



STARMAKER NEWSLINE

June 2011

Florence, MBA, President/CEO

Dates to Remember

- 1 Tuition Due
- 10 End of the Year Program and Picnic at 10am
- 13-17 Transition Week for Teachers
- 17 CENTER CLOSED
- 20 Summer Program Begins
Daycare All Day
- 21 Donuts with Dad 8:30am-9:00am

As the school year winds down, I hope that you have recognized that your child has learned to think, observe, and reflect; not memorize and quickly forget. I know our teachers have asked them the right questions and led them to discover the answers for themselves rather than simply provided them with the answers – because this is what we set out to do each day at Starmaker! To all those graduating families this year, we believe that the Montessori educational experience here at Starmaker has helped your child acquire knowledge in the natural way while nurturing their curiosity, creativity, and intellect, to ensure that they are able to thrive independently or work collaboratively with others. I especially wish our graduates and graduating families much success in the future. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to help shape your child’s educational experience and life! They now have the foundational tools to leap ahead wherever they may find themselves.

To our primary and elementary faculty who leave for the summer, let me express my sincere gratitude and thanks for your professionalism, dedication, and commitment to your students and their families and to Starmaker. You have done an outstanding job and I am honored to know and work with you. I wish you a lovely and refreshing summer.

Much was accomplished this year – from improved instruction to the quality of our teachers, school renovations and family interactions! We expressly thank those who participated and made it possible to achieve our goals – to our teachers, thank you for putting your best foot forward, for your dedication to the profession, for your professionalism, and for all your efforts! – To our administrators – thank you for your leadership and unending support of the community! – To the children who make us all come alive – for their innocence, spontaneity, creativity, and unconditional love – if it wasn’t for them, none of us would be here! – To the parents for trusting us with their children and for their generous support of the school – thank you for your support!

As we continue with our summer program, please note that we follow the Montessori philosophy but not the Montessori Method of instruction. Nonetheless, our summer program is recreational yet intellectually stimulating to ensure that the children continue to learn age appropriate concepts throughout the year.

We hope you can join us on June 10th for our graduation program and festivities! We are excited and confident that our graduates have been armed with an education of the heart and mind that will nurture their self-confidence, personal creativity, and intellectual spirit from here on out! Go conquer and succeed! Have a great summer!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

** Remember to sign up for our picnic on June 10th **

** CENTER CLOSED for Professional Responsibilities on June 17th**

Lynn Ennis, Director

The Benefits of the Montessori Environment

As another school year comes to an end, this is a good time to stop and think about how your children (or grandchildren) have changed through their Montessori experience at Starmaker.

The following are three basic Montessori principles: Children learn best when they are encouraged to choose work freely rather than do what they are told. Children learn best in schools that treat them with kindness and respect. Children learn best when they can see and grasp the big picture.

The following are outcomes of a Montessori education: As you read these think about your own children and how they have changed and grown from their year(s) at Starmaker. Montessori children tend to be compassionate and sensitive to nature and others around them. They have the desire to get involved in an activity for pure enjoyment and satisfaction. Montessori children generally follow the rules whether or not parents or teachers are watching. They are confident about what they know but also respect the same from their peers. Montessori children tend to be aware of their words and actions towards others. They normally are great leaders and team players. They tend to be self-directed and independent. Children who attend Montessori schools tend to become confident and competent. As adults, they normally become quite successful. But at the same time, they tend to be able to learn from their mistakes and remain open-minded. When it comes to academics, Montessori provides students with skills that allow them to become independent adults and life-long learners.

We know that Montessori works! There are thousands of Montessori schools around the world and they have produced outstanding graduates for more than one hundred years. Montessori has been the choice of parents who do not conform to the norm but rather value their children's curiosity and creativity more. By having your children at Starmaker, you have given them a great gift. By keeping them in Montessori, you will not only continue to give them the gift of lifelong learning, you will be helping the world by providing the next generation of leaders who understand how to change the world for the better.

"A mind always employed is
always happy."

-Thomas Jefferson

***Important Summer Information ***

Summer is quickly approaching and surely some of you have questions. Below we have provided the most important information that everyone should know about our summer program.

- * Please check your summer calendars each day for events.
- * **Children under 4 may not ride the bus.**
- * **An adult must accompany all 2 year olds on field trips.**
- * On *field trip days*, please make sure your *child arrives by 8:30am*.
- * On *field trip days*, your child ***must wear*** their *Starmaker t-shirt* that will be provided on June 20th.
- * Your child will need a ***packed lunch*** and a ***water bottle*** for ***all field trips*** except for the Cici's pizza field trip.
- * Please do not pack any items that may spoil such as lunch meat.
- * Make sure your child has a bottle of sunscreen along with the sunscreen form.
- * If possible, please put sunscreen on your child before bringing them in.
- * Girls ***must*** wear shorts under their skirts and dresses.
- * Please provide inside shoes as well as sneakers for outside time.
- * If you would like your child to wear ***sandals or flip-flops***, please make sure they have a ***strap around the heel***.
- * Your child will need a swimsuit, water shoes, and a towel in order to participate in splash days.
- * Make sure your child has ***extra clothes*** that are the correct size and are appropriate for the warmer weather.
- * Please make sure you are aware of our **health and medication policies**.

But most of all...have fun!!! This will be a great summer packed with lots of activities. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's teacher or the front office.



Infant 1- Ms. Karen & Ms. Amanda

We would like to say good-bye to Ryan and Gavin who will be moving over to the Infant 2 side. We know that both of you boys will continue to grow and enjoy all your new friends. We would also like to welcome Grace and JJ.

In May, we enjoyed our nature walks and visiting with the Geese down by the pond! We celebrated Mother's Day with Muffins for Mom in our classroom. The babies also had their pictures taken and put onto coffee mugs for their Mom's to enjoy! We have filled our room with artwork of Spring flowers and continued our lessons for practical life skills and our fine motor skills.

In the month of June, we will be enjoying the start of our Splash Days on Wednesdays. Please be sure to bring in swimsuits or onesies as well as little swim diapers. Our themes will be Frogs, Father's Day, and Science. We will be using our bright colored fish to touch on the Science Lesson, our fine motor skills by grasping objects, and our pincer grasping skills.

Please continue to bring in summer clothing for the Infants. If you plan on bringing sunscreen in, please fill out the sunscreen form from the office.



Infant 2 – Ms. Jeannette & Ms. Heather

In the month of May went by so quickly. We had fun making Mother's Day gifts and planting flowers for Earth Day. We would like to say goodbye to Emma and Sadie. Emma moved up to Infant 3 and Sadie is spending the summer with Mom. We will miss both of them. We would like to welcome Sydney, Ryan, Kylie, and Gavin.

In the month of June, we will be learning about Frogs, Father's Day and Science. We will be working on our practical life skills and our large motor skills. Splash Days will be every Wednesday. Please bring a swimsuit or onesies as well as swim diapers. The children will have the opportunity to splash around in a pool that is filled with just a little bit of water.

If you know of anyone would like to donate a swing, jumper or other baby items, please let us know. We would greatly appreciate these extra items. Also, please remember to change out your infant's clothes from winter to summer. Check their finger nails for sharpness.

CONGRATULATIONS...

To Ms. Jeannette for
completing the
Montessori Training!!!

Infant 3- Ms. Karin & Ms. Katie

May was extremely busy! We love the warmer weather. Various activities this month highlighted spring and things that grow. Projects included various painting techniques, coloring, ink pads, and transferring. Skills for the month were pre-writing, sensorial, fine and gross motor, language, and math. The daily circle activities included sign language, language, music, counting, as well as matching colors and shapes. The children are also enjoying dressing Weather Bear during circle.

In June we will shift our theme to summer. Our art and activities will focus on summer activities as well as weather. We will continue to work with various painting techniques and textures. Our daily activities will continue to focus on language, motor skills, math, and practical life. Summer fun will include Splash Day. Look for further information on this coming home soon.

June also brings Graduation and our End of the Year Picnic. These special events are scheduled for June 10th. Information will be coming out soon on specific class times and signing up for a dish.



Toddlers- Ms. Ashley & Ms. Mary

May has brought some unexpected changes to our classroom. Ms. Sarah moved to the Primary 3 classroom. Ms. Jeannie moved to a new work location, and Ms. Brenda relocated to Virginia. They will be greatly missed. We welcomed Ms. Ashley and Ms. Mary to our team.

The children are thriving: **Cameron, June, and Michaela** are our little helpers. **Brennan, Nathaniel, and Isaias** keep us moving to the music, while **John Michael** loves to explore all the new lessons. We are, also, welcoming a new friend to our community – **Owen**.

With summer just around the corner our themes will be Frogs, Oceans, Beaches, Asia, and, of course, Father's day. Please check your child's folder for their work relating to these topics! We hope that it will inspire meaningful conversation with your child as they share their work with you.

One item on our wish list is classroom music by Dr. Thomas Moore. This is his website www.drthomasmoore.com. I Am Special is a CD with great music and movement. Come Sing & Dance With Us - A Dance and Sing Along With Dr. Thomas Moore is a DVD that is moving to music.



Pre-Primary 1 - Ms. Tuana & Ms. Brandy

As spring is winding down and summer is just around the corner, we are enjoying outside time more each day. We were happy to see that our feathery friends at the pond remembered us after such a long break. Our class has matured mentally and physically through exercise of our bodies and minds. We focused on the sounds U, Z and X; worked on the number 9; the colors black and white; and styled our classroom with many art projects representing spring.

In the month of June, we will work on Q, V and Y; review our colors; and enter into the DOUBLE DIGITS. Just a few reminders:

- The summer picnic and graduation program is on June 10th at 10am.
- Make sure you have a copy of the correct summer calendar.

For extra calendars and information about other upcoming events, please see Ms. Tuana or Ms. B.



Pre-Primary 2 - Ms. Megan & Ms. Laura

During the month of May, we experienced a lot of rain. The children watched the weather closely and applied it to the classroom. We talked about growing with plants and people. They really do get excited to be able to have responsibility for their plants and it becomes therapeutic for the children when they become distressed. We have been learning about our bodies and how we use them in our lives as tools. In order to make this experience fun, we incorporated sports into our monthly plans. The children have enjoyed being able to go back outside and have fun with the class as a team. We would like to thank our parents who have volunteered equipment or time to make these lessons possible. June will be for review in the curriculum areas before the school year ends. We still want to encourage our parents to volunteer in the classroom and please check your child's cubby for appropriate clothing. As you know our children are potty training, so it is very important to make sure they have at least 2 of everything. The weather has changed and we will be applying sun block and insect repellent on the children; please make sure your child has the correct forms and cream/spray. A few reminders...on Friday, June 17 the center will be closed. Friday, June 10 will be our end of the year celebration and the children will be performing for the parents, receiving certificates, and enjoying a school picnic. We hope to see all of our parents there!





Primary 1- Ms. Natalya & Ms. Angelique

Our little gardeners proved by working very hard in their flower bed and kitchen garden that the word "May" means in Latin to "protect the plants and help them grow." They were passionate in planting, watering, and taking good care of the flowers and vegetables. We planted our mimosa and avocado trees which are growing from seeds! It is amazing how happy a child is measuring the plants and watching them grow.

During the month of May we also learned about our place in this world. We learned about the universe and the Milky Way galaxy. We found out what the stars are made of and why they twinkle. We also now know that stars are round. It was interesting to learn about red giants and black holes.

Our little friends had fun celebrating Cinco de Mayo by learning about the history of the holiday and hitting the piñata. They were not disappointed to have vegetables and fruits instead of candies.

Special thanks to Ms. Janetta for the great pineapple lesson. We are growing a pineapple too. The reading class with Ms. Katya was very interesting. Ms. Romana and her friend Ms. Amy made an educational reptile and amphibians presentation for the students. Our little zoologists are thankful to the Primary Two parents who shared their snake presentation with us. Thanks to Ms. Pilantana we are watching tadpoles growing in our classroom aquarium.

Mother's Day celebration was nice and funny with all the activities and games. It was good to learn about the different ways people make tea and coffee.

While learning about the food pyramid we made bread and it was delicious. We also traveled to Europe and visited Great Britain. We had a ride on the double decker bus and learned about how to become a knight. We even participated in jousting because we had knight's armor to wear. In Spain we saw flamenco dancing and played the castanets. In France we had croissants and dipped them into coffee as the French do. In Germany we visited many castles. We had Reading Bug party on Friday.

We would like to thank all of the parents for helping organize the Reading Bug party. It was a very special event for the students; they worked very hard and deserved this recognition. Thanks to Tori's family and their friend Mr. Bill, our little friends greatly enjoyed the Macaw parrot. That event inspired them to paint the parrot. We would also like to thank Mr. Jon for bringing in his lizards.

Here are some quotes from the students:

Clare was tossing an eraser that was falling to the floor. The teacher asked her to stop doing this. Clare replied "Silly Miss Natasha, it is not me it is gravity."

Josie asked the teacher to cut an apple for her to eat. When the teacher did this Josie said "Miss Natasha, you did a good thing for me and I will do a good thing for you." She gave the teacher an apple seed and said "You can grow a tree from this seed."



Primary 2- Ms. Erin & Ms. Rachel

The children are readily counting down the days until the end of school! As of June 1, we have 8 days of school left! We have been counting backwards each day since the 45th day and learning a few subtraction lessons along with the countdown! We had a GREAT May together in our classroom! We learned a lot about the reptiles, amphibians, predators, prey, and habitats. Thank you to our awesome in-school visitors- the red rat snake, the ball python, the Painted Lady Butterflies, the mystery cocoons, the baby turtles, the salamander tadpoles, and the blue-gold macaw! The children really enjoyed the awesomely scientific videos we watched by DK Vision Eyewitness Videos on Reptiles and another on Amphibians! We saw some great footage and learned the history of these animals through time! We also learned a lot about insects and butterflies and had a great deal of practice with many of the insect lessons in the classroom! We watched our caterpillars metamorphose into antique chrysalides and then into beautiful butterflies that we released in our school garden! It was a sweet moment that the children enjoyed! We played with Bug Bingo, Butterfly puzzles, memory wing pattern games, matching insect part lessons, and the older children worked on their "I dug a Bug!" report. The basil and tomatoes that we planted petered out over the Spring Break holiday when no one remembered to water the little guys, but the good news is that the new Italian basil is happily sprouting! Our Mother's Day activities were enjoyed by all as we created Self-Portraits that we framed with the children later, made homemade flowers with Ms. Rachel, and created unique keepsake Family Trees! We also learned about the mountain laurel in bloom and learned to find pentagons in nature by observing the petals on the laurel! We enjoyed a solid month together finishing up on our lessons for the school year. We spent a great deal of time reviewing our sounds, math lessons, reading concepts, and also practicing for the program. Three more friends became Sound Masters at the end of the month (bringing the total to 19 children!) and so far, the children in our classroom alone **have read a total record of 490 books and still going!! Way to go!!!!**

In honor of the *COSMIC* (Chamber Orchestra of Southern Maryland in Concert) Symphony performance that we attended last year, the children still plan to paint watercolor interpretations of Vivaldi's 'summer' from "The Four Seasons". It is part of a continuation of a project last year called, "Do you see what I hear" allowing children the opportunities to create artistic visual pieces based on the music they are listening to during the time of the painting.



Primary 3- Ms. Kimberly & Ms. Carmen

Thank you to:

- Crissy Weeks for helping the children with a special Easter egg project!
- All the moms who participated in our "muffins for mom" morning!
- The Guldi family for baking delicious muffins for all the moms!
- Miss Sarah for working hard to foster a smooth transition since Miss Carmen's leaving!
- The Kosich family for their participation in "sound of the week" every week!
- The Goul family for sharing photographs & treasures from their recent trip!

May Morning Group Lessons:

- Studying pictures of various butterflies from different continents
- Observing live caterpillars change into butterflies
- Learning the names of animals that live in Australia
- Studying hand-painted tiles made by Aboriginal people & making our own tiles!
- Learning the differences between insects and spiders

May Enrichment Group Lessons:

- Learning about the parts of a "biome" in our own backyard –soil, water, flora, fauna, air, and energy
- Demonstrating the concept of pursuing peace amongst peoples from all the continents through the peace ring, the peace pole, and "The Peace Pledge"
- Learning facts about animals from Australia such as the kookaburra, koala bear, Tasmanian devil, wombat, echidna, and platypus.
- Listening to music from Australia and playing along with a set of Australian clap sticks

"Favorite Work" of the Month:

This is based on our overall observations of the entire class as a whole. This month it was the "egg slicing and serving". This activity teaches the children how to peel, slice, and serve an egg. This activity strengthens the children's fine & gross motor skills while teaching the children how to use proper manners when serving others.

Curriculum Webbing:

Each month our classroom activities will involve 1 – 2 "featured studies". June's topics will be The United States, Animals from the Grasslands of North America and Sea life/Fossils. *If you have any resources/objects/pictures/music about these themes, please schedule a time with Kimberly to share them with the class, or please send the items in a tote bag with written information.

Sound of the Week:

We will be continuing our initial sound study this month by reviewing all the phonetic sounds that we have learned. Every Friday, your child may bring a small object beginning with their favorite sound. They need to put their object into their cubby until the teacher asks them to share it. This helps them to review the phonetic sounds: Fri. June 3rd for their favorite sound: a-z

Parent/Child Work time:

Primary 3 parents are invited to a "Parent/Child Work time" on Friday, June 10th. (Please see Miss Lynn for a schedule of times to coordinate our event with siblings' programs) This is a special time for the children to teach their parents! During this time, the children are given the opportunity to present their favorite lessons to their parents. You, the parent, will act as the child, watching and learning as your child demonstrates various lessons.

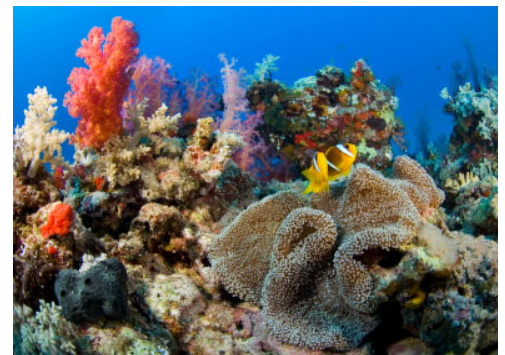
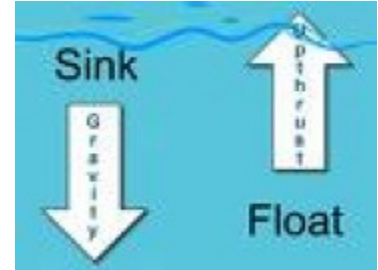
Elementary- Ms. Stephanie & Ms. LaTherese

The students are looking forward to the annual Science Fair on Friday, June 10th! We will have many displays, as the students have asked many important questions, such as: Can you make a battery from a lemon? How are craters formed? What is compost? We are excited to present and have worked hard to thoroughly understand each topic.

The end of May brought out our final units. We studied French verbs through the use of our Berlitz textbook and flashcards. We reviewed the suffix "ing" and showed how to apply it to numerous English verbs. We have worked with density in our Sink or Float lesson. Many students have pulled out the multiplication board, abacus, and long chains to practice their multiplication facts. Our study of Australia has intrigued students, especially when we talk about coral reefs.

Finally, we open an introduction to our Chesapeake Bay Lab as we gear up for another year of experiences. Next year we will be working with our science teachers Ms. Laurretta and Ms. Melissa on a hands-on look into the waters that surround us. We will have the opportunity to meet with them over the summer as well – please contact me if you would like your child to take part in these activities and I have not already heard from you.

I want to wish each family a summer full of great memories, and I look forward to seeing you back in the fall!



Homework Center – Ms. Lolisa

Our May activities were so much fun. We did lots of art activities as well as spent a lot of time outside after all of our homework was finished! As this month has progressed, Ms. Lolisa and Ms. LaTherese have learned a lot about the children both academically and personally.

Everyone is gearing up and looking forward to the summer program. The teachers have many fun-filled activities planned to compliment the previously scheduled calendar activities and themes. Please make sure you read over the important summer reminders on page 3 of the newsletter as most of the information pertains to the schoolage children.



Classroom Closing Reminder

Lately, we have been having some issues with late-pick ups. Please keep in mind that our **late pick-up policy** is as follows:

Infants to Pre-Primary rooms CLOSE at 5:30pm

Primary & Elementary rooms CLOSE at 6:00pm

If your child's classroom closes at 5:30pm and you pick-up after that, you will be charged \$5 for the first 15 minutes that you are late and \$1 per minute thereafter.

If your child's classroom closes at 6:00pm and you pick-up after that, you will be charged \$1 per minute that you are late.

Although we understand that situations may arise, being habitually late is unacceptable. If you know that you will be running late, please call the school to let your child's teacher know. Any questions or concerns about this issue can be directed to the front office. Thank you.



Student Birthdays

Xavia Luter	Jun 8
Zachary Schaff	Jun 10
Fiona Insley	Jun 15
Jacen McLeod	Jun 15
Madison Hevener	Jun 22
Sasha Stanishevskiy	Jun 24
Courtney Hutt	Jun 24
Cameron Novotny	Jun 26
Jacob Wilson	Jun 29

JUNE 2011						
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
JULY 2011						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Teacher Birthdays

Mary Schadegg	Jun 20
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Upcoming Events

Tuition due	Jul 1
2011-2012 School Year Supply Fee Due	Ju1 1
CENTER CLOSED	Ju1 4