

# STARMAKER NEWSLINE

October 2011

**Florence, MBA, President/CEO**

## Dates to Remember

- 1** Tuition Due
- 10** CENTER CLOSSES at 12pm
- 10-14** Fire Prevention Week
- 26** Parent Ed Night at 5pm
- 31** BAE Halloween Walk  
at 2pm

---

"The human hand allows the mind to reveal itself."

-Maria Montessori

---

## The Importance of Routines

For many of us, back to school signifies back to routines! After the summer, children usually struggle to get back into their school routines. Teachers are usually anxious to get children back into their routines at school to ensure ample opportunities for learning, sharing, and growth.

Routines are important for young children because:

- They help children develop a sense of stability and order.
- They help reassure children that their world is safe and secure.
- They help reassure children that their needs will be met.
- They set a solid foundation for learning more complex skills.
- They are the building blocks of independence.
- When children know what to expect they do better.

Children who are on a routine benefit because:

- Routine helps children get on a schedule.
- Routine helps promote independence – take charge of their own activities like brushing teeth, tying shoes, eating etc.
- Routines eliminate power struggles and limits challenging behaviors.
- Schedules help parents maintain consistency in expectations.

One of the most important routines for young children is sleeping and naptime:

- Lack of sleep causes poor behavior, inability to concentrate, and hinders growth.
- Pick an appropriate time for bedtime – young children (1-3 yrs) should have 10-13 hours & (3-10 yrs) 10-12 hours of sleep each day (24 hour period).
- Be consistent – follow the same process each night and even on weekends.
- Leave the room while the child is still awake.
- Spend some time unwinding before starting the bedtime routine.
- Read a "goodnight" book or sing lullaby songs – make it a routine.

Children who are not on a sleep schedule or routine do exhibit behavioral problems in school and this rubs them and their friends of an enjoyable learning experience. Please help make this school year an enjoyable learning experience for your children by ensuring they are on a routine! Happy Fall!

## Lynn Ennis, Director

### Teaching Math and Language at Home

Parent Education Night is Wednesday, Oct. 26. The teachers are currently preparing an educational, as well as entertaining, learning experience for you. The topic is "A Philosophical View of the Montessori Math and Language Curriculum". The philosophical topics that will be covered are Sense of Order, Cycle of Activity, Three Period Lesson, Control of Error and Points of Interest.

The Montessori Math curriculum is fascinating to learn about and provides children with such a strong foundation of quantity as well as the symbols associated with each quantity. The materials build sequentially on previous learning, they introduce concrete learning before abstract learning, they are self-correcting and they isolate the difficulty. Montessori teachers are fortunate to have such great materials at their fingertips to teach such concepts. Parents often ask what they can do at home to further their child's understanding of quantity and numbers. Listed below are a few activities to try at home:

**Ice cube tray counting:** Write down numbers in an ice cube tray or place stickers in the empty section of a candy box. Let your child count and place the required numbers of buttons or beads in each section.

**Movement counting:** Combine exercise with numbers. Let your child look at the date on the calendar. If it is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, encourage your child to touch their toes 10 times or clap 10 times or jump up and down 10 times.

**Indoor number search:** Look for numbers inside your house – on cans, books, newspapers, the phone book, shoes sizes, clothes tags, etc.

**Tactile numbers:** Let your child dip a paintbrush in paint and trace numbers, which you have written on a sheet of paper.

**One-to-one correspondence:** Line up 10 containers with numbers on them from 0 to 10. Give your child 55 objects – spoons, paper clips, small erasers, etc., and have him/her put the required number of objects into each container. By the time your child is finished, there should be no objects left (control of error).

The Montessori Language curriculum combines phonetics and whole language. Similar to the Math area of the classroom the Language area is filled with a wealth of materials to inspire young children and spark their interest. Children are first introduced to the sounds of each letter using the sandpaper letters. Once they have mastered sounds they can begin to write and read words by linking the sounds together. Again parents have asked what they can do at home to follow up with what is being taught at school. I have included a few activities that might be helpful:

- Reinforce Lowercase Letters and Phonetic Sounds: Always teach and reinforce lower case letters (not capitals) as well as the phonetic sounds of each letter (not the actual name). In reading it is the 'sounds' that count.

- Promote Writing with a Dry Erase Board: If your child has begun to write at school, let your child write on a dry erase board. They love the dry erase markers. They can practice forming letters over and over again.

- Magnetic Letters: Encourage children to play with magnetic letters and to explore letter/sound relations.

- Read Everyday: The more you read to children the better equipped they will be to identify the sounds in words, to build words on their own and to begin the reading process.

Hope to see everyone on Oct. 26 for our annual Parent Education Night! Childcare will be provided.

## Educational Program

Discipline is Something You Do **for** Someone

By: Natalya Cisneros, Primary One Teacher

The Primary One parents gave me the idea for discussing consequential management of behaviors. Some of the parents orally tell the child of the consequences of their behavior and others made behavior charts.

Consequential behavior is something we live with but do not think often about. Every day we face choices we need to make. We cannot escape the consequences of our choices. There are consequences to every action we make: choosing not to brush our teeth, eating unhealthy food; smoking, etc.

We know what happens when we do not observe red traffic lights because we are adults. And what about a child; are they aware of their actions? Most of the time, a child is not aware of their actions. Between three to six years of age a child does not have enough life experience or knowledge. It is the role of the parents and teachers to teach them.

Consequential behavior management is a positive response to challenging behavior. It gives the child a choice and an opportunity to learn and make the right decisions.

Helping a child acquire self-discipline often requires great self-discipline from us adults. Enforcing the consequences of undisciplined behavior is a difficult and unpleasant task. It is easier not to notice or ignore undisciplined behavior. How many times have we told a child to put away their toys or they would not be able to go to the park? And when seeing that they do not comply, we take them anyway. We give up and do what they want us to do.

Here are some suggestions that may help your child become self-disciplined:

- 1) Make sure you explain to your child the Law of Cause and Effects.
- 2) Do not set rules that you cannot or will not enforce.
- 3) Make sure your child understands the consequences of his choice. Tell him what will happen if he does not make the correct choice.
- 4) Be consistent and fair with your rules even if it is not comfortable for you or you feel sorry for your child.
- 5) Remember that consequential management of behavior is not a punishment. You are helping your child live with the consequences of his choices.
- 6) Start being self-disciplined.

Helping your child learn is well worth your efforts.

“Discipline is something you do **for** somebody...”

- Lou Holtz (Notre Dame Football coach)

## Infant 1- Ms. Ashley & Ms. Keonna



The month of September went by so quickly. We had lots of fun enjoying the cooler weather. We would like to welcome Grayden, Ms. Ashley, and Ms. Keonna to our class. We would also like to take this opportunity to say good-bye to Grace, Ms. Karen, and Ms. Amanda who all moved to the Toddler classroom. We will miss all of you!

October will be full of fun activities and learning about Fire Prevention, the Fall Harvest, and Pumpkins. We will also be working on our large motor skills this month. Each infant will have a different skill to work on. Now that the weather has been so much nicer, we will be taking more walks with the babies. Please remember to check your child's drawer for clothes and jackets that are appropriate for the cooler weather.



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

We would like to say good-bye to Zoe who transitioned into the Infant 3 class and to Ms. Heather. We will miss both of you. We would like to welcome Grace from Infant 1 and Ms. Brandy from the Pre-Primary 1 class.

Thank you to the Grandparents who were able to make it to the Grandparents' Luncheon. All the babies had fun playing with the grandparents. We had lots of fun making the grandparent gift to send to our grandparents. We had fun making applesauce in class.

In the month of October, we will be learning about Fire Prevention, Fall Harvest and Pumpkins. We also will be working on our large motor skills; getting our legs strong to stand and our arms strong for pulling up.

Now that the weather has cooled down a bit, we will be going on more walks. Please bring a lightweight jacket for you infant. The infants really like going outside and watching the trees blow.

On October 31st, we will have our BAE Halloween walk at 2:00pm. Please remember to bring your child's costume that day. We will change them into their costumes around 1:30pm. Parent volunteers for this event are greatly appreciated.



## Infant 3- Ms. Karin, & Ms. Sarah

September was busy! Our art and activities focused on end of Summer/beginning of Fall, apples, red, green, and yellow. Our newest students were introduced to coloring and various painting techniques, while our older classmates enjoyed some of their favorites. New practical life lessons were introduced, as well as math. During circle time we enjoyed stories, songs, colors, shapes, sign language, and opposites. Our new friends have settled into our routine quickly. Welcome Sadie, Zoe, and Jon!



In October we will continue our Fall theme discussing weather, pumpkins, leaves, orange, yellow, and red. We will have a variety of art and activities. We will continue our circle time activities and begin introducing opposites. We have a field trip planned for October 7<sup>th</sup> to Forrest Hall Farm. Please make sure to turn in your field trip form and money on time. We will also have our Halloween Walk through BAE on October 31<sup>st</sup>. It is always lots of fun! We hope you can join us for both of these special events.

With the hint of cooler weather, please remember to check your child's cubby for season appropriate clothing. Along with the cooler weather comes cold/flu season. Please take a few minutes to review our health policy.

## Toddlers- Ms. Karen, & Ms. Amanda

In September, we celebrated two birthdays with Nathaniel and Isaias who recently moved to the Pre-Primary environment. We also celebrated Johnny Apple seed's Birthday by reading a story. Grandparents' Day was so much fun for the Toddlers. We made special art projects just for them! We celebrated Elephant Day on the 22nd by doing artwork and reading. Autumn began on the 23rd and we enjoyed reading a poem and listening to music. August was a crazy month as it brought us an Earthquake and a Hurricane! Despite the crazy weather, we still managed to go outdoors and enjoy the playground!

In October, we look forward to taking in the cooler weather and going on nature walks so we can gather leaves for our art projects. We will be welcoming Dana and Emma to the Toddler side! The Toddlers will be exploring all the different trees, leaves, acorns, and the many other Fall changes. We are also looking forward to the annual BAE Halloween Walk and our Pumpkin Patch Field trip on October 7<sup>th</sup>.



### Important Dates to Remember:

Columbus Day	Monday, October 10th
Fire Prevention Week	Tuesday, October 11th - 14th
BAE Halloween Parade	Monday, October 31st

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

What a great start to the school year! The children are successfully switching from summertime fun into school mode. During the month of September, we learned about apples, transportation, back to School, and spent time "getting to know you". We also enjoyed slicing lessons as well as worked on the letters A, S, T, M and B. To end the month, we had an APPLE PARTY! Congratulations to the Leigh Family for their winning dish! Thank you parents for participating! All of your apple treats were so good! Without you we could not have had such a successful month.

To introduce the month of October, we will focus on autumn, pumpkins, washing, fire safety, "greeting friends," and will continue with letters A, S, B, M, and T. As the seasons begin to change we encourage you to bring in a jacket for your child as well as check your child's cubbie for age and weather appropriate clothing. As a reminder, we would like to direct your attention to a NEW area on the parent board entitled "Coming this Month". Lastly, we would like to encourage you to have fun with your child at home, so this year we will include things that you can do at home with your child for one month.

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

Pre Primary II has started off the new school year with a great start. In September, we learned about each other. We explored our families, our school, and ourselves. We discussed all of the similarities and differences. The children learned that we are all different but we have common bonds. It is beneficial for the children to get to know each other, even at their age.

Fall is here! The children have started to notice small changes like the clothes they are wearing, sunlight, and the color change of the leaves. It is so awesome when they acknowledge these changes and want to learn more. The children are definitely at the stage where, "Why?" is their main question. We encourage our parents to answer these questions. Although the children are two, they will take in all of the information that we give to them.

In October, we will be talking about the farming community around us. We will be taking a Field Trip on October 7<sup>th</sup> to the Forrest Hall Farm. We will be talking about and identifying the animals, their habitats, and the food that grows on a farm. We will also discuss these topics in class during the week of the trip. We hope to see everyone at the Field Trip. Some important reminders: the Center is closed at 12 pm on October 10, Parent Education Night at 5:30pm on October 26, and the BAE Walk at 2pm on October 31. As these dates get closer, we will be posting information pertaining to these events on the parent board. We always need volunteers with classroom activities. If you are interested, please email: [mlawrence@starmakersschool.org](mailto:mlawrence@starmakersschool.org) or call the school: (301) 863-7740 to speak with Miss Megan. Also, please remember to check the parent folders for important information and the cubbies for appropriate clothing.



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

Happy New School Year and welcome to the Primary One Montessori environment. We would like to thank the parents who attended orientation and the Back to School Night. The teachers worked hard to prepare a beautiful, friendly, and safe environment for our students. Our little friends are very excited to have a new reading bug area in the classroom. When the students want to read a book they can go to this area and turn on the reading bug light. When they are finished reading they turn it off.

September was the month when we learned about the basics that our little friends need to learn in the classroom: sitting in the circle, listening, respecting other students' workspace, rolling and unrolling mats, etc. As we are Montessorians, we learned much about being independent: carrying lunch bags, putting the food on the plate and carrying it to the table, cleaning after themselves, walking to the classroom by themselves, etc. We also learned about the parts of the tree and the apple as well as started the Water Unit. After the hurricane, there were many fallen trees, which gave us the opportunity to learn the parts of the trees.

The students enjoyed the presentation that Ms. Christina from St. Clements Museum had to offer. They loved her fascinating stories about Maryland's large and small animals. And of course our little friends were excited about going to the Calvert Marine Museum. They really enjoyed all of the exhibits and information at the museum.

Thank you to Mrs. Becky Leishear and Mrs. Erica Wible for helping make our language and science lessons! We appreciate all of your hard work!

In October, we will continue to learn about water, the water cycle, water forms, fruit and vegetables. We will be happy to have Ms. Erica read a book to the class.

If you have any questions regarding your child or the classroom, please feel free to contact Ms. Natalya. She can be reached by phone (301-863-7740) or by e-mail ([NCisneros@starmakerschool.org](mailto:NCisneros@starmakerschool.org)).



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

What an amazing and fun filled first couple of weeks we have had. **Congratulations to Ms. Erin for the birth of Ginger Lotus on September 7<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you to the parents who were able to come for coming to Back to School Night - it was nice to put a parent with the child. We have spent the first few weeks getting to know each other and the rules of the classroom. We have been studying grace and courtesy, please and thank you, how to pass scissors, walk with scissors, walking feet, how to sit in circle and be a respectful friend. One afternoon we took a nature walk to search for living and non-living objects, we made a hypothesis first about what we thought we would see and then when we came back we said what we actually saw. We are learning about the bones of the body and why bones and what we eat are so important...so ask your child where their cranium and patella are located.

We started the year off learning about apples and tasted three types of apples then took a survey as to which was everyone's favorite. (The red and green apples tied for first.) We also made an apple oatmeal dessert one afternoon that was cooked in the crock pot. Ms. Rachael and I have been working with the children with writing and rainbow writing their names, where to place words on a line and the proper way to hold a pencil. In Social Studies we are learning the names of the 7 continents and talking about Maryland and states that we have visited. Hopefully you have seen some of the projects and lessons that the children have been doing, check out the hallway soon for more projects that we have in the works. We had a great time at lunch with the Grandparents for Grandparents day. The children enjoyed having them here and showing them the classroom. Next month, we will have the Woodland Indians come to the school for a presentation about their culture which will start our study on harvest, Fall, pumpkins, more grace and courtesy such as feelings and how to properly express how we feel, and parts of a flower and talk some more about mammals. The end of October we will be going to Forrest Farm in Mechanicsville to see how pumpkins and apples grow as well as the animals on the farm. Thank you to Colton's mom for coming in and teaching us some Spanish, Lucy's mom for the new curtains and Alexandra's mom for the skeletons and flowers for the classroom to arrange. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Rebecca at [rfske@starmakerschool.org](mailto:rfske@starmakerschool.org). I look forward to the next few weeks with your child.



## Primary 3- Ms. Allison

Our community, and much of the East coast, has had a very exciting start to the school year. In our P3 classroom there has been no lack of talk about rain, fallen down trees, and generators! We spent the beginning of the school year getting to know one another and sharing stories about our hurricane experiences. We continued our discussion and studies to look further into the weather around us and the different forces of nature that occur all over the world.

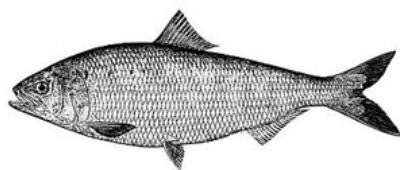


We were so happy to have grandparents join us and help us decorate our wall with self-portraits. The children had the chance to tell us a little about themselves in a small blurb that we posted with their decorated person.



As the children get settled into their classroom, and adjust to the changes that this year has brought, we are starting our own routines that will be carried out throughout the school year. We have spent a lot of time coming up with and reviewing classroom rules. The children understand the room is theirs, and it is also their responsibility to keep it a friendly, clean, and peaceful environment.

September 16<sup>th</sup> we started with our first letter/sound of the week. Each Friday will be the start of a new letter/sound. Children are encouraged to bring in an item from home to share at circle time. Our friends did such a good job with the letter "Aa". We had acorns, apple sauce, and even an Appaloosa (a breed of horses known for their spots)! For the week following we will continue to work with, read about, and talk about our letter/sound of the week. Our letters/sounds for October will be "Cc" starting September 30<sup>th</sup>, "Dd" October 7<sup>th</sup>, "Ee" October 14<sup>th</sup>, "Ff" October 21<sup>st</sup>, and "Gg" October 28<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your children to walk around their house listening for specific sounds!



To finish out the month we will continue to talk about where we live, the water around us, and the water cycle. In order to prepare for our class fieldtrip to the Calvert Marine Museum we will learn all about the creatures that live in and around our water as well as the different bodies of water around us.

## Elementary- Ms. Stephanie

### September is for Science!

Our year really kicked off with some great science topics. We enjoyed Friday classes with Ms. Mindy at the Calvert Marine museum as we learned about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We focused on topics about the marine life, function of a marsh, birds of the bay, and water pollutants and exotics. The students seemed to really love Ms. Mindy's enthusiasm and retained a lot of great understandings through demonstrations.

We look forward to our transition to Greenwell State Park science lessons with Ms. Laretta. Our new science sessions will be focused on the Maryland state curriculum topic of "The Life Cycle of Trees." We will study native species, the many functions of trees within their habitat, parts of a plant, and their seeds. These hands-on experiences are sure to create permanent memories.

Here on site, we created a classroom compost bin where we've studied the function of compost and each of its components. Students have been enthusiastically bringing in items from home to make the perfect blend. We look forward to using this material for spring planting!

We also welcomed autumn by observing the changes in the sun. We recorded the sunrise and sunset to watch the days get shorter. We also set up an experiment by the shed to track the placement of the sun in the sky as we entered the month of October. Some really great stuff!

Our classroom has been stretched at the seam with mathematics! We have been studying clockwork with our wooden clock, analog clock, weekly questions, and worksheet packets. Each student has worked hard to progress through, from the most basic clock reading skills to the more advanced.

We also have enjoyed our new play money. The students have been very dedicated to coin mastery so that they may use these materials. We have money worksheet packets where students can show their knowledge of coin recognition, counting common coins, uncommon coins, and word problems. They have really enjoyed the History connection as they identify the presidents featured. Our checkerboard math has also been a feature in our classroom. Many of our senior students have been introducing this big work to the new students. They also have been excited to attend introductions to new ways to use the checkerboard with multiplication of thousands by hundreds and dynamic multiplication work. You should be proud!

During circle each day we have been reviewing different types of graphic organizers. Students investigate the organizer before the story for pre-reading strategies, and then we dive in! They have been getting really good at focusing on the question prompts and recalling the answers for the writing portion of our activities. We look forward to many more stories this year, as story time has always been a highlight of the Lower Elementary Classroom.

Follow along with your calendars for upcoming events! Happy October!

## Before & After Care- Ms. Lolisa & Ms. Tynisha

September was a busy month! We all had to learn new schedules and classroom rules as well as get to know each other. We would like to give a special thank you to Ms. Hilary for drawing our owls as well as to Ms. Sara and Ms. Ebony for hanging them up. The classroom sustained minor damages from Hurricane Irene but we seemed to bounce back pretty well. We now have the room back to normal.

In October, the Before and After Care students are going to have lots of fun! Ms. Lolisa will have the children doing lots of art and hands on activities. Halloween is a big part of October so you will see lots of themed projects coming home.



## Opening & Closing Reminders

Lately, we have been having some issues with drop-off and pick-up times. 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.

As for morning drop-off, our policy is as follows:

**Infants to Pre-Primary rooms OPEN at 7:00am**

**Primary & Elementary rooms OPEN at 6:30am**

You are welcome to bring your child in the building in order to get them settled. However, please wait until the classroom officially opens to leave. If there is a situation where you need to drop off a little earlier, please make arrangements with your child's teacher a few days ahead of time. Please be aware that your child's teacher is not obligated to accept early drop-offs. Any questions or concerns about this issue can be directed to the front office. Thank you.



## Student Birthdays

Ryan Smitha	Oct 3
Brianna Milliken	Oct 5
Imani Rushing-Kinley	Oct 6
Michaela Bell	Oct 8
Owen Frazier	Oct 9
Brianna Carr	Oct 10
John Michael Singleton	Oct 17
Sydney Murray	Oct 23
Morgan Goul	Oct 23
Brandon Wible	Oct 24
Ryan Alexander	Oct 25

### OCTOBER 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					

### NOVEMBER 2011

		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

Michelle McGown	Oct 2
Emily Bowling	Oct 3
Sara Norris	Oct 14
Brittany Hudgins	Oct 19
Brandy Rackey	Oct 26

## Upcoming Events

Tuition due	Nov 1
Pre-Primary Conferences	Nov 9
Primary & Elementary Conferences	Nov 10
Primary & Elementary Conferences	Nov 11
Thanksgiving Feast at 11:00am	Nov 22
No Classes – Daycare Program All Day	Nov 23
CENTER CLOSED – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	Nov 24 & 25
Usborne Book Fair Begins	Nov 28