

Starmaker Newsline

Office Newsletter

Starmaker School for Early Education at Wildewood

April 2015

Florence Freeman, MBA, President/CEO

Spring has finally sprung! The beauty of spring is seen in the first signs of fresh green plants, colorful flowers, birds chirping away, warm weather, beautiful gardens and an extra burst of energy from everyone! Although each season has its pluses, spring is a time of new beginnings, joyful expectations, and warm excitements! Use this peaceful, quiet moment to enjoy the beauty that spring has to offer:

- Take nature walks
- Listen to birds sing
- Plant some colorful flowers
- Plant a vegetable garden
- Draw a spring picture
- Find out what spring means to your child or spouse

This time of the year happens to be a very busy time for us at Starmaker. At this time of the year, contract renewals are processed and parent teacher conferences have just been completed – all of which you may have participated in. Yet, there is still more to be done – summer enrollment has begun and summer activity fees are due in **May** for preprimary through Elementary grades.

Plans are already underway for next school year's planning – from launching our new website, updating our parent handbook, preparing next school year's calendars, working on supply funding and lists to transitions, staffing and training, the administrators and faculty are heavily involved and committed to making a difference and improving our status from good to great! If you have any ideas or can help with anything, please do not hesitate to contact us!

With the amount of snow received this year and the extended winter season, I am confident that everyone will take advantage of the lovely weather that spring has to offer! As it warms up, let us take the opportunity to be outdoors to increase our overall health and fitness, increase vitamin D intake, reduce stress, enjoy nature, improve critical thinking skills, and create opportunities to enhance social interactions, value our community and strengthen relationships.

Yes indeed, Spring is here and Starmaker is ready to spring ahead!
Happy Spring!

Dates to Remember

1	Tuition Due
1-3	Morning Classes Only School's Out CENTER OPEN
2	Summer camp registration opens to public.
6	Tuition Late Fee Applied
10	School's Out Program CENTER OPEN
13	Pre-Primary Conferences
16	Primary 1, 2 & Elementary Conferences School's Out Program CENTER OPEN
17	Primary 1,2 & 3 Conferences School's Out Program CENTER OPEN
24	Earth Day Celebrations 9-11 AM



Important Reminders:

Earth Day Celebrations
April 24th 9 to 11 AM.
Please join us!

Lynn Ennis, Director

Our Montessori Gardens

First of all, I would like to thank all of the parents and staff who donated soil for our many gardens. In addition to our garden bed on the Pre-Primary playground, we also have also started working on our Primary and Elementary/ Before and After school gardens again this year. We are also trying to convert one of the sandboxes on the Primary playground into a new garden. In order to complete this task, however, we will need even more soil donations. Thanks in advance for your continued support!

One of the central themes of the Montessori philosophy is the connection with the natural world of the outdoors. The children in the Pre-Primary - Elementary classrooms already have the daily opportunity to experience the outdoors with structure and purpose. They learn how to use their hands in everyday experiences focused on the earth by working in the gardens in the front of the school, on the playgrounds and in the back of the school. It will be fun to watch what they will grow in their gardens! Also check out our flowers in the front of the school!

In a fruit and vegetable garden, children can discover where food comes from as well as discovering and trying new foods. Ms. Natalya and her class are working on the kitchen garden. Asparagus is one of their most exciting crops which return every year. They can also learn a lot at the local farmer's market.

10 Simple Ways to Make the Farmer's Market More Fun for Kids

It's not like the farmer's market isn't fun and educational already. But why not sneak in more fun and more learning whenever you can? Find the farmer's market closest to you (there are plenty around) and try out these ideas:

- 1) Find one fruit or vegetable for every color in the rainbow.
- 2) Put your child in charge of the list or at least let him help you find the fruits and vegetables on the list.
- 3) Find a new recipe to try before you go. Work together to gather the ingredients.
- 4) Learn the name of a flower or herb you and your child didn't know before.
- 5) Find a fruit or vegetable starting with each letter of the alphabet. For younger children, do just the letters in their name or the first sound box.
- 6) Ask some vendors what their favorite fruit or vegetable is. Or ask them what their favorite thing is about their farm.
- 7) Choose an item that's available at the farmer's market. Take turns listing ways to eat it. (So if you choose a tomato, you can take turns listing ketchup, pizza sauce, spaghetti sauce, BLT's, etc.).
- 8) Find 10 things that grow below the ground and 10 things that grow above it.
- 9) Try a fruit or vegetable that your family has never tried before.
- 10) Pack a picnic lunch and find a shady spot and do some people watching!

Have fun with your children and grandchildren at the farmer's market this month!

Educational Article – Lynn Ennis

Peace Education

Promoting peace was a large part of Maria Montessori's life – one of her most famous quotes is "Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education."

Peace plays a very important role in the Montessori classroom.

1. Children learn what the word "peace" means and that it can be found in many places.
2. Children learn to not tolerate bullying and to follow the ground rules set in the classroom.
3. Children learn conflict resolution skills through role playing. They learn the meaning of words such as compromise, taking turns and listening skills.
4. Children draw or paint pictures of "peace" and what it means to them.
5. Children participate in the care of their environment, showing respect for the materials, plants and other children.
6. Children learn to respect the diversity of traditions and customs found around the world.
7. Children learn by example. Montessori trained teachers do not argue in front of children. They speak respectfully and show kindness to one another. Children watch your every move. They learn more from what you do than what you say.

A peace corner (whether or not it's actually in a corner) is commonly found in Montessori schools. It can be used for conflict resolution, encouraging a peaceful environment and instilling peaceful habits and attitudes in children.





Planet Green Recycling Program

Remember to keep your eye out for the Planet Green Recycling box! We will be participating in this program year round. Participating in this program helps both the environment and the school. 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! 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:

Children's Birthdays

Macie M.	8
Dawson N.	9
Leilah H.	11
Olivia B.	21
Emily B.	22
Rowan B.	24

Box Tops for Education

We participate in the Box Tops for Education Program every year. This year, we have been doing exceptionally well! Let's strive to exceed that goal. We would like to thank all of those who have and continue to bring in box tops.

If you have not participated in this program before, it is so easy to do! All you have to do is bring in the box tops from participating products. The collection basket can be found in the front lobby. Additional information about this program can be found at www.boxtops4education.com

Labels for Education

This school year we are participating in the Labels for Education program. This program allows our school to earn points toward free supplies and materials. All you have to do is bring in the labels from participating products. The collection basket will be located in the front lobby of the school. For more information about this program and to view a list of participating products, please visit the link below, <http://www.labelsforeducation.com>

Teacher's Birthdays

Ashley S.	4
Lyndsey	19
Amanda	26

Upcoming Events

May 2015

1	Tuition Due
1	Summer Camp Activity Fees Due
1	Field Day Activities 9-11 AM
5	National Teacher's Day
6	Tuition Late Fee Applied
8	Morning Classes Only – Afternoon School's Out Program
25	CENTER CLOSED - Memorial Day