



Tidewater Times

Mark your Calendars!

Spring Musical and Graduation

Tuesday May 30th

6:30 p.m. at the
Huntingtown United
Methodist Church,
Hunting Creek Road

Come and honor our
5th year graduates!

Special Thanks to:

Ms. Carol, Ms. Kathy,
Ms. Mary and the
social committee for
all the kind
remembrances for
the staff.

Our Italian travel
guide in K, for the
book, *Gabriella's
Song*

The Lanhams, Behes,
Neals, Turners, and
the O'Connors: for
their yard work and
mulching

Volume 20, Issue 7

May 2006

News from the Director

Dear Parents:

This is the last newsletter before summer recess. I cannot believe that another year has passed by, but yet I do not feel sadness at this passing. I have had the privilege to stand and witness miracles. How can my heart be sad when I have had this blessing! I am amazed at what I have seen:

PK toddlers becoming sophisticated **and** bigger as they blossom into childhood!

Kindergarten children becoming a buzzing hive of connected language with very involved play and extreme joy in learning together!

Elementary students becoming young and purposeful thinkers about life and appreciating how each individual is an important member of the whole!

I have had the privilege to listen to profound discussions with a 4 year old about death and love as a beautiful cycle of life. I have sat and witnessed the metamorphosis of caterpillars into butterflies and am humbled to know that I have also witnessed this emotional and spiritual transformation in the children. Life is good!

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to express our most heartfelt appreciation for the love you showered on us last week. From treats to massage to lunch to flowers and then to the treasured collection of cards created by the world's most talented artists..... we do feel your appreciation! Love is a beautiful gift and it can only be experienced when it is given away. Love cannot be static in order to have life. Thank you so much for sharing your love with us, present everyday in the hearts and minds of your children. I have stated numerous times, we take this charge so seriously. Please know that the only reason teachers come to Tidewater is love.... Love for the innate beauty of children learning and flourishing in a respectful environment. This school thrives because of the combined passions of parents, teachers and children. We thank you for affirming us and for all of your kind words of encouragement. Our work is hard but it is a sacred task for which we are called: To respect children out of love for each as an individual and together as a community.

As summer approaches, I wish you health, peace and joy! Take time to witness the miracles all around you, including yourself! Listen to the symphony in the leaves of trees, the songs of birds, and the rush of the waters nearby. Touch the earth, smell a flower, inhale the dampness after the rain. Catch a frog, be still for a butterfly, and sing a song outside. Life is good! Seize the day and celebrate.

To our families who are leaving us to move on to new adventures, go in peace and know that you will always be a part of The Tidewater School. Stay in touch with us!

Continued on next page

More Special Thanks to:

Mr. Paul for cleaning and replenishing our pond

Ms. Laura for library books: *Rock Collecting* and *No Such Thing as a Bad Kid*

Ronnie for the visit to PK to talk about fossils.

It's You I Like

*It's you I like,
It's not the things you wear,
It's not the way you do your hair -
But it's you I like
The way you are right now,
The way down deep inside you -
Not the things that hide you,
Not your toys -They're just beside you.*

*But it's you I like -
Every part of you,
Your skin, your eyes, your feelings,
Whether old or new.
I hope that you'll remember
Even when you're feeling blue
That it's you I like,
It's you yourself,
It's you, it's you I like.*

By Fred M. Rogers

News from the Director (continued)

And to all, mark those calendars for a 20th year anniversary for Tidewater on August 20th at 2 p.m.! We want to embrace our identity and we can only do that if you are with us!

With a grateful heart,

Ms. Nancy

Pre-Kindergarten News

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the year in Pre-K. There has been so much growth in our classroom that it is nothing short of miraculous. As I fill out the curriculum checklists for our students I marvel at the progress that has occurred in each area. Some children have found their voices while others have learned to be less intense in their interactions. Other friends have learned to negotiate their way out of a conflict while some have discovered that they have the right to complain about something! Numbers now represent quantities to some while others have begun to see the vertical and horizontal patterns in the hundred board work.



Working on a counting task

There are so many things that a child learns in the course of a year in Pre-K, but the most amazing thing of all is that they each do it according to their own unique developmental schedule. We prepare the setting and the young child does the work. When I think of all the pre-schools that I visited as a young parent, I feel so fortunate to have found a place in which my children could define themselves at their own pace.



PK friends have laid out the base ten number system



Shell matching

Pre-Kindergarten News (continued)



PK friend plays on the exercise wheel

The playground is a wonderful place in which to reflect on a child's growth. One child who would not go near any of the equipment at the beginning of the year cannot run fast enough to the swings. Another friend who would not go near the sand earlier actually dares to get dirty! The children have learned to trust themselves in all sorts of ways. And they joyfully run and scream and jump and dig all while exercising their skills of negotiation, problem-solving, volley of conversation, and a host of others. It has been a magical year.



Looking at worms

I have been amazed at the developmental surges that have taken place over the past few weeks. One child has taken such an interest in sharing in circle that he cannot leave the house in the morning without a show and tell. Another child has found great joy in sitting still and finishing his whole plan. Yet another child has left the safety of solo play to engage in giggly good times with her friends. Would these things occur in a more traditional setting? Probably. Would they be celebrated as major achievements? Unlikely. But at Tidewater, we celebrate the whole child, not just the mastery of letters and numbers.

I am sure that I also speak for Nancy when I say what a pleasure it has been to work with this particular group of children. Thank you for trusting us and for believing in the value of a solid foundation for your children.

Ms. Laura



J.'s brother, Ronnie, visits PK to tell us about his fossil collection

Mark your calendars

May 25th: PK to the beach

Teacher
Appreciation Week

Parents, thank you for your generous donations of time and money. A special thank you to an alumni parent, Michele Kenlon, for donating her time to scan so many pictures.

Carol Frederick

Kindergarten News

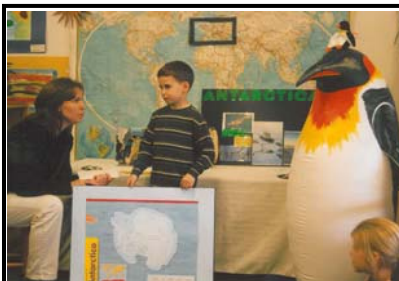
Postcards from Kindergarten Travelers



Lucky for us our guide had gondolas waiting to take us through the canals of Venice. She showed us beautiful jewelry, art, churches and historic landmarks. The highlight was feasting at the best Italian restaurant on homemade meatballs served over pasta garnished with a tomato, mozzarella cheese and an olive. We weren't sure we'd like gelato until we realized it's like our ice cream! Our guide and her Granddaddy showed us how to play Bocce, a game of rolling rather heavy balls.



Our guide arranged for our tour of London - seeing Buckingham Palace, noticing the Bobbies on the street corners, the art museums, and the Clock tower, better known as Big Ben. Friends had fun pretending to be the Queen, the Bobbies and the Knights of long ago.



Final destination: Antarctica! Our guide told us all about the various kinds of penguins that live on the frigid desert continent and the sea lions and jelly fish that are able to live in the icy ocean waters. We couldn't believe how big the Emperor penguin could be! Our guide even managed to make snow in our classroom...what a surprise!



Spring has arrived in all its glory and lessons are happening both inside and outside the classroom. Children are bringing interesting finds for show'n tell and we're observing caterpillars. As we study bugs and caterpillars we are examining the different body parts, learning the specific names and observing the life cycle. We're observing 5 Painted Lady caterpillars as they grow from barely 1/2 inch long to well over 2 inches in just a matter of 8 days! We've made predictions about how long we think it will

take for them to emerge as butterflies - 12 days to 100 days!



We've been gathering flowers from our gardens and learning the specific names. Our favorites are bearded iris, candy tuft and bleeding heart. We were excited to share our flowers by delivering May baskets to family and friends.

Ms. Megan made a special visit to Kindergarten to present the great lesson



about time. Her presentation has spawned many interesting questions. Friends are now pursuing their independent research on ocean life, dinosaurs, cavemen, mammals and other animals. It's an exciting time as students pull together newly emerging skills and independently pursue what's of specific interest to them.

It seems like our year has just flown by - and we've shared so many interesting days: our world adventures, our two field trips to the Kennedy Center and our independent scientific discoveries are of major interest right now. The children are happy, curious and joyful. I hope the discoveries continue over the summer and that you enjoy a happy and relaxing summer together. Don't forget to take time to smell the flowers!

Ms. Suzanne

Lower Elementary News

The Calvert County Humane Society fund raiser was a huge success.

The Lower Elementary students raised \$245.86, far exceeding our goal of \$90.00. We were able to sponsor 8 animals!!

The children sold hand made book-marks, old stuffed animals, books, videos, and baked goods (using our eggs!). Hopefully, we will be listed on the Humane Society website soon so that everyone can see a picture of each animal we sponsored. I would like to congratulate E. B. on her success in raising \$35.00 for the Humane Society by selling crafts at school. We also received donations of cat and dog food for the shelter from one of our families.



LE friends selling baked goods for The Humane Society



Dr. Molesworth with her foal and mare

The Lower Elementary 4H visited the farm of Dr. Molesworth. Dr. Molesworth is a veterinarian who specializes in horses. She showed us her mobile medical center complete with an x-ray machine and serious looking dental tools. The entire LE class stepped onto a horse scale and found out they weigh 648 pounds; around the size of a small pony according to Dr. Molesworth.

We visited a number of horses including several foals only a few weeks old. I would like to thank Dr. Molesworth for inviting our class to her farm and Ms. Alison and Ms. Holly, our 4H leaders, for arranging the trip.

The Lower Elementary class has been studying plants. We have a number of plant experiments underway and we have been planting flower and herb seeds. We hope to plant a small garden in front of the chicken coop before the end of the year.

Speaking of chickens, we are hoping to hatch some baby chicks by the third week of May. Ms. Bernice has loaned us her incubator and will take the chicks home after they have hatched.

Conferences will be held on May 19th. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the LE classroom.

The Lower Elementary will be going to two plays this May: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and *Junie B. Jones*.



LE friends working outside



Above: J. S.'s Ice Age diorama



Left: LE friends play with "Hoppy" the bunny

I am sure that everyone is eagerly awaiting the production of *Go Fish* and our graduation ceremony for our fifth year students on May 30th.

We are looking for a family to guinea pig sit Daisy over the summer. Please let me know if you are interested.

Ms. Megan



Lower Elementary showing their poetry with Ms. Ritchie

Lower Elementary News (continued)

Bees

Sra

There are about 20,000 kinds of bees. Most bees make nests in trees, plants, or the ground. Bees drink nectar and eat pollen. Newborn bees are larvae, they hatch from eggs. Bees are insects. Bees collect honey.

Bees make _____

a. nest's
b. Pollen
c. Nectar

Bees drink _____

a. Pollen
b. Nectar
c. larvae

What do Bees do?

eat flowers
collect honey
eat bees

Bees eat _____

a. Pollen, B. Nectar, C. flowers

How do bees hatch?
a. From bees larvae
c. from eggs

Above: K. B.'s SRA Reading Comprehension Story

Mark
your
calendars:

May 26th

UE & LE
Hoops
for Heart!

LE Pizza and
Ice cream Party
for the
Kindergarten
class

Upper Elementary News

Jalapeños Restaurant

Jalapeños was fun. The food there was very good, and the waiters were very polite. They have a very good Spanish accent. They had us wait, but it was worth it. Even though it was only Upper Elementary, there were still a lot of people who came. Mr. John came that day on March 31, 2006.

By J. C.

Family Fun Day

At Family Fun Day this year, the Kindergarten and the Pre-K had a bike-a-thon at Annmarie Gardens. The Kindergarten and Primary Bike-a-thon was for St. Jude's Hospital. After Kindergarten and Pre-K did the bike-a-thon, everyone biked. Two Kindergarten friends had a cake in their honor, because they were both diagnosed with cancer; they are now better. A thanks goes to Ms. Lily, our Spanish teacher, because she painted faces. To S. and T.: GLAD YOU ARE BETTER !!

This article was made by M. N.

4-H Flower Sale

Water those flowers!! The 4H flower sale started May 1st and is still going on. Herbs, tomatoes, peppers, hanging baskets and a variety of flowers are being sold for moderate prices. We bought the flowers at a local greenhouse. The flowers are sold throughout the school day. Large potted flowers are sold for twenty-two dollars, hanging baskets cost fifteen dollars, and tomatoes, small flowers, and herbs are sold for three dollars. Please support our 4H clubs. Buy plants and flowers!

D. A.

Student Teacher, George Logan

Mr. George practiced in our classroom for two weeks. He practiced his teaching skills. He gave us lessons. Mr. George was an archaeologist; therefore he gave us some lessons about that. He was an archaeologist at Jefferson Patterson Park and knows a lot about archaeology. He went to Family Fun Day with us, and that was the last day of his student teaching.

By T. A.

Upper Elementary News (continued)

On April 10, 2006, my Tia Aura came to the school and made tortillas with the UE and LE. To make the tortillas, we had to mash up masa and water. The tortillas were hard to make for some people, and easy for others. The reason why it was hard for



L. B.'s Tia Aura making tortillas with Elementary friends

some people is because sometimes the dough would break and you would have to start over again. But when I made tortillas, it was easy. When the tortillas were done, the UE put three tortillas in tinfoil and sold them for \$1.00 a pack. For lunch, my Tia Aura made papusas for all of us to eat. Papusas are tortillas and cheese. They were so good. My Tia Aura is so much fun. I enjoy cooking and playing with her. I don't get to see her that often because she lives in Guatemala. So when she comes, I try to have as much fun as I can.

By L. B. in UE



Visits from some of our older Tidewater Friends!



I Almost Got Him, But Not Quite

I was trying to swat a fly one night
It was just me and the fly in a really big fight
He was on the light switch, I almost swatted him but
instead I turned on the light
I almost got him, but not quite

It seemed as if the fly swatter was saying, "Ha! Ha!" you
can't swat him, but you might
He flew in the playroom and landed on my kite
My kite got wrecked that night
I almost got him, but not quite

I called my friend over to see if she could swat that fly
with no fright
She tried and she tried with all her might
She handed the fly swatter back to me and said, "I'm
going to bed, good night!"
I almost got him, but not quite

Poetry by C. K., former student

We are proud of her!

Sue Kullen

A woman Delegate named Sue Kullen came in and talked about our bills. She also talked about whether we should pass a bill that you are not allowed to smoke in restaurants or bars. She has to stay at a hotel for 90 days, then go back home on the weekends to do laundry. She works in Annapolis at The Maryland House of Delegates. Some of the Lower Elementary came to listen.

After she talked to us, she went over to Plum Point Elementary to talk to them.



By: H. F.

Español at the Tidewater School

Hola Amigas y Amigos,

We have had a great school year. We have learned so much and had fun too!

During the month of April, our Upper Elementary class visited The Cultural Institute of Mexico in Washington, D.C. The Institute is one of the most important artistic and cultural centers established outside Mexico.



The Instituto is situated on a magnificent mansion on 16th Street, N.W. and has become an important meeting place for the intellectual and artistic minds on both sides of the border. The mansion is surrounded by spectacular murals painted from 1931 to 1941 by Roberto Cuerva del Rio.

We also had the pleasure of having a special guest, my Tía Aura from Guatemala. She visited our school and helped me with our Spanish Lessons. She taught us how to make tortillas, read us a book and played games. The children enjoyed meeting her and were amazed at how fast she spoke Spanish. She told the children that when they speak English, it sounded just as fast.

Thanks so much for a great year! I look forward to seeing most of you next school year. Have a fantastic verano!

Adios,

Ms. Lily

PK and K participated in the St. Jude's Bike-a-Thon at the Annmarie Gardens in Dowell. We celebrated two of our Kindergarten friends' recovery from leukemia!

St. Jude's Bike-a-Thon Update

FINAL TOTAL:

\$3,355 has been raised for pediatric cancer research



More School News



20th year anniversary Party August 20th at 2 p.m.!

We need lots of helpers! All are welcome to join the planning committee. We are meeting on **Wednesday, May 24th** at 2 p.m. at The Tidewater School.

Parents:

Please return the end of the year survey sent out two weeks ago!

Also, please return all borrowed books and materials!

Help Please! Volunteers Needed!

- **May 30th** - Graduation Helpers needed for set up and cleanup!
- Parent to repair or take to the landfill: adult size benches on our playground
- Help with assembling new benches for the playground
- Clean growth off nature trail; trim back trees
- Design and/or build an arbor over the sandbox on our playground

Ticks have appeared!

Please make certain to check yourself and your child each day for ticks.

We would like to share information which was brought to our attention:

All drugs containing **phenylpropanolamine** are being recalled. Triaminic is voluntarily recalling medicines with this ingredient because it has been linked with causing strokes and seizures in children and adults.

For more information: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/ppa/>

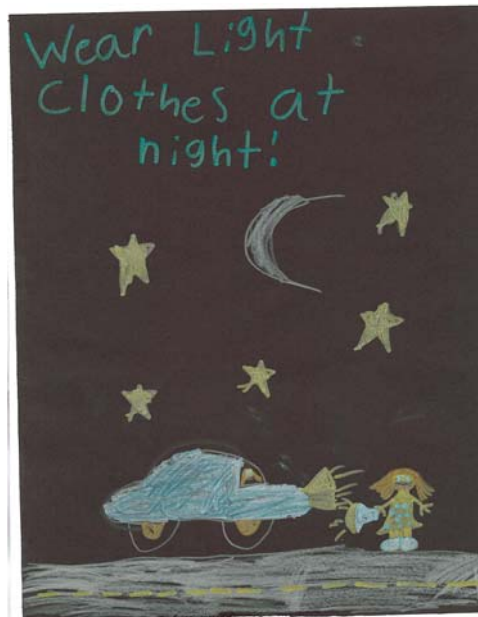
Congratulations to:
M. N.

She qualified to compete in the Level 4 Gymnastics State Meet on May 7th.

She did a great job in this championship competition, improving all her scores and receiving a 7.1 in the Floor Exercise.

Congratulations to:
E. B.

She won **FIRST PLACE** in the statewide AAA Traffic Safety Poster contest



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

Open House
at our Sister School:

The Tidewater School
By the Sea

10117 Shingle Landing Road
Bishopville, MD
(near Ocean City, MD)

Sunday June 4th, 1 pm
Pony rides, bounce
house, clown, face
painting and more!



Please
support
our
Sponsors!

Reminder:

The last day
of school is:

Wednesday
May 31st

Noon Dismissal
for All!

Have a
wonderful
summer!

Are YOU looking for Adventure this Summer?
Huntingtown United Methodist Church (HUMC)
invites you to become a **Treasure Seeker** and
join us for an exciting week of **Discovery Digs**

HUMC's Vacation Bible School, "Adventure of the Treasure Seekers: Exploring God's Promises," will be held during the week of June 26-30, 2006, from 8:45 - 12:00 daily. Age group is from Pre-K (4 yrs) - 6th grade. Two Tidewater parents help direct/coordinate this VBS (3rd year running), so if you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Dorothy Rader/410-535-9452 or Kathy Frankle/410-535-6302. We always have a LOT of fun, so come and join us!

You can also visit the church website @ www.huntingtownumchurch.com and select the Vacation Bible School link for more information or to complete your registration form.



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GRASTON CERTIFIED

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

- Summer Fun Days, Thursdays 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Free admission!
More information on website: www.cbrm.org
- Founder's Day: Friday, June 9, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Annmarie Gardens

- Father's Day Fling, Build your own catapults & create large paintings on canvas June 17th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., \$25 per family, call 410-326-4640
- The Great Windchime - community art project, June 1 - August 31, 9-5 daily
- Sidewalk Chalk-a-Thon art contest, August 14-20, 9-5 daily
- Plein Air Painting Kits available to rent - \$10 - adult set, \$5 - child set, includes easel, canvas, paints, brushes, palette for use within the garden