
The Tidewater Times

Volume 18 Issue 3

December 2003

The Pilgrims have arrived! Time for the feast!

The Calendar:

Please note these dates:

Dec. 5: Upper and Lower Elem.
Nutcracker at Mary Harrison
Cultural Center

Dec. 12: Upper and Lower Elem.
Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe at
Maryland Hall

December 19: 11:45 dismissal for
PK and K, followed by Noon
dismissal for elementary

January 5: School resumes

Special Notes:

*The January STEP program is set to begin **January 8th** in the afternoon. There have been requests to move this to later in the afternoon, at maybe four or five. Please complete the attached flyer on this newsletter and return to Nancy with your feedback so that she can plan accordingly. The program is so important and she wishes to make it available to as many parents as possible who are willing to commit.

****January 5 at 7 PM:** Corporal McDowell from the Calvert County Police Department will be coming to talk with YOU about the Sex Offender Register and ways that we can best keep our children safe. A number of you have responded to our concern about our

neighborhood situation. This is the opportunity we have to voice concern and to understand. Please plan to attend this very important session.

Sex Offender Registry may be found on the internet at:
<http://www.dpss.state.md.us/sor/>
Click on: Online registry listings, then put your zipcode for keyword at the bottom of the page to search.

***Plans are being made to take down the older wooden swing set and to install a new set for the younger children. Plans are also being made to place a large shed on the athletic field for storage of equipment. We are experiencing considerable water drainage in the yard, washing away our mulch. If you have any ideas of how to stop or alter the flow over the back drive and yard, please share these with Nancy. This is a major problem with all of this rain! Thank you.

****Tidewater needs one family to volunteer to do the monthly safety checks for the playground equipment. It is important and yet very easy. There is a list which guides you to check the nuts and bolts for rust areas. The touch up is quick if needed. We are NOT required to do this but we want to do this as our goal has always been safety first. IF you can help out, contact Nancy ASAP.

Thanksgiving Feast Parking:

If the weather is great (meaning no rain and cold so that the yard is solid), parking will be in the back area. Ms. Tracy will direct you. Those who arrive early and wish to park along Tidewater's driveway, please remember to pull **perpendicular** as you park around the drive, NOT PARALLEL. This will provide far more places to park. If the ground is wet and we cannot provide parking in the rear play area, please park at the corner building of Route 4 and Cox Road at Mr. Hagarty's Office and Huntingtown Medical Center. Please do not park near the nursery. We will run a shuttle van if we end up having to use the corner lot. Thank you for your cooperation.

Gentle Acts of Compassion:

Lauren B.'s Family (Lauren is in our Upper Elementary) is going through an extremely difficult time and your prayers and thoughts of mercy are needed. Lauren's little brother, Dillon, is in the pediatric intensive care unit at Hopkins Hospital. He is not doing well. Many of you have enjoyed his precious presence. He has always been a child with great joy in his spirit. Please pray for this little one and his family. Lily, Mike and Lauren have such courage and faith, but they need our love and support during these very difficult moments.

The Horse

By Erin N-W

A horse, a horse
A beautiful little horse
Trotting through the grass and trees.
This horse is free... As she walks
Over to me with her silky brown hair and bright blue eyes.
Her soft neigh, I take my hand and Pet her nose. It's soft as velvet. I say goodbye and she trots away, leaving me with a very nice day.
The End.

PK News:

The PK friends have been so busy with the exploration of our land as Native Americans. We have learned that as natives in this beautiful land, we must be hunters and gatherers, especially with the coming winter months. It has been hard to understand that in the early history of our land, there were no stores where we could buy our clothing and food. We are totally dependent upon what the Great Spirit has given us so we regularly count our blessings using our clay pots and corn kernels.

With the coming of winter, we made a point of bathing one last time in the river. Now we wear our sweet bags, filled with fragrance from our herb garden. We do not want to be stinky!

We have learned that we must harvest seafood from the great Chesapeake Bay: crabs, clams, oysters, fish, and terrapin. Then we must gather nuts, seeds, fruits, and roots for winter food. We have learned to use our bow and arrows and to set traps to catch animals which we will eat and use their fur to keep us warm. We only take what we need and we always give thanks for the abundance we have. We will be ready for the coming winter months, even if the big snows come!

We are preparing now for the arrival of the English. We have seen their big ships in the waters of the bay. We will have a special meal and call it Thanksgiving. We hope that our friends and families

from all of the area tribes will come to this great feast!

We have enjoyed some wonderful events this month.



The Lost Caravan came and presented the musical *The Musicians of Bremen*. We even had two friends from the audience perform as robbers: Liam from PK and Katie from K. Then Ms. Suzanne was invited to be the Mayor of Bremen and present the musicians with invitations to be the official musicians of the town! We laughed so hard. It was so much fun to have this show right here in our classroom!

Then Ms. Laura and Grandmother Ba came to share Diwali with us. Diwali is the Hindu New Year in India. They dressed us in beautiful Indian clothes as we listened to Indian music. We made special crafts and tasted treats.



Over the holidays, the PK children would enjoy a weekend trip to St. Mary's City with their families. If you have time, consider this. They would benefit from seeing first hand the

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wonderful Native American exhibit at the historic city.

In the picture below, Ms. Holly and Keri are sharing an excellent model of a Native American Longhouse, like the ones used by the tribes of this area. We are very thankful for the wonderful lessons given by our guests this month.



We are looking forward to Thanksgiving and sharing our good cooking treats with all of our families. See you then!

Kindergarten News:

The Kindergarten Pilgrims have had a wonderful month of exploring Colonial life in America. We have been reading various books to help us understand what life was like long, long ago—with no stores, no cars, no electricity and no television. We have discovered that life was full of challenges.

We have washed clothes on a wash board & hung them out to dry on the clothesline. We have made hats and pockets to wear when we are doing work or wearing Pilgrim clothes (long skirts, shirts, knickers and vests). Did you realize there were no buttons, zippers or pockets in clothing years ago?

We took a walk in the meadow and found poke berries that were perfect for turning our muslin fabric (and fingers) a beautiful shade of purple. After our fabric dried, we stenciled designs onto the fabric and stitched it into little bags. Our bags smelled so sweet when we filled them with our crushed herbs, tied them up and wore them under our shirts to

camouflage our body odor. Our recipe is dried santolina, lavender, rosemary, lemon balm, lambs ear and Russian sage with a few rose petals.

We enjoyed watching guest Nancy Donley of Huntingtown spin lambs wool into yarn right before our eyes on her wooden spinning wheel. She let us see and feel different types of wool. We wondered if hair from other animals such as rabbits or dogs could be spun into yarn—and she said yes! She raises Alpacas so that she can have the wool for spinning. She has a booth at the Prince Frederick Country Market if you want to see more of her work.



We used some of Ms. Donley's raw wool to make the heads of our Colonial dolls. We are continuing to weave, sew and are learning more about quilts. We've had fun playing Colonial games, too. We've tried tug-of-war, catch the button in the cup, hoops, various spinning tops and catching a ring on a stick.



It's been challenging to dip a feather into the bottle of ink to practice writing letters. If you push too hard, the ink sprays all over the paper; and you can only write one letter before you have to dip the feather into the ink jar again. It would take a long time to do one page of writing.

We have been saddened to read that out of the 102 original Pilgrims on the Mayflower less than 50 lived through the first year at Plymouth Plantation—and half of that number were under 16 years!

We are thankful that they were so brave and hard working to survive such difficult circumstances. We are thankful, too, that the Native Americans shared their knowledge of planting, hunting and trading with us.

We continue to do our fruit tasting experiments. We've tried 6 different kinds of pears, cherries, pummelo (similar to a grapefruit) and dragon fruit (from Viet Nam). We used our fresh avocados to make guacamole—and dipped chips into it. We've sampled 15 different varieties of apples—Granny Smith, Fuji and Braeburn being our favorites. We've peeled and cooked our apples into applesauce to share with you at our Feast.

Cloverbuds

Ms. Celia, Frost's mother, gave us a lesson on Colonial games. She showed us how the straws from a broom were used to play pick-up-sticks—and how the game would get more challenging as the straws became more chipped on the ends. She demonstrated how to play marbles, roll and toss-a-hoop, the string game Cat-in-the-Cradle plus Paul Revere's stone toss game. Then, we broke into smaller groups and had a chance to play each game. Each child went home with pick-up stick straws and a bag of marbles.

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Thank you to....

Sophie, Matthew, Katie, Justin, Joshua and Frost for the samples of fruit.

Laura, Sophie and Ba for the wonderful Diwali celebration and Indian food.

Sophie for the new book given to the Library in honor of her 6th Birthday.

Parents who help out at Cloverbuds.

Parents who participated in the Pre-K and Kindergarten evening workshops.

Katie for her birdhouse and birdfeeder.

Lower Elementary:

I would like to thank those parents who attended our Integrated Curriculum Seminar. During the seminar we talked about the five Great Lessons that provide the common thread from which all other lessons are connected. The Great Lessons are as follows: The Creation of our Earth and Universe, The Formation of Life, The Coming of Man, The History of Language, and The History of Numbers. The history lessons are the common thread that link one lesson to the next. All subsequent key lessons can be traced back to these five lessons.

As an example of how this works, I can relate the following. We have had the Great Lesson, The Creation of our Earth and Universe. This lesson consisted of a story, the story repeated with illustrations (impressionistic charts), and the lesson repeated with experiments. From this lesson, the children have had key lessons on the solar system, constellations, the layers of the Earth, the formation of volcanoes, land and water forms, minerals, rocks, etc.

From the lesson on the solar system the children became interested in the planets. While

studying the planets, a child found a book that told about how each planet got its name. Saturn, Neptune, Venus, etc. are the names of gods and goddesses from mythology. From this discovery, the children became interested in the stories of the gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece. We are now immersed in reading Greek myths, drawing pictures of the gods and goddesses, writing our own myths, and playing gods and goddesses on the playground. As a result of our mythology study, it is amazing how often the country of Greece has come up in our other studies such as an SRA reading selection on the myth of Achilles, a book on the Star Spangled Banner, and as one of the countries represented on our Hospice Tree. It is exciting to see the children make connections between the lessons given and where their interests take them. This is just one example of how the thread of history can and frequently is followed in the classroom.

We have been busy painting gourd children that represent various countries throughout the world for our Hospice Tree. Make a point of visiting the Festival of Trees so that you can see our ornaments.

The children are very busy learning poems and songs for our Thanksgiving celebration. They have also been baking delicious breads with Ms. Charlotte for the Thanksgiving feast. I hope that you will all be able to attend.

Upper Elementary:

This is truly an exciting time of the year. Thanksgiving is only days away and we are ready for the Tidewater feast. Thanks to Ms. Charlotte we baked our breads and can't wait to serve them. Also, thanks to Ms. Tracy we are getting ready for our annual Thanksgiving program.



The UNICEF for Trick or Treat was a great success. Thanks to all who helped. We collected over \$200.00 (we are still counting). We are anticipating our BAKE SALE (Nov. 24, 25) and the support of our Tidewater families. Thanks!



Thanks to Ms. Susan A. our 4H meeting was at the Maryland Agricultural Educational Foundation Biotechnology Laboratory. We learned about Biotechnology (life processes and tools) and we did many hands-on experiments using the Scientific Method. Thanks to Mr. Paul Harmony our science teacher, we learned so much and had a great time.

What is the best method for washing hands?

What is the best method to keep our lips moist?

What will happen when we compare our homemade soybean blue to the commercial Elmer's glue?

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After the performance, *Something for Nothing?* by Katheleen Jacobs, we were inspired and created our own hand and rod puppets. We will be performing for the PK and K. Our array of characters is impressive and we imagine ourselves on a beach in Hawaii attending a pizza party. Thanks to all of the parents who supported this project.



Thanks to Ms. Holly for the informative lessons about Guatemala. We are making tortillas the way that the Mayan people of Central America have done for thousands of years. First we rubbed the corn kernels from the cob. We cooked the corn overnight in lime water. Lime water is water in which calcium has been dissolved, it helps soften the corn and increases the nutritional value. Then we ground the corn into masa, patted it on a hot griddle, and finally, ate them for lunch with carne, frijoles and queso.

-Thanks -
We are truly blessed .

