

# STARMAKER NEWSLINE

## THE BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE

September 2011

### Dates to Remember

- 1 Tuition Due
- 1 CENTER CLOSED
- 2 CENTER CLOSED
- 5 CENTER CLOSED – Labor Day
- 12 Grandparent’s Luncheon at 10:30
- 13 Back To School Night – P2 & Elementary
- 14 Back To School Night – P1 & P3
- 24 Morning Classes – Afternoon Daycare
- 28 Picture Day

### New to the Classroom

#### Infants

Ashley Hitt  
Keonna Jones  
Brandy Rackey

#### Toddlers

Karen Hudgins  
Amanda Fulton  
Ebony Taylor  
Heather Oliver

#### Pre-Primary 1&2

Kim Heinrich

#### Primary 1

Danielle Cousineau

#### Primary 2

Rebecca Fiske  
Brittany Hudgins

#### Primary 3

Allison Zerhusen  
Michelle McGown

#### Before & After Care

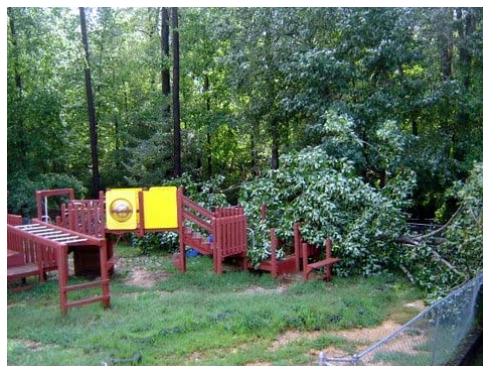
Sara Norris

### Hurricane Irene Update

We are lucky to have been spared any structural damage to our school’s building! Four large mature trees fell on the primary and elementary playgrounds, damaging our fences and one in the parking lot. Additionally, our elementary and homework center classrooms were flooded. I am requesting your patience as we work to repair the damage caused by the hurricane to ensure a safe environment for your children and our staff. Had we not planned the three day closure from Wednesday to Friday this week for staff training and classroom transitions, we would have needed to close the school for the entire week to get the repairs done! Since most people are dealing with damages from the hurricane in the county, it has been difficult to get a quicker response and turnaround time for services. Nonetheless, we are making progress and I am confident we can get things back to normal by the end of the week.

I hope that if your home or business was affected, that it was manageable and you have been able to recover or are recovering. We recognize that this has been a major inconvenience to you and your family and thank you for your patience and understanding!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Florence



## Welcome Back!

Florence Freeman

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and school is beginning! Time flies when you are "busy" having fun! Welcome to all of our new families! We encourage you to participate in all of our back to school and parent information activities so that you can get to know the Starmaker family, the Montessori Method of teaching, and our teachers. We are looking forward to learning about you and your family! To our returning families, thank you for your continued patronage and welcome back! We hope your summer has been great and we are looking forward to your continued participation and involvement in school activities.

Each year, we strive to do better than the previous year. Hence you will notice quite a few changes designed to facilitate a smoother management and enhanced services. Please take the time to review our updated parent handbook since several things have changed most notably our enrollment/payment policies and behavior policies.

Please use this issue of our newsletter as a keepsake reference guide. We have provided lots of important information for you such as what's new this year, important dates to remember, volunteering, key policy reminders, a few nuggets from our director, and important reminders from our Delegating Nurse.

We believe that the more involved you are in your child's educational experience, the more your child will succeed in school. Learning about the Montessori philosophy and understanding the teaching methods goes a long way to ensure that school and home are in sync, thereby promoting and solidifying a holistic approach to each child's learning experience.

Last but certainly not least, we welcome our new teachers and returning teachers! We look forward to a rigorous yet fun experience this school year!

## What's New?

Welcome back to the 2011-2012 school year at Starmaker! If it is your first year with us, we are really glad you have chosen to join us. We are looking forward to a wonderful year. The following are a few new additions and changes that we have made this year.

- Updated Parent Handbook

In August, we sent out an updated parent handbook. Although it is important read over the entire handbook, please be sure to read over pages 2, 3, 15, and 16 for discipline and payment policy updates. If you have not yet received a copy, please see the following link to obtain one: <http://homeworkcenters.com/starmaker/resources.html>.

- Back To School Night

In previous years, we have had one big Back to School Night for everyone. This year, however, we are trying something new. We are having two consecutive Back to School Nights on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. We hope that by having separate nights, you will be able to take away more valuable information about your child's classroom as well as give parents with multiple children the opportunity to visit each individual classroom.

- New Picture Day Photographer

We will no longer be using Lifetouch for the Fall and Holiday portraits. Instead, we are using a company called Peter Wabbit Photography. They are a successful photography business that is based out of Virginia. We look forward to the great quality photographs and effective service that they will provide.

- Starmaker Parent Appreciation Day

Instead of celebrating Mother's and Father's Day separately this year, we will be showing our appreciation for our Starmaker Parents on Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. This will be an enjoyable event for the whole family so don't forget to stop by!

Thank you and have a great school year!!

---

"Culture and  
education have no  
bounds or limits."

-Maria Montessori

---

## Important Dates

It is important to always keep a close eye on our school year calendar. We have listed some of the fun events to keep in mind below. Also, in addition to these important dates, please keep in mind that Parent/Teacher Conferences take place in November and March.

September 28	Picture Day
October 4	Parent Education Night 5:30pm - 6:30pm
October 31	BAE Halloween Walk 2:30pm
November 22	Thanksgiving Feast 11:00am
December 16	Holiday Program 10:00am
February 15	100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School Celebrations
March 2	An Afternoon of Montessori 12:30pm – 2:30pm
April 20	Earth Day Celebrations
May 8	National Teacher Appreciation Day
June 10	End of the School Year Program & Picnic 10:00am
June 29	Starmaker Parent Appreciation Day



## Educational Program

### “What Can I Do For My Child At Home”

By: Lynn Ennis, Director

“There are many who hold, as I do, that the most important part of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six. For that is the time when a man’s intelligence itself, his greatest implement, is being formed.”

- Maria Montessori

The education of your child begins at home. Maria Montessori believed in the importance of the prepared environment. She believed that the child, from birth to six years of age, has an absorbent mind. Your child uses the 5 senses; smell, sight, touch, taste and hearing to learn about the world. Your child has a need for independence that is shown in freedom of movement and acquiring language skills. Your child’s need for order and the development of concentration is developed in a prepared environment.

This is 2011. Homes are filled with televisions, computers, video games and battery operated toys. The “things” in most home environments engage the child in activities that are controlled by electronic devices. That means that the child is not acting upon the environment. The addiction to these electronic devices begins at an early age. We at Starmaker try to help parents understand that the environment for the young child needs to be set up so that the child can freely explore the environment through the use of the five senses.

“The skill of man’s hand is tied up with the development of his mind, and with the light of history, we see it connected with the development of civilization. Hence the development of manual skill keeps pace with mental development. Certainly, the more delicate the work, the more it needs the care and attention of an intelligent mind to guide it.”

- Maria Montessori

The home environment needs to include order, simplicity and child size furniture. Children enjoy doing simple household chores. These are some ideas I have compiled for you to incorporate into your home if you are not already doing so: low clothes racks and hooks, a bed your child can get in and out of without help, low toy shelves, a basket of books that your child has easy access to, window washing, dusting, setting the table, folding wash cloths, washing a small table, helping with car washing, watering plants, low snack drawer, pouring activities and the most fun - cracking an egg!

These are a few of many activities children can do in the home. In the beginning there will be a lot of messes. But look at a mess as an opportunity to show your child how to clean up the environment. The most important part of a child’s personality and intelligence develops through his/her participation in daily family life. Your child will learn self-respect, independence and the joy of helping.

Your child’s teacher will also prepare an environment everyday for your child. That environment will cater to the natural development of each child. Therefore what you do at home will carry over from the classroom day and be extremely beneficial for everyone. Have a great school year!



## Volunteering

Parent support is a vital part of the school's success. Throughout the years, parental support has helped the teaching and administrative staff to maintain the educational goals of the children as well as their primary objective. By volunteering in some capacity, parents develop a greater understanding of school life, get to know members of the staff as well as other parents, and provide many needed services to the school. Some ways parents can participate are:

1. Attend the required school events such as Back to School Night and An Afternoon of Montessori
2. Attend the Community Volunteer Day in April
3. Chaperone field trips and help transport other children to and from the field trip
4. Sharing a special skill with the class
5. Help with special class or school-wide events
6. Help distribute fundraiser items



## Reminders & Important Information

In order for Starmaker to provide your child with the best care and education possible, there are some important policies, procedures, and general information that everyone should be familiar with.

1. We are a peanut-free school. There are many children in our care that are highly allergic to peanuts. If your child is sent to school with peanut products, we will notify you of the situation and throw away the peanut products immediately.
2. Class begins at 8:30am everyday for the Pre-Primary, Primary, and Elementary classrooms. If you arrive after 8:30am, please allow your child to walk themselves to their classroom. This procedure allows for the least amount of classroom disruptions.
3. Monthly tuition payments are due on the first of every month and a \$30 late fee will be assessed to your account if it is not paid by the fifth of the month. Please see Ms. Lynn if you have any questions or concerns pertaining to tuition payments.
4. Our website is [www.starmakerschool.org](http://www.starmakerschool.org). Many forms, including the Physician Order Medication Form, and valuable information can be found on our site. Please take note that the 2011-2012 School Year Event Calendar is also available on our website.
5. All lead teachers in each classroom as well as the administration have Starmaker e-mail addresses. Due to class schedules, it is often easier to contact the teacher through e-mail. Please make sure you have the e-mail address for your child's teacher. If you need to contact a teacher immediately, please call the school. Do not call or text the teacher's cell phones as they will be reprimanded for using them during class hours.
6. Please take time to ensure that your contact information is correct. This is very important. Your contact information is used for things such as informing you when your child is sick as well as informing you of school closings due to inclement weather.
7. We use the **School Reach system** in order to inform parents and guardians when we close the school due to inclement weather. Please keep in mind that for the recording to start playing, you must only say hello once, try to **eliminate background noise**, and wait a few seconds.
8. All parents and guardians should be aware of the withdraw policy. If at some point you wish to withdraw your child, you must submit a thirty day written notice along with an additional one month tuition to be paid on the last week of withdrawal.

## A Reminder From The Delegating Medication Nurse

Please keep the medication policies and procedures in mind now that school has started and the cold season, sore throats, and other illnesses are beginning. If your child needs to receive medication at school, you will need a Physician Order Medication Form completed by the Doctor and you. Please ensure that all spaces are completed on the form. We will not be able to accept and administer the medication if the form is not filled out correctly. The medication form is available in the front office and on the Starmaker website. Also, please keep in mind that only Certified Medication Technicians who are trained and State Board Certified are allowed to accept and administer medication. Our Certified Medical Technicians are Ms. Lynn (the director), Ms. Ashley (the Administrative Assistant), Ms. Karen (in the toddler), Ms. Karin (in the Toddler room), and Ms. Stephanie (the Elementary School Teacher). Please give your medications to one of these ladies and they will ensure that your child's medication is given appropriately and timely. If you have any questions or concerns, please see one of our Certified Medical Technicians or give me a call. Thank you!

- Kathlyn Brigham RN,CRNP  
Delegating Medication Nurse



## Box Tops for Education

We are participating in the Box Tops for Education program this year. Please bring in box tops as well as register at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Like last school year, we have a labeled container in the lobby where we will be collecting the box tops. Registering is not required in order to participate in the program; however, there are many beneficial reasons to register. A few reasons to register are:

When you register at the Box Tops website, you will be able to earn bonus box tops and track your school's progress in real time. See the numbers for your school as well as how your school compares to other schools in your state and across the nation.

Marketplace has partnered with many of your favorite retailers. Buy what you would normally buy, but shop through Marketplace and earn three to twelve percent on your purchases for your school. Watch those earnings add up fast!

Box Toppers are a community of passionate people that have joined together to help create change in our schools. Join us and you will receive exclusive benefits that include ways to stay connected with other parents on topics that matter to you.

**Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to a successful school year!**



## Planet Green Recycling Program

We would like to thank all of you who have and continue to donate items to our Planet Green Recycling Program. If you are new to our school, please see the following for information about this program.

Everyone knows that recycling is good for the environment, but did you know that recycling is also good for Starmaker? Last year, we started participating in the Planet Green Recycling Program. You may have previously seen it featured on NBC news. They are a printer cartridge and cell phone remanufacturing and recycling company. It is an exciting year-round fundraiser that recycles mobile phones and used printer cartridges – and we want you to be part of it! Taking part is easy! Simply drop off your used inkjet cartridges and old cell phones and we'll take care of the rest. You can even include cell phone batteries and cell phone chargers. The drop-off box is located in the lobby on top of the bookshelf. Your participation in this recycling campaign will raise greatly needed funds for our school. Let's work together, one cartridge and one cell phone at a time, to clean up the planet and raise money for a worthwhile cause!

In addition to recycling ink cartridges and old cell phones, the Planet Green Program also allows you to purchase ink cartridges from their website! When you purchase ink cartridges from Planet Green, Starmaker will receive a portion of the proceeds. 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)**.



## Student Birthdays

Zoe Tippett	Sep 2
Nathaniel Steere	Sep 4
Madison Lee	Sep 6
Matthew McMiller	Sep 8
Mickenzy Ewing	Sep 10
Alexander Monzon-Perez	Sep 11
Avery Insley	Sep 16
Isaias Knott	Sep 16
Robert Stailey	Sep 17
Molly Harmening	Sep 20
Carl Peters	Sep 22
Alexandra Singleton	Sep 26

SEPTEMBER 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	
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					

## Teacher Birthdays

Sarah Orvek	Sep 13
Rebecca Fisk	Sep 23
Rachel Carr	Sep 29

## Upcoming Events

Tuition due	Oct 1
Parent Education Night	Oct 4
Columbus Day – CENTER CLOSSES at 12pm	Oct 10
Fire Prevention Week	Oct 10-14
BAE Halloween Walk at 2:30pm	Oct 31