



Tidewater Times

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October 2005

Special Thanks to:

Ms. Laura for the Pizza Party Night for new families at our Parent Orientation.

Ms. Randi for the color copier for printing our brochures.

All of our families who helped out on Family Work Day, especially siblings who came to help support their younger brother and sister!

Our Birthday Book Club Members for August and September:

- Bryce
- Charlie
- Jillian
- Helena
- Jonah

Mr. Mike for help with setting up DSL computer connections in Elementary and office.

Mr. Ricky for painting the book shelf for the Kindergarten classroom.

Cloverbud leaders and parent helpers for helping us get our T-shirts decorated for the Fair.

Parents who generously donate their time to be Tidewater volunteers.

Why Tidewater?

What makes this school different from any other?

The answer was clearly articulated at the seminar in September. The staff at Tidewater shared their passion for this approach to learning. Parents were encouraged to engage in process learning through examples. The discovery that seemed quite surprising to some of parents was that adults are much like children: They desired to be respected and given lessons that not only encouraged creative thinking but affirmed their membership and individuality within community. After parents participated in different projects, parents were able to comment on the process of learning as opposed to the final product. It became very obvious that **how** a student does the work is far more important than the final product. The **how** provides teachers with the information they need to challenge the child's strengths and stimulate the weaknesses. If you missed the first seminar, you missed one of the most exciting parent events ever at The Tidewater School! What a dynamic group of parents we have and what an awesome faculty! Make certain that



We have a Builder!

you are at the next seminar: 9 a.m. on October 15th. Math and science are so exciting at Tidewater! Come and find out why! Together, we will continue to shatter the myths of education as we celebrate and respect the developmental stages of learning in children!



We use a roller to paint the 50 foot-long snake.



Tidewater friend doing number work.

Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ms. Toni and her family as they mourn the loss of Akilah. Last year, the children and Tidewater families contributed funds for Akilah's heart transplant which took place this summer. Initially, Akilah was doing well, but she then contracted pneumonia and was unable to fight this infection. Flowers were sent to the family with love from The Tidewater School Family.



If I have ever made any valuable discoveries, it has been owing more to patient attention, than to any other talent

- Issac Newton.



Working with the thousand cube.



Enjoying some outdoor play.

Pre-Kindergarten News

Children are naturally curious about the world around them. It is our job to prepare an environment in which they can explore, experiment and discover. This is the work of both the teacher and the parent. We also grant them the freedom to make mistakes and the love to support them in their discoveries. By modeling the kind of behavior that we value and setting boundaries, we equip children with the tools they will need to interact successfully with their peers. But ultimately, it is the child who accepts these gifts and it is our patient attention which allows us to discover the talents and unique qualities of each child.

Our class is brimming with young scientists full of wonder about their new pre-school environment. Gone are the shy stares of that first week at school. Names have been learned and friendships forged. Boundaries have become important and the children are now reminding each other when someone needs to "find their manners."

Nature is a favorite topic and the show-and-tells have been rich with discussion about habitats and growth cycles. Our class is beginning to see the relationship between animals in the food chain and the interdependence of living things. One day the children spent most of their time on the playground following the path of a Darling Beetle as it made it's way past our snack and wiggled into a crevice in a tree stump. Last week, the Reptile Man regaled us with tales of his lifelong interest in all things cold-blooded and slimy. We discovered that an Indian albino python does not feel slimy, but rather rubbery. We saw that alligators and crocodiles really do look different and learned that people are more of a threat to reptiles around the world than vice versa.

Classroom work has been so fun this month! We have had skilled construction crews working alongside railroad engineers. Renowned artists have covered our walls while pausing for refreshment at the nearby lemonade and ice cream stands.



Cleaning up after painting our snake!

(Imaginations are active in the practical life area!) There have been aliases and nick-names, but no imaginary friends yet. All this, plus puzzles and games and sorting and counting. And the silly word games and songs, oh my!

The new mailbox in our class has become a hub of activity as the friends send pictures and letters to each other (and to their teachers!). It is so fun to watch the children collaborate and share ideas.



Thank you for trusting us this first month and for being so eager to learn about this special place. Your presence at the parent meetings and seminars allows us to work as a team in helping your child to soar. We look forward to meeting with you at next month's conferences and at the Math and Science seminar. In case you haven't noticed, we are passionate about what we do, and welcome the chance to share our ideas.

Ms. Laura

Kindergarten News

The Kindergarten class has been working hard. We've established our daily routine, figured out what daily jobs need to be done and are having fun working together. One of the favorite classroom jobs is checking our weather stick (attached just outside our side door). At first the class thought it was just a strange, skinny stick. Now, we are discovering that the stick reacts differently in different kinds of weather. (You, too, can check our weather stick each morning as you drive down the driveway. It's mounted at our east side-door.)

We've been exploring straight lines and the shapes that can be made with straight lines. We've invented shapes using paper, paint, marbles and templates. We're learning the proper names for some straight line shapes—square, rectangle, triangle, trapezoid and pentagon—plus hexagon and octagon. By bending a straight line, we discovered curved line shapes. Our curved line metal insets have been used for tracing, tack punching and inventing new, one-of-a-kind designs. We've been discovering shapes of all kinds on our shelves, in our room and outdoors.

All the children have begun lessons with the Sandpaper letters. With the Sandpaper letters (SPL), each child has both a visual and tactile experience of the letter, which means s/he will use more than one sensory channel to receive information and remember it. Often a child who struggles to remember the letter visually will remember it immediately when s/he is encouraged to feel it again. We feel each letter using the index and middle fingers. We feel them in the same way that they are written—starting at the top, for most letters, and completing the action in one smooth movement. We're working on directionality and keeping our fingers moving in a smooth stroke.

The important thing is for each child to be able to experience the tactile quality of the letter. We're going to master the lower-case letters first. It is the lowercase letters that require careful learning. They will determine the ease with which children will

form a good flowing hand later on plus will prepare the eye and the hand for both writing and reading. In the classroom we often practice our writing/directionality using our fingers to write letters in shaving cream, sand or sky writing.

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 are building an awareness of the different sounds as they are heard in our own language. We listen to the sounds—and forget for the moment—how the words are “properly spelled” (ex. jraf = giraffe).

Some of the children are using Moveable Alphabet letters—experiencing how easy it is to make words by analyzing three sounds: consonant-short vowel-consonant (C-V-C) and how print goes from left to right and top to bottom. This is so exciting. We are all “feeling” like readers—and this is a big boost to our confidence!

If you want to know about reptiles, please feel free to consult our Kindergarten experts. We prepared for Mr. Mike's Reptile World visit but were amazed to see the REAL animals. They seemed much bigger than what we had measured and imagined during the week. We were curious to pet Banana Boy, the still growing nine-year albino boa constrictor snake. Come check out our photos!

Cloverbuds:

Our Kindergarten Cloverbuds Club had their first monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order and the 4-H pledge recited before our leaders Ms. Kathy, Ms. Pat and Ms. Rose were introduced. They helped us decorate four-leaf clovers for our Cloverbud T-shirts. We are entering our t-shirts into the Calvert County Fair. Be sure to visit the 4-H building when you visit the Fair. Tidewater students have the best entries...and ribbons to prove it!

Ms. Suzanne



Exploring curved line shapes



Marble painting combines straight and curved lines.



Decorating Cloverbud T-shirts



The LE class makes Infiniti Street.

Warning: Children's vinyl lunch boxes can contain dangerous levels of Lead!

Please go to the following web site for more information.
www.cehca.org/lunchboxes.htm



Lower Elementary students work on a snake report.

Fundraising Reminders

Sally Foster orders are due
October 6th

Please turn in your Safeway and Giant Food numbers

Lower Elementary News

The Lower Elementary class has gotten off to a great start. The second year students welcomed our new friends from kindergarten into the Lower Elementary. Everyone has been so busy reading, writing stories and reports, working on grammar, and doing math math math! Several Tidewater friends presented reports on snakes and horses to kindergarten. Another student is studying birds, and one is learning about wolves. Two lower elementary students are writing a report on tigers and two others are working on a very creative dog project. One friend continues her study of horses (she really is an expert) and one more has been learning about eagles.

We invited one friend's pink poodle and another's American Girl doll to our lesson on adjectives. We had a pink, black-nosed, fluffy, curly, cute, soft, brown-eyed, clean poodle in our classroom! We have also been learning about verbs, nouns, prepositions, articles, and adverbs.

Our math lessons have taken us from units to millions and beyond. We traveled to Infiniti Street where every house has a baby named unit, a mom named ten, and a dad named hundred. Of course their last names are different. We started with the simple family and ended up with the octillion family! However, the street does go on in either direction forever. We are now adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing using the golden beads, bead frame, checkerboard, stamp game, and racks and tubes. I hope that you are now curious about our math work and that you will join us on October 15th for our Math Seminar.

I hope that everyone has been able to look at our evolving pond/land environment in the classroom. We have several amphibians including frogs and toads as well as a salamander in the tank. We have learned that amphibians are vertebrates, warm blooded, and spend part of their lives in the water and part of their lives on land. We also have a number of invertebrates such as worms, crickets, slugs, and centipedes as part of our environment.

A friend of one of our student's family donated the 55 gallon tank last year. We thank them once again.



Lower Elementary friends enjoy a snack.

I would like to give special thanks to:

- Ms. Laura for the recycling bins. We are now recycling paper, plastic, metal, and glass.
- Ms. Alison and Ms. Holly, our 4H leaders for getting all of our projects ready for the fair.
- One of our LE friends for the recycled scented pencils. They are a big hit in the LE and UE.
- Ms. Bernice for all of her work with Box Tops, Sally Foster, etc.
- Ms. Toni for all of her help with our beginning readers.
- All of the parents for bringing your children to Tidewater.

The next month is shaping up to be quite busy. We have a trip to the Marine Museum in Solomon's Island, a program with Interact Theater on Colonial Life and Native Americans, and our trip to Bowles Farm (an annual favorite!).



Lower Elementary friend shows her new kitten, Lily, to the class.

Conferences are also coming up in October. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board inside the LE door.

Ms. Megan

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. Here is a quick recap of what we've learned thus far.

Pre-K and Kindergarten:

- Greetings and salutations (Buenos Días, tardes, y noches)
- Body Parts (las partes del cuerpo)
- Emotional Characteristics --Feliz (happy), Triste (sad), Orgullosa (proud)...etc.
- Colores
- Members of la familia
- Stories
- Songs, Songs, Songs

Lower and Upper Elementary:

- Spanish Pronunciation Review (Spanish Alfabeto and vowels)
- Introducing oneself and others (Los Saludos)
- Members of la familia
- Emotional Characteristics - ¿Cómo te sientes? (How do you feel?)
- Games – Lotería (Spanish Bingo) and ¿Qué es eso? (That is this?) (The games we play in class help teach Spanish vocabulary)
- Stories
- Songs, Songs, Songs

I read stories to my friends in Spanish, but the songs are a favorite with all of the children.

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 hard to preserve tradition as it was taught to me as much as possible.

For my Lower and Upper Elementary friends, copies of the song lyrics we sing in class have been given to your child in the classroom. I will continue to hand out lyrics to the songs we sing so that each child can gradually learn to read Spanish. They are fun songs that can help them with pronunciation as well as learning and reviewing our vocabulary.

For my Pre-K and Kindergarten friends, we learn songs through repetition, pictures and movements. Here are the 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."

It's been a joy thus far working with the children and I thank all the parents and teachers for giving me this opportunity.

Buenos Días

Buenos Días, buenos días,
¿Cómo estas? ¿Cómo estas?
Muy bien, gracias
Muy bien, gracias
¿y usted? ¿y usted?
Buenas tardes, buenas tardes,
¿Cómo estas? ¿Cómo estas?
Muy bien, gracias
Muy bien, gracias
¿y usted? ¿y usted?
Buenas noches, buenas noches,
¿Cómo estas? ¿Cómo estas?
Muy bien, gracias
Muy bien, gracias
¿y usted? ¿y usted?

La Víbora de la mar

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.

La araña pequeñita

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.
La araña grandotota
Subió, subió, subió.....



Ms. Lily teaching the LE students.

Good Morning

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?
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?
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?

The Sea Serpent Song (our "London Bridge" Song)

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.

The Eensy, Weensy Spider

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.
The great big spider
Went up the waterspout.....

Upper Elementary News

Dear Parents,

Several kids from Upper Elementary showed our Tidewater goats and sheep, Chrissy, Candles and Sheen at the Saint Mary's Fair. We showed a goat named Olive and got "Best in Show." We showed Sheen and got 1st Place for "Fitting and Showing." Another UE student got 1st place and Grand Champion for "Open Class." At the Calvert County Fair, four Upper Elementary friends are also showing Chrissy, Candles, and Sheen. Come join us if you can.



Calvert County Fair

Thurs., Sept. 29 6 pm 4H & Open Class Goat Show

Friday, Sept. 30 9 am 4H & Open Class Sheep Show

Saturday, Oct. 1 6 pm 4H Livestock Auction



**Congratulations to our
Upper Elementary friends!
A job well done!**

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We're on the Web!
www.thetidewaterschool.org

The Parent
Workshops on
Saturday
mornings are
essential to
understanding
our curriculum.

Please make
every effort to
attend this
month!



Book Club

On October 18th at 7:00pm at The Common Grounds in Prince Frederick, parents are invited to join The Tidewater Book Club. Our first book, ***Children: The Challenge*** is guaranteed to be a resource book that you will refer to over and over again. Books have been ordered for those who returned the form expressing a need. Extras will be on hand if you have changed your mind and want to read the book. We are grateful to our parents who are making this evening possible: Jen for volunteering to guide us through the book and to Kathy for offering us a place at her business!