



# STARMAKER NEWSLINE

May 2011

## Florence, MBA, President/CEO

### Dates to Remember

- 1 Tuition Due
- 2 Summer Activity Fees Due
- 3 National Teacher's Day
- 9 Muffins with Mom 8:30am – 9am
- 13 Morning Classes Only  
Daycare All Day
- 30 CENTER CLOSED  
for Memorial Day

### Community Work Day – Thank You!

Much was accomplished during our recent community work day on Saturday, April 16. Although attendance was low, the parents, children, and staff that attended were very dedicated and achieved all of the projects we had scheduled. Thanks to **Steve and Erica Wible** and their children, **Lucy and Brandon** for their help with painting the shelves for the twos classrooms, the black bone wall, and organizing the library in the homework center! Thanks to **Dawn Barrett** and son, **David** who helped paint shelves in the twos classroom, the front door, and the elementary classroom! Thanks to **Janetta Ellis** and son, **Wyatt** for painting shelves in the twos classroom and elementary classroom and painting the elementary and homework center!

Thanks to our teachers **Ms. Stephanie** and husband, **Dennis** for helping paint the primary hallway and homework center and for setting up afterwards, **Ms. Natalya** for working in the garden "in the rain", washing her windows, and for taking pictures to document our work! Thanks to **Ms. Tuana** for helping and organizing the twos classrooms. Thanks to the infant teachers (**Ms. Jeanette, Ms. Karen H., and Ms. Amanda**) for staying after work on the Thursday before our work day to paint their shelves and cubbies. A special thanks to **Ms. Lynn** for coordinating and organizing the entire process! As the saying goes, "many hands make light work" – we accomplished so much and our children are the recipient of the changes that were made! If I missed anyone else, please know that your work and support was appreciated!

### Referral Program for Parents

Beginning in May 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011, we are pleased to offer a parent referral program. Current **Starmaker families will receive \$50 off** one month's tuition for referring a new family to our school. For details on how to participate in the program, please contact the office.

### National Teacher's Day

In recognition of National Teacher's Day on Tuesday, May 3, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all of our teachers for their dedication and hardwork each and every day! May you continue to excel doing what you love doing – educating and caring for our young children!

Thanks to all those who participated in the **Japanese Tsunami Relief** – it was quite a success as our community pulled together to support others in need. We raised a total of \$632.

**Happy Mother's Day to all of our Moms!**

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

\*\* Remember that summer activity fees are due by May 2<sup>nd</sup>! \*\*

\*\* Please join us on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> for muffins with mom! \*\*

## Lynn Ennis, Director

### What Children Deserve

Children deserve parents who make sure that they find the support and nurture that they need so they can wholeheartedly love them.

Children deserve parents who love one another and treat each other with kindness and respect even if the marriage doesn't last.

Children deserve parents who like themselves and who have creative work that they enjoy in addition to their employment.

Children deserve parents who like their work and want their children to know about it and why it's important.

Children deserve parents who remember that when children spill the milk that they used to spill it too.

Children deserve parents who will rock them to sleep with a lullaby and tuck them into bed with a story and kiss.

Children deserve parents who will take them for a walk through a garden of flowers rather than buying them another toy.

Children deserve parents who take them to the library regularly and come home with books about people who dream great dreams and overcome immense difficulties.

Children deserve parents who are willing to slow down from the rat race long enough to enter into the wonder of discovery with them.

Children deserve parents who allow them to work alongside, at their own pace, and with appropriate jobs so that each can feel a sense of accomplishment and completion.

Children deserve parents who are very selective about television watching, who study the program guide to know what quality programs exist instead of using the remote to channel change.

Finally children deserve parents who have an extended family network of support.

These ideas are inspired from an article written by fellow Montessorian, Sara Wenger-Shenk.

Something to think about!

## Educational Program

### "Follow the Child." – What does it mean?

- By Natalya Cisneros

Maria Montessori believed that children have a natural interest in learning. Children learn more if they are active participants in their own education. Following the child typically means observing the child in the classroom and using his interest and intellectual capabilities as a guide. The teacher offers and presents lessons to the child based his interest and his level of ability. The teacher "follows the child" to his potential with no educational or curriculum limits.

The Montessori philosophy stands on the belief that the child instinctively knows what he needs to do. You can see the child in the Montessori classroom trying a lesson, doing it several times, returning it to the shelf, and then doing it again until he masters it. All this takes place without the teacher's interference. Someone may believe that "follow the child" means just placing your hands behind yourself and watching what the child is doing. But "following the child" is not that simple.

Personally, I believe it means that you are taking the child's hand and pretending that he and I are walking through a beautiful meadow full of grass and flowers. If the child stumbles I have his hand and can help him stand and move ahead. While walking together on this beautiful meadow path I can direct his attention to the birds singing, sun shining, and beautiful flowers on both sides of the path. He may want to smell the flowers or pick them for his mother and I will be happy to observe him doing this.



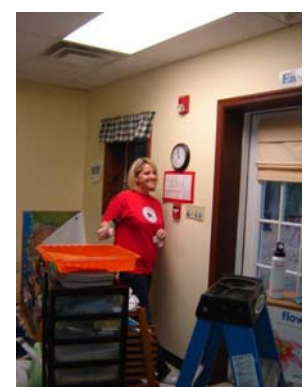
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"Try not to become a man of success but a man of value"

-Albert Einstein

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# Starmaker Community Day April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011



## Infant 1- Ms. Karen & Ms. Amanda

April went by so quickly! The babies enjoyed being read stories about Easter. We filled our room and walls with bright artwork that the babies got to take home and enjoy with their families. The Easter bunny visited our room and took pictures with each baby. We continue to encourage the babies with tummy time and social skills. On Earth Day, we enjoyed a nature walk and took in all the Spring Blooms.

In May, we said good-bye to Zoe. She has moved over to the Infant 2 side. She will be missed so much and her sweet giggles. Zoe will continue to grow with Ms. Jeanette. Our May themes will be Mexico, Mother's Day, and Farm Animals.



### Important Dates:

May 9th Muffins with Mom! From 8:30 am - 9:00 am

May 30th Closed for Memorial Day

Please remember to bring in lightweight clothing since we will be spending more time outside.

## Infant 2 – Ms. Jeannette & Ms. Heather

We would like to say good-bye to Ruby who is moving up to Infant 3 with Ms. Karin and Ms. Katie. We will miss you. We would also like to welcome Zoe from Infant 1.

In April, we had fun planting flowers for Earth Day. The infants have enjoyed going out and watering them and playing on the deck.

In the month of May, we will be learning about Mexico, Mother's Day, Farm Animals and Nature. We will be working on our practical life skills and our fine motor skills. With the weather becoming warm enough for us to stay outside longer, we would like you to bring a bottle of sunscreen for your infant so we can avoid getting the infants sunburned.



### Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

May 9<sup>th</sup> Muffins for Mom 8:30am to 9:00am

May 30<sup>th</sup> Center Closed for Memorial Day

Please remember to bring appropriate clothes for the warmer weather as well as take home your child's winter clothes. Thank you.

## Infant 3- Ms. Karin & Ms. Katie

April was a lot of fun! The children enjoyed more frequent outside time. We dyed eggs and had a visit from the Easter Bunny. Various activities highlighted Arbor Day, Earth Day, Easter, spring and rain. Projects included various painting techniques, coloring and inkpads. Skills for the month were pre-writing, sensorial, fine and gross motor, language, practical life, and math. The daily circle activities included opposites, sign language, language, music, counting, and shapes. We have also added Weather Bear to circle time. We introduced weather (hot/cold, rain/sun) and clothing.

Our spring theme will continue through May. We will discuss the flowers and things that grow. Our activities and projects will include spring and Mother's Day. We will be working with purple, pink, green, and yellow. . Other activities will include pre-writing (painting and coloring), sensorial (finger painting, texture cards and books), fine motor, language, and practical life (scooping and pouring). We will continue our daily lessons of counting, shapes, sign language, and music.



Luka joined our class in April. The children were excited to have a new friend! John Michael and Owen have graduated to Ms. Brenda's class. Ruby will be joining us in May. We look forward to watching everyone grow with their new surroundings.

## Toddlers- Ms. Brenda & Ms. Sarah

After all the refreshing April showers, we WELCOME the colorful flowers of May, along with two new friends – Michaela, and John Michael. We are also saying a sad "farewell" to Luke, as he moves over to the two-year-old community.

Some April highlights: Brennan has been perfecting his pitching arm by thoroughly enjoying our beanbag toss. Nathaniel is honing his fine motor skills practicing with our tong lesson. Cameron has become our little helper. Isaias is moving to the music: he especially enjoyed moving to the "Beanbag Dance;" and June is our budding painter. Everyone enjoyed petting Ms. Brenda's puppy, Shala, and feeding the goldfish.



Our themes for the coming month are: Mother's Day, Flowers, Caterpillars, Butterflies, and Bugs. 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. Remember that your child is in the sensitive period for language, which at this age can still show itself in the form of "babbling;" so let them babble all they want to about their work, while you agree with all they say, and it will be "meaningful conversation" to them.

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

What a great way to start springtime fun! During nature walks, we talked about the leaves and how the breeze made us feel, we duplicated some Olympic activities, and discussed Earth Day. Our class talked about umbrellas and rain as well as experimented with water. We had a visit and took pictures with the Easter Bunny, and then we went on a search for goodies left behind. Our walls were colorfully decorated with art projects. The purple party was a blast and to top it all off, we had a guest readers. We would like to send a great big thank you to Ms. Janetta Ellis and Zane Ellis for sharing with us. As a reminder, we ask that you please check your child's cubby for appropriate clothing. In addition, we began a wonderful collection of socks; please ask Ms. Tuana or Ms. Brandy for assistance. In the month of April, we will focus on the colors black and white, the number nine, and phonics x, u, and z. Phew! We have such a challenge ahead. Also, please keep your school calendar handy for updates and keep in mind that there is always information located on the Parent Board. Make sure you check it out!



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

In the month of April, Pre-Primary two worked on growing. Each child brought in a plant and nurtured it. They all had routines and were very upset if they missed a turn to water and wipe down their plant. They have really showed outstanding qualities of responsibility. We look forward to seeing the plants bloom in May. We are now on the second stage of butterflies. We watched the small caterpillars eat and eat. They grew and now there are asleep in their cocoons. We are anxiously waiting, every day, to see caterpillars. We want to Thank Erica and Steve Wible for putting so much work into our classroom during our Community Work Day. They have painted out shelves, made new lessons (from scratch), and are always willing to give a helping hand. The children enjoyed seeing the Easter Bunny and had a wonderful time finding eggs at the Egg Hunt. As we begin the month of May, we want to focus on Sports. We will be working on movement, different equipment, and identifying the many different sports. If any parents would like to volunteer or bring in equipment please email Miss Megan or leave a note in the parent notebook. We also are reviewing this month since the end of the year is quickly approaching. During the month of May we will celebrate Muffins with Mom on May 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30, please come and join us. Remember to check your child's cubbies for an appropriate change of clothes.





## Primary 1- Ms. Natalya & Ms. Angelique

The month of April means, "to open up" in Latin. Our little friends were observing nature "opening up." They learned about the parts of the plant and parts of the seed. They planted many seeds in the classroom and now it looks like a greenhouse. The students love to watch the plants grow. Now they know what Botany is. We made a scientific experiment planting seeds in different environments and determining what they need to grow. The students worked very hard digging and planting their seedlings in our kitchen garden and taking care of our flower garden.



Dear Parents, thank you very much for participating in the Japanese Tsunami Relief Week. The students were very proud donating to the Japanese children and were very happy to receive a bag of cookies and a certificate. We would like to give special thanks to Ms. Janetta for creating the special certificate. The field trip to the Japanese Restaurant was a nice conclusion to the Japanese Tsunami Relief Week. We would like to thank the parents who were involved with the trip to the restaurant.



Everyone enjoyed meeting cats and dogs during the Pet Appreciation Week. Our little friends were happy to meet Miss Becky with her stories about the dinosaurs. Our little artists spent a lot of time painting in April. You might have noticed that our hallway turned into a gallery.



Though it rained during the Community Day we accomplished much at school. A special thanks to David and Wyatt's families! Your valuable time and help is greatly appreciated.

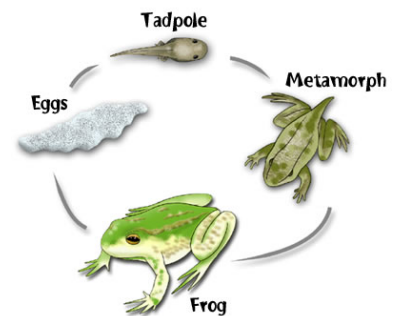


## Primary 2- Ms. Erin & Ms. Rachel

Welcome warmer weather! The children have been spending more time outside as the weather warms up and taking note of the changes in the season around us! We enjoyed three nice long weeks together in April and accomplished all of our goals and then some! Our birthday celebrations kept us very busy this month as we celebrated six of them! In the beginning of the month we learned all about the water cycle and characteristics of water, and why it is so vital to our bodies and our Earth. The children learned that amphibians begin their life in water, which led us to learn all about the characteristics of amphibians as we started to enjoy our many amphibian lessons! Jacen's family helped us explore our learning even more by sharing some of their amphibian friends from home! All of the children learned the parts of, matched different amphibian skin and markings, learned about the life cycle, practiced with anatomy puzzles, and even looked at an X-ray of an amphibian! The older children finished their Amphibian Research papers and drawings as well! Due to all of the April showers and little storms that came around, the older children showed such interest that we took a detour and read a chapter book about different types of storms- they then wrote about the storms on their sentence paper and illustrated their work. Our recyclable art project for the month of April was fun too! The children made pizzas from recycled products in our homes and classrooms! They topped their pizza with olives (dried black beans), cheese (shredded paper), basil leaves, and pepperoni (art project pom-poms!) They used two types of glue, math skills, and watercolor to create their pizzas! We learned about fractions this month and practiced with those lessons and we enjoyed making our "What will the baby be?" bar graph predicting the gender of Ms. Erin's baby! We finished the month with our Earth Day celebrations and more planting and recycled art projects for the children to enjoy all summer! The children learned all about what happens to our trash after it goes to the transfer station. We read quite a few books on recycling, taking care of the Earth, and making environmentally friendly decisions.

We have more and more blossoming readers as each month passes and we are looking forward to this last full month of school! There are so many children on the cusp of a learning concept and we are looking forward to this month being the month that brings it all together! We will begin the month of May by counting down the days until the end of school year, learning about Cinco de Mayo and practicing our Spanish food words, and we will begin to work on our Mother's Day projects! We invite our classroom Moms and Grandmothers to our annual Mother's Day Celebration in our classroom on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> if you would like to come in to work with your son or daughter on a few projects. There will be a sign-up sheet in the classroom on the Parent Board if you are able to join us. We will really focus on our schoolwork and our lessons for the rest of the month of May and try very hard to accomplish all of our individual goals for the 2010-2011 school year! This year has really flown by and the children have so much to be proud of!

Thank you to a few all-star parents this month who helped us in small ways with our classroom! Thank you: Erica Wible for donating the cool book about bizarre animals around the world (we looked up bizarre amphibians); Audrey Cosgrove for her dedication to the Scholastic Book Orders which we enjoy so much; Jacen McLeod's family for the amphibian visitors; Megan McDowell for her creative Earth Day project idea (making purses and bags from juice boxes!); and thank you Colleen Singleton for donating the project we intend to use for our Mother's Day Celebrations! AND thank you to Ms. Rachel and Ms. Sarah for their hard work and dedication to our classroom!



## Primary 3- Ms. Kimberly & Ms. Carmen

### Thank you to:

- Patricia Manuel for bringing apples to share with our class!
- All the families who donated money during Japanese relief week!
- The Stack Family for sharing a special lesson about lifecycles with our class!
- Stacie Capparrato for bringing cupcakes and goodie bags to share with our class!
- The Lambert Family for sharing Ella's timeline and a yogurt snack with our class!
- All the families who participated in "Community Work Day"!

### April Morning Group Lessons:

- Exploring objects from India, China, Russia, and Japan such as books, dolls, coins, building models, jewelry, tapestry, and wood-carved objects
- Learning how to make chai tea from India using a mortar and pestle
- Observing 3 famous pieces of art, "The Farmer, Starry Starry Night, and Mona Lisa and learning how to create a rubbing of these masterpieces
- Learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly and the lifecycle of a frog
- Observing twelve different varieties of butterflies and challenging ourselves to find them in nature over the next two months

### April Enrichment Group Lessons:

- Learning about animals from Asia such as the panda, gibbon, orangutan, water buffalo, wild boar, tiger, 2-humped camel, chevrotain, and elephant
- Exploring flags from Asia and locating the country that each flag represents on our map of Asia
- Reading folktales from India such as "The Emperor's Moustache"
- Listening to a poem called "The Caterpillar" by Christina Rossetti and locating the rhyming words in the poem

### "Favorite Work" of the Month:

This is based on our overall observations of the entire class as a whole. This month it was the "The Kinex Educational models of the caterpillar, the butterfly, the moth, the tadpole and the frog". The Stack Family donated this activity to our class for the month! In this activity, the children connected specific pieces as they follow a blueprint of the model. This activity strengthens the children's ability to problem solve and to follow directions.

### Curriculum Webbing:

Each month our classroom activities will involve 1 – 2 "featured studies". May's topics will be South America, Introduction to Botany, and Insects. \*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 introducing "consonant digraphs". Every Friday, your child may bring a small object beginning with our consonant digraph of the week. They need to put their object into their cubby until the teacher asks them to share it. This helps them to learn the following consonant digraphs: Fri. May 6th for the sound: ch; Fri. May 13th for the sound: th; Fri. May 20th for the sound: sh; Fri. May 27th for the sound: tr

## Elementary- Ms. Stephanie & Ms. LaTherese

April Madness! We had so many wonderful units in March that the students thoroughly enjoyed. Of highest ranking, I would have to say that our invention research reports hit the spot. We learned about Thomas Edison, and all of his marvelous ideas. We investigated the beginnings of sports and schools and found that organized football predates traditional schooling – what a fact! Students chose to look up topics such as: bicycles, writing paper, book covers, and glue sticks. We had a great experience learning the history of common items we use today.

In May we are looking forward to visiting various farms to learn more about horticulture. We will spend time at Scarborough Farms as well as Southern Comfort Berry Farm. I encourage you to plan a family outing to another farm to reinforce these learning objectives this month. May I suggest: Forrest Hall Farm or Serenity Farm. There are also many vineyards to scope out in this gorgeous spring weather! We look forward to serving up some new recipes with fresh ingredients from our excursions. We also have planted strawberries and chives in our classroom, along with a wide variety of flowers. We will watch them sprout and record our observations. We plan to send them home as they reach 3 inches tall.

Just before we left on Spring Break we performed our Earth Day Play: An Earth Day Carol. Our audience was large and they surely enjoyed the performance. As we return and get back into gear we will start practicing for another play – possibly our last of the year. So please feel free to pull out all of your props and costume accessories as we round out our drama unit.

Our language center has been rearranged to include new paragraph and phonogram drawers. Students have begun their road to completion as they work through each drawer and check off their success on our charts. Next in line are our new mathematics drawers that will contain a review of the 4 basic operations as well as a review of factoring, cubing, and geometry for our older students. We will work hard to complete workbooks as we draw into the last couple of month in our school year. We have had a wide variety of accomplishments, but refuse to rest before the last day arrives. Encourage your child to embrace these last months of their school year, rather than counting down to summer vacation.

As always, thank you for your never-ending support!



## Homework Center – Ms. Lolisa

The month of April was full of fun changes and activities. We had to say sad good-byes to Ms. Julia and Ms. Tiffany, but we were excited to have Ms. Lolisa and Ms. LaTherese join our program. Our Easter Egg Hunt was rained out but we still managed to have a great time finding eggs and doing Easter themed activities inside. Now that the weather is getting warmer, we intend on spending more time outside. Please make sure your child has a sun block permission form on file as well as sun block that contains insect repellent in the classroom. We recommend the Bull Frog brand sun block.

In May, we will be looking forward to Muffins with Mom on May 9<sup>th</sup> as well as all of our Cinco de Mayo and Memorial Day activities. Parents, if you have any special requests regarding homework time, please see Ms. Lolisa. We hope that everyone will be participating in our summer program that begins on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The summer program is packed full of fun activities and themed weeks.



## Planet Green Recycling Program

We can all feel good about helping our environment. The Planet Green Recycling Program is going well so keep up the good work everyone! Also, keep in mind that we will be participating in this program year round.

Please remember that in addition to recycling ink cartridges and cell phones, the Planet Green Program also allows you to purchase ink cartridges from their website! If you would like to support us by purchasing your ink cartridges from Planet Green, please visit:

[www.planetgreenrecycle.com/starmakerschool](http://www.planetgreenrecycle.com/starmakerschool).



## Target Reading Program

Now that the school year is winding down, we would like to thank everyone who participated in our yearlong Target reading program. Thank you to everyone who donated their time to come into our classrooms to read to the children. They really enjoyed all of the special guest readers. With the Target grant money we were able to purchase many books and language lessons for all of the classrooms, which the children are using now and will be able to use for a long time to come. Thanks again!



## Student Birthdays

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Jacquelin Hartigan  | May 5  |
| Luke Cofer          | May 6  |
| Zachary Claus       | May 11 |
| John Wyatt Fahed    | May 29 |
| Arjun Bains-Shepard | May 31 |

| MAY 2011 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 1        | 2  | 3  | 4  | 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 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| JUNE 2011 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|           |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 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 |    |    |

## Teacher Birthdays

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Jeannette Miller | May 12 |
| Natalya Cisneros | May 19 |
| Carmen Hurtado   | May 21 |
| Jessica Herbert  | May 22 |

## Upcoming Events

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Tuition due                                     | Jun 1     |
| End of the Year Program & Picnic at 10am        | Jun 10    |
| Transition Week for Teachers                    | Jun 13-17 |
| CENTER CLOSED for Professional Responsibilities | Jun 17    |
| Summer Camp Begins!!!                           | Jun 20    |
| Donuts with Dad 8:30am-9am                      | Jun 21    |