wore a Red Dress actors



A beautiful pin parade design

peaceful classroom. These practical life activities are both purposeful and calming. They also require great focus of attention, a sense of order, pride in their work plus foster responsibility and independence. These skills carry over to many other parts of the classroom and at home.

We're using color maps to explore our room. One of the favorite destinations are the "handy learning bins." These bins hold various hands-on activities that the children can engage in to prepare for the task of hand-writing and other fine motor skills. Rolling play dough into little balls with the fingertips or rolling it into large balls with the palms of hands and fingers straight is an activity that helps children develop their hand arches and intrinsic hand muscles. You may have noticed our stained glass window decorations made by rolling small pieces of tissue paper into balls with the fingertips.



K friends show their bumble bee and mosquito clay creations for our insect museum.

As we explored facts about insects, we had fun making insects out of clay. We carefully examined each creation to see which ones fit the criteria to be included in our insect museum: head, thorax, abdomen, 6 legs, antenna, eyes and some even had 2 pairs of wings! Our nature detectives found many specimens to examine close-up outdoors. (And some insects have found us as sweet treats!)



Kindergarteners have fun spelling with moveable alphabet.

We've been enjoying books with rhyme and rhythm in them. We've played a variety of games to focus attention to sounds and rhymes and to raise awareness of the role sounds play—first in spoken language and then in reading and writing. We've written and illustrated our own version of Brown Bear, Brown Bear. We dressed up and had fun acting out the story Mary Wore a Red Dress; and donned our favorite hats to act out Caps for Sale. What fun!



Our peddler for Caps for Sale



Look at this huge pea pod - 12 " long!

Try one of our classroom favorites: Play in the sandbox, roll down the hill or jump in the leaves! We're celebrating FALL!

Ms. Suzanne

**Tidewater Cloverbuds: Collecting for Soldiers**

The first meeting of the Tidewater Cloverbuds was held on Wednesday, September 13th. The kids did a wonderful job decorating their picture frames for entry in the Calvert County Fair. They are all very creative. The children are very excited about participating in the fair, so be sure to visit the 4H exhibit to see their frames and prize ribbons! After the fair is over, the projects will be returned to the students so that they may take them home, so please don't remove them from display.

At the next meeting of the Cloverbuds on October 11th, we will make cards and pictures to send overseas for the "Any Soldier" program, which supplies the names of participating soldiers who would like to receive care packages for their unit. The program has been a real morale booster for men and women who are far from home and just need a reminder that we are thinking of them. If you would like to donate to the care packages, we can use magazines, candy (no chocolate, it melts), toiletries (deodorant, powder, shampoos, etc.), snacks (non-perishable and non-crushable, too), and canned instant food with pull top lids. Please send any donations you would like to make before the October 11th meeting, as the Cloverbuds will put together the care packages and cards during the meeting for mailing. We hope to get the packages there in time for the holiday season!

Thanks so much! Lily, Susan, Valerie, and Laura

## Lower Elementary News

Sharks, tigers, pandas, gems, dogs, frogs, mice, horses, cars, dolphins, volcanoes, and spiders!! These are just some of the topics the Lower Elementary has been researching already this school year. We have erupted volcanoes, painted a life size Great White shark, modeled a spider, and illustrated beautiful gem stones. The children have been sharing their new found knowledge with the Pre-K and the Kindergarten classes. What a great start to the new school year.



A report about Pandas



Researching horses

We would like to welcome two new students to our elementary community: A. S. and M. S. They are both first year students. We are so happy to have two new friends and their families join us this year.



LE friend adding 5+4!

As you can see from the pictures we are very busy learning new math skills and reviewing skills learned last year. The first year students are working with the golden beads; adding, subtracting and multiplying. See the picture of our friend standing next to a tower of 27 thousand cubes!!! We multiplied  $2,325 \times 12$  and ended up with the product 27,900. We will be using the golden beads for division soon. The students are also using the stamp game for addition and subtraction. The second year students are busy with checkerboard calculating with a double digit multiplier and with the racks-and-tubes dividing number with a double digit divisor. We have also started working with the bead frame and fraction insets.

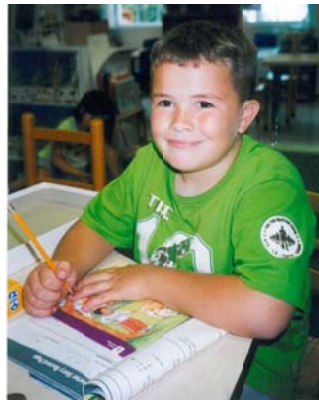


Working with racks-and-tubes division



Working on golden bead addition

The children are all working in the SRA reading comprehension program. The SRA program allows children to progress with reading at their own pace. The reading selections are varied and interesting. Each child has started the program at a place reflective of his or her individual ability.



Working on reading

The Lower Elementary has also started grammar work. We are learning all about nouns and will soon move on to articles and adjectives.

We recently learned about the artist Vincent van Gogh. The students painted their own works of art after studying van Gogh's sunflower paintings and Starry Night. Some of the children entered their "van Gogh's" in the Calvert County Fair!



LE friends painting their Van Gogh's

I would like to thank the parents, pre-K through elementary, who attended the Math Seminar on Saturday. The Language Seminar will take place in October. I hope to see you then.

Ms. Megan



Painting in Spanish class

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month the children are studying the art of Frida Khalo. Ms. Lily gave a lesson to the children about this well known female artist from Mexico. They are now working on a mixed media self portrait reflective of the work done by Khalo.

We had a wonderful time at the Patuxent River Park this past month. Our guide to the park, Ms. Mary, led us on a river boat ride in search of the many birds that make the Patuxent River their home. We saw a snowy egret, red winged black birds, a great blue heron, ducks, and geese while riding on the pontoon boat. We also went on a nature walk. During our walk, an LE friend found a Vireo nest than we now have on display at school. We ended our day with a picnic lunch and a visit to the nature Center. The trip was arranged by our 4-H leader, Ms. Alison. Thank you, Ms. Alison!



Lower Elementary at Patuxent Park

The chickens have returned to school! Our 4-H leader Ms. Holly helped the children move the chicken coop away from the sandbox area and reintroduced the chickens to their home away from home. We have already collected 7 eggs! Thank you, Ms. Holly.

## Upper Elementary News

Our class has been very busy working and we feel we have accomplished a lot in our first month of school. We conducted interviews with our classmates.

Here are just a few of the projects we have worked on so far:

### Internet Research

We have had an opportunity to use our computer in our classroom as well as books to research information for our many reports and for biographies to look up famous Spanish American people for Hispanic Heritage month.

K. B. used the internet and books to look up information on pigs for a report. She also needed information on pigs for the fair. K. will be representing Tidewater at the animal livestock show by showing a Hampshire pig at the fair this weekend.



Tidewater friends with "Indy" the lamb

I. B. was able to find a recipe on the internet to make home-made ink from berries found around the playground area.

S. A. used the internet and found lots of information on Cats and the Humane Society for an oral report. She then

presented her report to Pre-K, Kindergarten and Lower Elementary.

### Latin

Ms. Tina is teaching 4th and 5th graders Latin. We have been learning the basic root of Latin words and vowels. We will be starting to recite Latin prayers in a couple of weeks.

K. W. says she likes to learn Latin and expressed that every school should learn it. She thinks Ms. Tina is a great Latin teacher.

### Tidewater 4H Club

Fig Jam: Mr. John donated figs from his fig tree. I. B., K. W. and I made homemade jam with Ms. Tina. Everyone had a taste and there were some that liked it and some that did not. The jam was entered into the Calvert County Fair.

The 4th and 5th graders have and are representing our school at the St. Mary's and Calvert County fairs by showing our Tidewater animals: "Indy" the lamb, "Candles" and "Crissy" the pygmy goats.

At the St. Mary's fair, I. B. showed "Candles" and won 6th Place and 3rd Place ribbons. T. A. showed "Crissy" and won 4th Place, 1st Place and Reserved Champion. I showed "Indy" and came in 3rd, 2nd, and 5th.

I. B. said he enjoyed showing "Candles" and he trained her for two weeks.

We will be showing our animals again at the Calvert County Fair this weekend. Please come to support our school. We have worked very hard to participate in the fair.

Until next time,  
H. F. and P.L.



Above and below: "Indy" gets a haircut



Upper Elementary friends give "Indy" a bath in preparation for the fair.

## Español at the Tidewater School: A Note from Ms. Lily

We are having a great time learning Spanish with our new and returning Tidewater friends. We learn Spanish through stories, games, and songs.

Many of the songs we sing and will sing in the future were sung to me as a child by my grandmother, mother and many aunts who are from Mexico and Guatemala. They are songs that have been passed down for generations. In our lessons, I try as much as possible to preserve the traditions as they were taught to me.

We learn songs through repetition, pictures and movements. I've included in this newsletter Spanish lyrics and English translations to a few of the songs we sing. One of the most loved by our youngest friends is a Spanish version of "The Eensy Weensy Spider."

Pre-K and Kindergarten are learning Greeting and Salutations, Colors, Shapes, and Numbers.

Lower and Upper Elementary are learning how to write in Spanish. They too are either getting acquainted and/or reacquainted with their colors, phrases they should know, Spanish Alfabeto and vowels.

We are currently celebrating Spanish Heritage Month. We are learning about famous Spanish Americans through bios and art.

I'm getting to know all of the children and I look forward to another great year at Tidewater.

Gracias,  
Ms. Lily

<p><b>Buenos Días -</b> Buenos Días, buenos días, ¿Cómo estas? ¿Cómo estas? Muy bien, gracias Muy bien, gracias ¿y usted? ¿y usted?</p> <p>Buenas tardes, buenas tardes, ¿Cómo estas? ¿Cómo estas? Muy bien, gracias Muy bien, gracias ¿y usted? ¿y usted?</p> <p>Buenas noches, buenas noches, ¿Cómo estas? ¿Cómo estas? Muy bien, gracias Muy bien, gracias ¿y usted? ¿y usted?</p>	<p><b>Good Morning</b> Good morning, good morning, How are you? How are you? Very well, I thank you, Very well, I thank you, How about you? How about you?</p> <p>Good afternoon, good afternoon, How are you? How are you? Very well, I thank you, Very well, I thank you, How about you? How about you?</p> <p>Good evening, good evening, How are you? How are you? Very well, I thank you, Very well, I thank you, How about you? How about you?</p>
<p><b>La Víbora de la mar</b> A la víbora, víbora de la mar, de la mar por aquí pueden pasar. los de adelante corren mucho, los de atrás se quedaran tras, tras, tras, tras.</p>	<p><b>The Sea Serpent Song (our "London Bridge" Song)</b> The sea serpent we like to play to have fun, to have fun under the bridge all on track. Children in front go faster and faster, if you don't follow, you'll stay back, back, back, back, back.</p>

<p><b>La araña pequeñita</b> La araña pequeñita Subió, subió, subió. Vino la lluvia Y se la llevo Salio el sol Y todo lo seco Y la araña pequeñita Subió, subió, subió.</p> <p>La araña grandotota Subió, subió, subió...</p>	<p><b>The Eensy, Weensy Spider</b> The eensy, weensy spider Went up the waterspout. Down came the rain And washed the spider out. Out came the sun And dried up all the rain, And the eensy, weensy spider Went up the spout again.</p> <p>The great big spider Went up the water- spout.....</p>
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chesapeake.net

# Open House

Sunday, Nov. 12  
from 1 - 3 pm

Please invite  
your neighbors  
and friends!

We're on the Web!  
[www.thetidewaterschool.org](http://www.thetidewaterschool.org)



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

A Roundtable discussion: "It May Not Be Just a Learning Disability"  
October 9, 2006, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Church Street  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

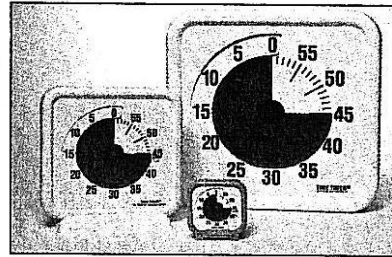
Presenter: Larry B. Silver, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown University  
Session is free of charge and open to the public. For more information call 1-800-874-6797.

**Sex Offender Hotline:** By calling Maryland's toll-free Sex Offender Alert Line at 1-866-559-8017, Marylanders can sign up for telephone notification any time a registered sex offender moves in their area. The Alert Line is designed to contact individual homes, schools, daycare centers, recreational centers and churches registered by zip code.  
Registry website: [www.dpscs.state.md.us/onlineservs/sor/](http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/onlineservs/sor/)

Several parents at our seminars have asked where they may purchase these timers.

### Time Timers

Time Timers help solve time perception problems at all age and ability levels. The presence of a Time Timer creates a greater awareness of elapsed time. These timers encourage autonomy and responsible independence in children of all abilities.



The Time Timer comes in three convenient sizes and a CD.

**Original Time Timer, 8" square**  
274003 ..... \$29.95

**Classroom-size Time Timer (designed to be wall hung), 12"**  
274004 ..... \$39.95

**Personal Time Timer, comes with a carrying case**  
274001 ..... \$24.95

**Time Timer CD**  
274005 ..... \$24.00

*Southpaw Enterprises*  
1-800-228-1698  
[www.southpawenterprises.com](http://www.southpawenterprises.com)

Special appreciation to those parents who have taken on the tasks of organizing the behind the scenes fundraising efforts:

- Erin Quicker - Escrip (Please support this "free" program to you that benefits your children!
- Bernice Burroughs - Sally Foster wrapping paper
- Gale Bonanno - Box Tops Coordinator