

Starmaker Newsline

Office Newsletter

Starmaker School for Early Education at Wildewood

October 2015

Florence Freeman, MBA, President/CEO

What should we be teaching children?

In today's competitive environment, parents are confused now more than ever about the education of their young children. In a public educational environment notorious for indiscriminate standardized testing, which typically simplifies and trivializes learning, and limits individual learning differences, it is not surprising then, that most parents want their children to be learning at developmentally inappropriate levels and want them tested as much as possible prior to entering elementary school. Rather than teaching children to pass a test and then forget, the Montessori Philosophy teaches children what they need to know to become fully functioning adults.

According to Maren Stark-Schmidt (Tomorrow's Child, 2012), an award winning Montessori teacher and writer, qualities such as the ability to make good decisions, loving to learn, dealing with change, questioning and inquiry, making good choices, and learning to be good at doing things are the foundational skills we need to teach our children to help them become creative, lifelong learners and successful adults.

Our program focuses on the development of the whole child, with specific opportunities for children to learn about grace and courtesy, peace and calm, independence, practical life skills, respect, love of learning, inquiry and discovery, creativity, global perspectives, self-confidence, self-gratification, nature and nurture, and a sense of community (to name a few). With the development of these qualities, learning becomes like breathing – an automatic activity that creates a stress-free environment for learning academic concepts. Please join us on October 23 at 1 pm for An Afternoon of Montessori! We look forward to sharing with you some of the concepts children should be learning!

Have a happy Halloween!
Ms. Florence

**“The human hand
allows the mind to reveal
itself”
-Maria Montessori**

Dates to Remember

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



Important Reminders:

Conferences
November 9-13

Usborne Book Fair
November 16-20

Montessori School Priorities

There are three essential Montessori priorities that help maintain a school's success:

- *Enrollment
- *Staffing
- *Parent Education

At Starmaker, we are always working towards successfully incorporating these priorities. First is enrollment. Enrollment is built on reputation, word of mouth, and advertising. Starmaker prides itself on having a great reputation. Many families enroll their children after hearing about us from current Starmaker families. Enrollment is the number one priority because from it comes the resources for academic success, staff building and longevity. Starmaker has been in existence for 22 years!

Second is staffing. Starmaker is built on the quality and dedication of its staff. An educated staff promotes and strengthens our programs and leads to successful instruction of the children. Successful staff development is built partly on salaries, partly on training opportunities, and working conditions, along with support and appreciation. Maintaining optimal enrollment increases salaries. We encourage education at Starmaker. Many of our staff members are not only working a part time or full time, but also attend college at the same time. We require each staff member to participate in the Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care Credentialing Program. This program provides funds and training vouchers to help further the education and training of our staff. We also provide monthly staff lunches and employee of the month gift cards to show our appreciation. Watch for our staff board to change. October's employee of the month will be highlighted after our next monthly staff meeting!

The third priority is parent education. The more parents know about the education their children are receiving, the better they are able to cooperate with that educational program. At Starmaker, parent education and involvement are major factors in building a great reputation and continued word of mouth. Parents, who are Montessori educated, will send a more normalized child to school each day, which contributes to a better environment and working conditions. Parents who are Montessori educated become involved partners in education rather than just paying for an education.

On Friday, October 23rd from 1:00 - 3:00 PM we will be having our annual Afternoon of Montessori. We plan to present the Montessori Philosophy. Each lead teacher will do a short presentation. Topics will include: Independence, Care of Self, Others and the Environment, Mixed Age Classrooms, Whole Child Education, Practical Life Skills and much more. We close at 12:00 on that day, however child care will be provided to children of parent's attending this educational and inspiring event. Hope to see you there!

"Free the Child's potential and you will transform him into the world."
- Maria Montessori

Self-Esteem and Self-Confidence in the Child

Self-esteem and self-confidence are very necessary and important for the future character of the child. When the person is not sure of himself he feels miserable at any age. The child achieves a sense of security if he is sure of his own value. That is why he always shows you the work that he has performed and asks for praise. But praise is a temporary support, which he needs only at a certain period of time. Besides the praise of the adult, the child often needs to be recognized by his friends for his personality and accomplishment. In our classroom, every time the student finishes his work by himself for the first time he rings the bell and all the students come and clap for him. I noticed several times how happy the child is at that moment. The child must have appreciation. He should be given every opportunity to prove to himself what he can do. And repetition plays a great role in this process. As soon as the student has mastered any challenge he is sure of himself and no longer asks for recognition. As the student earns his self-respect and is no longer in doubt of his capabilities he becomes calm and normalized. He feels he can deal with many challenges. Many times the parents and the teachers have observed the child walking by themselves to the classroom. Initially the child walks slowly and turns back often towards the parents expecting to hear words of encouragement. As soon as he repeats his independent walk regularly, he performs it more quickly and even at times forgets to give a hug to the parents.

The child's self-confidence and self-esteem are enormously strengthened when he is given responsibility. The child's own sense of responsibility opens up little by little and he begins to recognize obligations to himself (personal hygiene, dressing, etc.), his family (putting toys away, helping with chores, etc.), and society (obeying rules, being courteous to one another, etc.) In the classroom the children who master their lessons eagerly take the responsibility to help the little ones with their lessons. Many times we can observe older children assisting others in zipping and buttoning coats. They are happy to bring the dishes back to the kitchen after lunch and sometimes I have more volunteers than are needed to do this. It is our duty as parents and teachers to give the child a chance to build self-confidence and self-esteem not only through praise but also through giving the child some responsibilities.

**You are invited to An Afternoon of Montessori
Friday, October 23rd, 2015, 1- 3 pm**

With 30 years of service to Southern Maryland, The Promise Resource Center (formerly known as Southern Maryland Child Care Resource Center or SMCCRC) has long been the leading provider of training, resources and certification for those who care for children in the tri-county area (Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's). We provide a wide array of resources to support parents, grandparents and licensed family and center child care providers. Although constantly evolving, our services have always been based on the belief that providing information and support to adults results in the success of children, strengthening the community as a whole. Our core purpose is to help provide a brighter future for children by educating and supporting their parents and caregivers.

www.thepromisecenter.org

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.

www.labelsforeducation.com

Upcoming Events

November

- 1 Tuition Due
- 6 School's Out Program – CENTER OPEN
- 9 Pre-Primary Conferences
- 10 Primary 3 Conferences
- 11 Elementary Conferences
- 12 Primary 2 Conferences
- 13 Primary 1 Conferences
- 16-20 Usborne Book Fair
- 20 Community Thanksgiving Gathering and Feast 10:00
- 26-27 CENTER CLOSED - Thanksgiving

Student Birthdays

Max H.	29
Caden I.	30
Loki S.	2
Samer A.	21
Hannah D.	10
Sydney M.	23
Sloan B.	13
Fisher E.	18
Ryan A.	25
Karter L.	13
Thomas K.	27
Lily L.	3
Owen F.	9
Logan M.	11

Teacher Birthdays

Megan R.	5
Brandy P.	26
Natalie P.	29