



# Tidewater Times

Volume 22, Issue 1

October 2007

## Special thanks to:

All of the families who participated in our Work Day at the start of school.

LaFayette Law Practice and Dr. Emad and Randi Al-Banna's Medical Practice for the gift of lunch bags for each Tidewater child.

Valerie MacKrell for the gift of her talent to create such a beautiful yearbook.... It was so hard to wait for it, but so worth the wait! It is a masterpiece! There are two school copies in our library if you would like to enjoy seeing this collection of 2006-2007 memories.

Hatcher's Supply for the reduction of costs for materials to care for the grounds.

All of our families who have joined the Grounds Committee and to Paul Kachurak for doing such an inspiring job of coordinating this very important work.

Stacey Day for her gift of professional guidance and encouragement to the Staff and Board as we focus on the Vision for Tidewater.

Karen Schork for the many wonderful books for our Parent Library collection.

## News from the Director

Dear Parents,

This is our very first edition of this school year's Tidewater Times. Change has happened in many ways at Tidewater since last school year, reflecting the natural transitions of life. As a "living" dynamic institution, Tidewater must experience growth and newness. We have been in school one month and the new faces of staff and families blend in with the hearts of the "old" Tidewater faces. This is so good. As the children and staff held hands at **Peace One Day**, truly the blessings of harmony and joy were felt. Thank you for trusting us through our growth and welcoming all of the new faces as friends.

As I prepare this communication to share with you, my thoughts are very much on the beauty of the Montessori and Adlerian value of community. I am humbled and gently reminded by the small requests that are presented my way (*Tie my shoe, Clean a scratch, Watch my wink, Look at my tooth, Hold my snake!*), that it truly is the little things in life that make the difference for the big picture. We all long to belong, to be special, and to be needed; all are dependent on the gift of availability. When I am caught in the hectic pace of life, I miss the gift that availability yields, not only to the one who comes to seek me, but to my heart. The day that is most fulfilled at the end is the one where I have paused and listened to a child.

Our goal for Tidewater's children is to esteem each child so that each one can grow to become the great individual s/he is meant to become. This means not only providing the outstanding learning materials framed with a strong curriculum, but providing an environment where learning is a journey of *practice, practice, practice* paired with *sharing* this new learning with others. One of Tidewater's beliefs is **Knowledge only becomes wisdom when it is given away to another.**

I wish to thank the parents who attended our Math Seminar. My hope is that this time was of great value, not only in understanding the work of your child but validating your investment. Hopefully, you were blessed by the lessons offered, knowing that your investment is far more than dollars. Your affirmation and interest in this developmental learning plane, be it the first level of Primary (PK and K) or the second plane of Elementary, are vital to making this year of your child's life a fulfilling celebration for YOU.

I gained so much from our time together in the seminar. After I left for the afternoon, I found myself seeing math more fully than ever before. I kept pondering the message we shared that **math is a language** that must be **learned through experience**, not based in a verbally spoken lesson, nor through symbols on a page. I noticed the symmetry of leaves and alternating patterns. I pondered the ripples of the waves. I listened to the whispering of the sound waves in the breeze and the chirping patterns of birds. I then looked into the eyes of a child, at the concentric circles penetrating deep into my soul. Life is beautiful and math is truly the signature of life. It is everywhere. I wish I had discovered this as a young child. Tidewater's hope is that we can provide this place of discovery for each child, a place where their eyes are open to absorb the sights around them, ears listening, even to the sounds of silence, and minds that work in tune to the rhythm of their hearts.

I invite you to attend our next seminar on October 6th at 9 am until noon. Once again, we will enjoy the environments at each level, exploring the whole of language in the life of a Tidewater child. Plan to attend. It is not too late to register. There are a few openings for you to bring a guest. What a wonderful gift to give a friend: A morning of insight into the growth of a child! Come!

With Great Peace and Joy,  
Ms. Nancy

**Special thanks to:**

Peter and Ginger Ebstein for the donation of building materials and talents for the new storage shelves.

Parents for their time at our Back-to-School night and Math Seminar.

Bill Schork for building the chart cabinet for elementary.

Sherrie Covell for the stool and Tupperware.

Peter Ebstein's brother for the flat screen monitors for our computers.

Katie Libertini Bolyard for teacher's reference books.

All of the Staff for putting in long hours of preparation for school's start and the seminars on weekends.

R. S. B. for our Beta fish, Spotty.

Ginger and Peter Ebstein for our Butterfly weed plants.

A. S. for our fresh supply of milkweed leaves.

**Parent Empowerment Conference:**

Understanding, Diagnosing and Treating Developmental & Mental Disorders in Children & Adolescents  
October 19 & 20  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Keynote Speakers:  
Trevor Valentine, MD &  
Harry Kerasidis, MD  
Call 410-414-9901  
for more information  
[www.childcenter.net](http://www.childcenter.net)

**Pre-Kindergarten News**

*"All our lives we rework the things from our childhood, like feeling good about ourselves, managing our angry feelings and being able to say goodbye to people we love".*

Fred Rogers



PK friend makes foam letters

I am often reminded as I watch preschoolers, that children develop and experiment with so many vital life skills at this age. These foundational experiences influence how they approach the world for years to come. Preschool is a testing ground for social skills because it offers an environment rich in different personality types, levels of development and communication styles. To learn how to handle the full range of social possibilities, one must be exposed to them! Our classroom is abuzz with chatter, conflict and resolution, shared experiences and the joy of discovery. It has been such a truly happy month in Pre-K. We have a very compatible group of friends and they have transitioned so easily from home to school. The rhythms of the



Fun at the snack table

classroom seem secondhand. The children know how to come together for "morning meetings", sit in the "talking chair" for show and tells, and start their plan work. The snack table is a joyful place where food and conversation are shared while practical life skills like pouring and scooping are practiced. And the playground is alive with pirates, princesses, building crews and scientists.

We will continue to be nature detectives in October as we look for signs of seasonal change in the plant and animal kingdoms. The leaves have already given us some signs that fall is coming, but we will soon venture out to our nature trail to take a closer look at what is happening to animals and their habitats. As always, we welcome treasures from your own yards to help with our nature lessons.



Pre-K astronaut

During the next month we conduct some small group lessons to introduce new materials to the children. The newest friends will continue to learn to use the Montessori sensorial manipulatives. Sound work will become more focused with some of the friends using the moveable alphabet to start invented spelling and others working on beginning and ending sounds. We will also rotate the practical life materials which focus on fine motor development.



Dancing with the PK stars!



A visit with Hermione the Hermit Crab

Toward the middle of October, we will introduce Native American themes. If you have a special interest in this topic, or know someone who does, please feel free to share with us. I am also eager to find a family to host this year's Pow- Wow in early November. Thank you for helping us to have such a wonderful month.

Laura



Working on the flag with elementary friends



Creeping caterpillars!



The hermit crab comes out of her shell

## Pre-K/Kindergarten News

It's hard to believe that we've only been in school for four weeks.



Thinking about pumpkins and fall.

Our classroom is buzzing with ambitious, productive friends. We've learned who's who, can follow our "maps" to new adventures and are sharing the responsibilities of caring for our room. We even have friends arriving early so they can sign up to help do their favorite job! We're practicing pouring our juice for snack, learning how to serve one helping—even if it's our most favorite food—and making sure we sweep up all the crumbs on the floor. Our classroom is cozy, comfortable and clean.



K friend using the grid pattern of her mat to organize her shell counting work.

One morning we found evidence that lead us to believe that we'd had a visitor: a tennis ball, tags, a collar, a leash and a bumpy, red ball. Even without seeing anything, we put these clues together and wondered if a dog might have visited our room. We thought it was a small dog because the collar was not very big and the toy was just the right size for a small mouth. We were being detectives.



Concentrating on sewing a felt dinosaur.



Kindergarten friends sorted the dinosaurs - those standing on four legs and those on two legs.

We continued being detectives. This time we were dinosaur detectives called paleontologists. We looked for dinosaur evidence by digging in our sand box. We couldn't believe how much digging we had to do day after day before we found our first bone. Luckily, our elementary and after school friends helped us dig for bones, too. It's like a puzzle trying to put the bones together.

We've had fun reading about dinosaurs, learning their names and measuring yarn to help us imagine their size. When we stretched the length of yarn for Diplodocus, we had to open our door and walk out into the driveway—80 feet! It was challenging thinking of words to describe something so big. We've really had to use our imaginations.



The sandbox is carefully surveyed before beginning to dig.



A team of paleontologists dug in the sandbox. Kindergarten friends show the bones they found.

Here are the clues for our newest project: it's living, it's teeny tiny (1/4" long), it has two rows of legs, it's hungry, it's eating milkweed and it's getting fatter and fatter. It's our very own hungry monarch caterpillars. We are looking forward to watching the caterpillars spin a chrysalis and turn into beautiful butterflies.

Our weather is perfect for outdoor work. We often share our time with other classes. We are enjoying getting to know our PK and Elementary friends, too. We appreciate the opportunity to learn yoga from Ms. Karen and the Elementary students.

We want to thank the Elementary class for helping us learn about peace, letting us add decorations to their flag, and including us in the Peace One Day celebration on Friday. As one of our classmates said "We have peace right here at the Tidewater School." We feel so fortunate.



Wow! Our friend feels (and looks) proud of his handmade dinosaur.

Cloverbuds met to prepare their individual projects for the Calvert County Fair. Ms. Joan Barrett and Ms. Jen Behe helped us make beautiful magnets. We cut out favorite pictures from a magazine, glued them to the bottom of glass stones and then added a magnet. Be sure to visit the 4-H building to see all the Tidewater projects—including the Tidewater Peace flag/banner.

Suzanne



Birthdays are more fun when shared with friends.

## Elementary News

September has almost come to a close and it feels as if we just celebrated Labor Day! Time does indeed fly when you are having fun...as well as when you are very busy! Each new day in Elementary seemed to provide us with a wonderful opportunity to discuss, explore, investigate or just plain enjoy a myriad of topics and experiences. Most import however is that we seem to have come together as a respectful, funny, curious and determined community of spirits. Each person brings an amazing sense of individuality and spunk resulting in an energetic and lyrical alchemy of personalities and life.

We began this month examining the concept of *Peace*. Through a variety of lessons, we discussed what peace means to different people, the diverse visions or metaphors associated with the idea and some of the many ways in which we can be *peacemakers* each and every day in our own lives. The depth and understanding the children demonstrated was remarkable but not surprising. As the entire Tidewater community gathered on the blacktop this past Friday, Sept. 21st, for Tidewater's first annual *Peace One Day* celebration, the beauty of the sky lifted both our wishes and our spirits. The excitement and joy was heartfelt and contagious.



**Peace Banner** By E. R.

We made a peace banner to celebrate Peace One Day with Pre-K and Kindergarten. First, we designed it. Then we cut pieces of fabric and the elementary sewed them onto the banner. When we finished sewing, we helped the Pre-K and Kindergarten paint. It was really fun! The Pre-K did butterflies with their hands and the Kindergarten did flowers with their fingers. The next day was Peace One Day. We played, laughed and had a lot of fun.



Elementary friends categorize zoology cards.

### Peace By E. B.

The whole Tidewater School made a Peace Day banner. It has flowers sewn by the elementary, grass and bugs done by PK and flowers, foot prints and the sun are done by Kindergarten. If you're an Elementary parent, you child might have asked you questions about peace like, "Lions are like peace because ..." Last Friday, September 21st, it as Peace One Day. Peace One Day is when all of the countries stop war for one day. The Elementary prepared for the celebration by tilling the ground around the flag pole for daffodil bulbs. It was fun planting bulbs! Then on September 21st, it was the Peace Day celebration. The elementary got to choose one of the friends from Kindergarten and Pre-K to plant a bulb. I chose R. S. She is great at planting bulbs. I dug the hole and showed her how to put a bulb in and R. S. put it in perfectly. I forgot to tell you, the Elementary students also made prayer flags and hung them on the fence.

### BIG NEWS!

Early fair-goers report the Tidewater Peace Banner has won the Grand Champion prize!



Elementary friends help with the gardening.

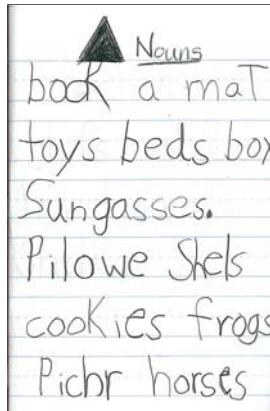
With October around the corner, new projects and ideas await us all. Several children have proposed and begun forming interest-oriented clubs (thus far we have the *Animal Club*

and the *Sewing Club*) and two elementary friends are organizing a talent show! We even have an Elementary-based newsletter which is being created as part of the children's language work. This is a VERY creative group of young people indeed! The crisp, beautiful weather of autumn awaits us and within the elementary class, we are ready to settle even deeper into our studies, our research and any adventure which may come our way!

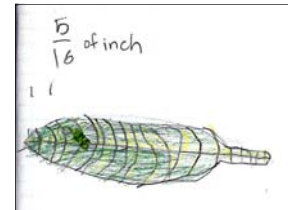
Cheers,  
Karen and Ann



Elem. friend proudly shows his completed hundred board.



A list of nouns by M. H.



T. M. measures and sketches a growing Monarch larvae.



J. A. categorizes living and non-living vertebrates



Leaf rubbing by A. S.



Elementary students review their math work.

**Peace Interviews**

By: S. A. and P. L.

We have been studying about peace for Peace One Day. We interviewed all of the teachers about the concept of peace with these following questions:

1. What are the first words or images that you think of when you hear the word Peace?  
Most teachers answered: The beach, children, nature and kindness.
2. How do you define "Peace"?  
Most teachers answered: Living in harmony, no conflict, and being kind.
3. What are five things you do that make you feel peace?  
Most teachers answered: Pray quietly, take walks, meditate, spend time with family, and listen to music.
4. What do you think a world at peace would be like?  
Most teachers answered: It would be wonderful, and it would be a place where people could be themselves.
5. What are some of the things that make you feel peace?  
Most of the teachers answered: I play with children, I listen, and I smile.

We enjoyed interviewing the teachers about Peace. It was interesting to see what they thought of peace, too.

120 Cox Road  
P. O. Box 755  
Huntingtown, MD  
20639

Phone: 410-257-0533

Fax: 410-414-5055

E-mail address:  
tidewaterschool@  
chesapeake.net

**A Special Thanks  
to the Gott Company**

for sponsoring our  
Hospice Tree for the  
Festival of Trees  
in November:

*Home Tweet Home*  
will be the theme  
for our tree,  
in honor of  
children everywhere

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



**Music and Spanish:**

As October begins, we will start our Music lessons with Ms. Dana and Spanish with Ms. Lily. The best way to know what is happening during these special times is to listen closely to the songs that spring forth from your child. Sometimes, it is best not to ask, just to observe and enjoy the presence of your child.

Parents: Every year, Tidewater teachers are asked to recommend sources of quality learning tools (toys that are worthy of your investment and your child's time!). We have elected once again to participate in the **Montessori Services Small Hand Catalogue for Parents**. This service provides our families with quality choices and for a short period of time, provides Tidewater with a credit from your purchases towards classroom purchases. As emphasized at the Math Seminar, we want quality tools to do our work. Play is the work of the child and they must have materials and tools that are the correct size, functional, and enticing. Enjoy the catalogue. If you wish to participate, the directions are on the cover sheet. Encourage your friends and family to shop on-line also and enter our number. Every credit point goes back to the children at Tidewater. Thanks!

Would you like to place a special message or advertisement in The Tidewater Times? Send us your information by October 22nd with a \$25 donation to The Tidewater School. We will include your 2 inch x 3 1/2 inch ad (business card size) in our next issue.

**Target "Take Charge of Education"**

Use your Target Red Card and designate our school to receive money on the Target website. We have received \$922.13 to date from Target. Our School ID # is 26676.

**Safeway's "10% Back to Schools"**

Please turn in your redeemable receipts to Tidewater by October 10, 2007. Receipts from friends can be turned in also!

**Please support our Script Program!**

Purchase gift certificates from The Tidewater School for birthdays, holidays, shopping at grocery stores, gas stations, clothing and gift stores, and restaurants you use often ..... and benefit our school. Orders are collected once a month.

**More Special Thanks to:**

All of the parent volunteers who have stepped forward to learn about our library and left us with a wealth of good ideas for enhancing its use for the children. Our books are wonderful and the suggestion to begin a borrowing check out system for the PreKindergarten, who do not have the benefit of the Book Mobile, was a lovely idea! Thank you! Please note: All parents are welcome to come in a select a book to check out from our PK/K library and/or our wonderful parent library!

Those who are volunteering behind the scenes to guide our Fundraising for the children's special projects and most importantly, the photograph albums:

Katie Libertini Bolyard: Sally Foster Orders (due NOW!)

Erin Quicker: Escrip Orders (First of each month)

Gale Bonanno: Box Tops (on-going... CLIP, CLIP, CLIP)

Ms. Trish: Giant and Safeway registration, ink cartridge recycling

Our August and September **Birthday Book Club** friends:

We now have ten new books in our library with a special birthday label indicating who donated it to The Tidewater School. Thank you!