

Starmaker Newsline

Office Newsletter

Starmaker School for Early Education at Wildewood

Florence Freeman, MBA, President/CEO

A Season of Thanks and Giving!

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the many blessings in our lives and in our communities. It's a time to express our gratitude to family, friends, neighbors, students, teachers, parents, and others; and to look for opportunities to thank the people in our lives that we may have taken for granted. Thanksgiving is also the start of the holiday season – one that generally brings joy, happiness, peace and love for some and anxiety, sadness and depression for others.

As Thanksgiving rolls around this November, make this month a celebration of thanks and giving! Use this season to lift the spirits of others as you express your gratitude in various ways. The expression of gratitude is consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships. Gratitude is not only good for you and your family, but it is also good for those who are on the receiving end of your giving.

This holiday season, if you haven't already, start a family tradition of giving and sharing while teaching your children the important values of gratitude and giving.

Create a holiday food basket with your children for a family in need. For the younger children, counting food items would be a treat. For the older children, learning and selecting various food groups would be fun. All children will enjoy the experience of giving to others in need especially during the holiday season. Gratitude helps people refocus on what they have instead of what they lack.

It is "not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, that is the true measure of our thanksgiving" ~ W.T. Purkiser

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Ms. Florence

November 2015 Dates to Remember

1	Tuition Due
6	School's Out Program- CENTER OPEN Elementary Conferences
9	Pre-Primary Conferences
10	Primary 3 Conferences
11	Veteran's Day Parade
12	Primary 2 Conferences
13	Primary 1 Conferences
16-20	Usborne Book Fair
20	Community Thanksgiving Gathering and Feast 10am
26-27	CENTER CLOSED- Thanksgiving



Important Reminders:

Holiday Program at 9:00am
December 18th

Center Closed
December 24th-25th

Lynn Ennis, Director

A Time to Be Thankful

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for showing their support by attending our annual Afternoon of Montessori on Friday, October 23rd. The lead teachers - Ms. Jeannette, Ms. Amanda, Ms. Desiray, Ms. Karen, Ms. Natalya, Ms. Stephanie, Ms. Laura and Ms. Rachael worked very hard to make this event successful. Every year we focus on a different topic. This year we chose the topic of Philosophy, which we believe to be the foundation of your child's Montessori experience at Starmaker. The teachers took us from Infancy through Elementary using the Montessori methods and philosophy.

Your comment forms were very helpful. We appreciate your suggestions and feedback! I would like to share a few of them:

"It was a great presentation by the teachers. I got ideas about what to do at home. (Don't interrupt process/work alongside)."

"Beginning introduction, the history of Maria Montessori, by Ms. Stephanie was very interesting."

"I learned what matters most is the process and not the product in a child's life."

"It was organized and each presenter built on the previous presenter."

"You should advertise in the community (at least in Wildewood) to educate more people about Montessori and Starmaker."

"I think the presentations were great – I always enjoy this event."

Nearly every Montessori community organizes some kind of Thanksgiving feast during which the entire school community, teachers, parents and children come together to celebrate a day of gratitude with food and fun. Starmaker is no exception. Everyone participates in preparing the feast and creating a meaningful way to celebrate Thanksgiving by sharing a meal and building relationships.

Thanksgiving is a special time at Starmaker School. Along with many other Montessori schools across the United States, we celebrate everything we are thankful for by having a Community Thanksgiving Gathering and Feast. This has been a tradition at our school for the past 22 years. The children in each classroom help prepare a dish for the feast in addition to parent contributions. Sign-up sheets are posted in the front lobby across from the office. Please sign up to bring something from the list. Starmaker will be providing the turkeys.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for this special day –Friday, November 20th beginning at 11:00 a.m. Please meet in your child's classroom for a short activity before the meal. Make the most of this holiday season!

"Peace is what every human being is craving for, and it can be brought about by humanity through the child."
Maria Montessori

Freedom with Limits in the Montessori Classroom

The basis, the foundation of the Montessori Method is the balance of liberty (freedom) and discipline. Talking about Maria Montessori, we often refer to her books. I heard not very often this quote from her book The Absorbent Mind.

“Do not apply the rule of non-interference when the children are still the prey of all their different naughtiness. Don’t let them climb on the windows, the furniture, etc. You must interfere at this age. At this stage the teacher (parent) must be a policeman. The policeman has to defend the honest citizens against the disturbers”.

Maria Montessori believed that given the appropriately stimulating environment youngsters would discover what they need to know with minimal adult help. This is what often leads to the impression that children get to do what they want. Many people think that in Montessori education children just run wild. The key to this not happening is to control the environment and teach the children to make good decisions. But there is always place for disobedience. We can use another nicer word to describe disruptive behavior. But the truth is that many children have a hard time handling the freedom in the Montessori classroom.

The first step is to establish clear guidelines (rules). Limits are important not only for teaching responsibility and respect, but it is important for the children to see that someone cares enough to care about their safety and the safety of others. It is very popular today to never tell the child “No.”. Do not do anything to disappoint the child or make him cry. How does this prepare the children for real life? How can they grow strong? How can they make the right choices in difficult situations if we do not let them experience difficult situations?

Logical and consistent consequences are another key to balancing freedom and discipline. But we need to keep in mind that the process of balancing freedom with discipline is a long process. I do not remember who said this “Discipline is not what you do to somebody. It is what you do for somebody.”

The true test for the child about balancing freedom and discipline is what a child does when he is by himself. The outside controls are often false and disappear when the child is left alone. Inner discipline is the answer to solving this problem. Freedom with limits can lead the child to make good choices.

Parent Resources – St. Mary’s County Public Library

Check out some of the fun activities our county libraries are offering in November!
www.stmalib.org



Student Birthdays

Isla K.	1
Eva W.	3
Gavin R.	4
Osinachi A.	9
Joseph S.	22
Zander K.	27
Therese N.	28
Madelyn M.	29
Zachary S.	30

Saturday Storytime

Charlotte Hall

Saturdays 10:30 a.m.

Bay K-9 Search and Rescue Demonstration

Meet the search and rescue dogs and their human partners, learn about what they do and how they train, watch as they track down a “missing person.”

Charlotte Hall

Saturday, November 21, 3 p.m.

Papitam! (Let’s Play!) Native American Program

Meet, play, and learn with local Native Americans for hands-on activities: pottery, jewelry-making, sports, music, and dance. Ages 4-7. Registration opens 2 weeks before each program.

[Register](#) Charlotte Hall

Saturday, November 28, 10 a.m.

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 haven’t 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>

Upcoming Events

December

1	Tuition Due
4	Morning Classes Only- Afternoon School’s Out Program
18	Holiday Program at 9:00am
21-23	WINTER BREAK - School’s Out Program
24-25	WINTER BREAK - CENTER CLOSED
28-30	WINTER BREAK - School’s Out Program
31	WINTER BREAK- School’s Out- CENTER CLOSES at 2:00pm

Teacher Birthdays

Rose	5
Emma	9
Cassidy	16
Marie	22