

Starmaker Newsline

Office Newsletter

Starmaker School for Early Education at Wildewood

WELCOME!

Florence Freeman, MBA, President/CEO

A special welcome to all of our new families, faculty, and teachers – we hope you find our community nurturing, vibrant, and supportive. To our continuing families, thank you for your confidence in us and trusting us to provide your child with the most important investment you can make in his/her life – his/her early education and care. Welcome back to our continuing faculty and teachers who remain a solid foundation for our community.

We hope you are excited about this school year as we are. Starmaker School challenges its students to pursue excellence in not only academics, but character, conduct, and community and as a school community, we believe that this is best accomplished in an environment where adults model these qualities and where each student is valued as an individual.

A lot has been happening to prepare our environment and program for the start of the new school year and the big news on campus is that we have begun to participate in the Maryland Excels Program! Maryland Excels is a voluntary Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System that recognizes the accomplishments of early childhood programs and providers through a set of standards with 5 levels that offer a pathway to high-quality. As we work through to complete and submit the requirements for each level, parents will be kept informed of the many new opportunities designed to take our school to new heights.

Please use this issue of our newsletter as a keepsake reference guide. We have provided lots of important information for you such as 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 go a long way to ensure that school and home are in sync, to promote and solidify a holistic approach to each child's learning experience. Thank you for entrusting your most valuable treasure (s) to us!

September 2015 Dates to Remember

1	Tuition Due
3	Center Closed Room Prep and Training
4	Center Closed Teacher Meet and Greet 1:00-3:00
7	Center Closed Labor Day
8	First Day of School
9	Back To School Night 4:30-5:30 (Elem)
10	Back To School Night 4:30-5:30 (P1)
14	Back To School Night 4:30-5:30 (P2)
15	Back To School Night 4:30-5:30 P3)
18	Morning Classes Only Afternoon School's Out Program
22	Picture Day
25	Grandparents and Special Friends

Important Reminder:

We are open
Columbus Day.
School's Out Program

Your Most Important Investment

Lynn Ennis, Director

Congratulations! You have chosen to make the most important financial investment in your child's life. This investment is better than stocks, real estate or gold and will pay dividends for years. By choosing a Montessori education for your child you have chosen success and happiness for your child and his/her future.

To make your investment even more valuable there are three things you can do:

Understand what you are paying for.
Be involved in the investment.
Recognize the benefits you didn't pay for.

Understand what you are paying for.

You are investing in one of the best educations available for your child. It is an education that meets the intellectual, physical and emotional needs of your child. Your child will receive an educational foundation that will provide for academic success. What sets Montessori children apart is not their brilliance (after all they have bright parents who chose this education for their child/children) but their understanding of what they have learned, the joy in which they learn it, and the ability to take on whatever challenges come their way.

Be involved in the investment.

You pay good money for this education. You have picked the best school. You have done your homework. To get the most for your child out of his/her school experience you need to be involved and learn as much as you can. Attending events such as Back-To-School Night in September, our annual Afternoon of Montessori which will be held on Friday, October 23rd from 1 – 3 p.m. this year and Parent/teacher conferences in November are not for the school's benefit, they are for your child's benefit. The more you know about your child, the better parent you can be. The teachers at our school have been and will be spending quality time with your child by observing, interacting and teaching them. They have knowledge to share with you that will help you to nurture your child even more effectively. A Montessori education is not only for children but for parents as well. Take every advantage of Montessori parent training and parent/teacher conferences so your child will get the most from his or her experience.

Benefits you do not pay for.

You are making a big investment in your child's Montessori education. You and your child will receive more than you paid for. It is great that you want the best education for your child and you will receive it in a Montessori education but what your child will receive is much better than just learning. They will receive an education for life.

Reminders and 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:

- **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 product immediately. A school lunch will be provided as a replacement.
- **Class begins at 8:30am every day for the Pre-Primary and Primary classrooms and 8:00am for the Elementary classroom.** We encourage you to be here on time to ensure your child benefits fully from our program. 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 and promotes independence.
- **Monthly tuition payments are due on the first of every month and a \$40 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.
- **Our school website is 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 2015-2016 School Year Event Calendar is also available on our website. Please check the calendar regularly as events may be updated periodically.
- Please take time to ensure that **your contact information is updated** and correct as required by our MSDE-OCC licensing regulation. 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 closing due to inclement weather, and other potential emergencies.
- Please ensure **all medical forms and school forms are completed by September 21st, 2015** to ensure that if there is an emergency, we are able to provide updated information about your child. This is an MSDE licensing regulation we MUST follow. Parents whose forms are not turned in will be asked not to bring their child to school until all forms are received.
- We use the **SchoolReach parent contact system** in order to inform parents and guardians when we close the school due to inclement weather. Please keep in mind that in order for the recording to start playing, you must only say hello once, try to eliminate background noise, and wait a few seconds.
- Please review our **Parent Handbook** on our website at <http://www.homeworkcenters.com/Parent%20Handbook%20-%20updated%20August%202013-final.pdf>. All parents and guardians should be aware of the withdrawal policy.
- **Children ages 2 and under must be picked up by 5:30pm and children ages 3 and up must be picked up by 6:00pm.** There is a late pick-up charge for children not picked up by their contracted dismissal time. The late fee of \$5.00 for up to 15 minutes late and \$1.00 per minute thereafter. This is a per child fee and must be paid in cash within 2 days. If your child is picked up after the school closes at 6pm, the fee is \$1.00 per minute.

Volunteering Opportunities

Parent Support is a vital part of our school's success. Throughout the years, parental support has helped the teaching and administrative staff to maintain the educational goals of the children and provided many needed services to the school. Some ways parents can participate are:

- Attend the required school event such as Back to School Night and An Afternoon of Montessori.
- Attend the Community Volunteer Day in May.
- Chaperone field trips and help transport other children to and from the field trip.
- Share a special skill with the class.



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 remember that Parent/ Teacher Conferences take place in November and April.

- September 22nd - Picture Day
- September 25th - Grandparents and Special Friends Luncheon 10am
- October 23rd - An Afternoon of Montessori 1:00-3:00
- October 30th - BAE Halloween Walk 2:30pm
- November 20th - Community Thanksgiving Gathering and Feast 10am
- December 18th - Holiday Program
- March 31st - Contract Renewals Due, Supply Fee Due, and Summer Camp Registration Begins
- May 1st - Summer Camp Activity Fees Due



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 Starmaker's website: www.starmakerschool.org. 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 (Director), Ms. Jeannette (Infants), Ms. Amanda (Toddlers), Ms. Karen (Pre-Primary), and Ms. Stephanie (Primary 2/Director of Education). Please give your medications to one of these ladies and they will ensure your child's medication is given appropriately and timely. If you have any questions or concerns, please see our Certified Medical Technicians or give me a call. Thank you!

Kathlyn Brigham, RN, CRNP
Delegating Medication Nurse
kbrigham@starmakerschool.org
240-925-8446



Children's Birthdays

Lily B.	26
Myla A.	25
Kaia C.	20
Abigail Y.	5
Ashlyn K.	19
Reagan A.	8
Aneesha B.	18
Hannah L.	16
Carson R.	7
Alexandra W.	28
Marissa K.	24
Zoë T.	2

Teacher's Birthdays

No teacher birthdays this month!

Parent Resources - The Center for Disease Control

As they grow, children are always learning new things. The CDC has developed tools and information to help you keep track of your child's development and get help if you're concerned.

From birth to 5 years, your child should reach milestones in how he or she plays, learns, speaks, acts and moves. Track your child's development and act early if you have a concern.

Follow the link below to see/use some of the free checklists and materials the CDC offers. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/freematerials.html>

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: <http://www.labelsforeducation.com>

Upcoming Events

October
1 Tuition Due
5 Fire Prevention Week
9 School Wide Field Trip to Bowles Farm Morning Classes Only – Afternoon School's Out Program
12 Columbus Day – Open – School's Out Program
23 Center Closes 12 PM – Afternoon of Montessori 1:00-3:00
30 BAE Halloween Walk 2:00