



Tuckahoe Montessori School

Monthly Newsletter

Reminder

May 2013

No School on Friday, May 10th, the day of the Family Field Trip to Three Lakes Park

Hello! It is such a pleasure to present this video (recorded on Wednesday!) to our parent community. The intention was simple, to give you all a chance to observe a typical morning at TMS.



The password to TMS videos featuring students:
soundbox

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Special Dates This Semester:
Conferences, Break, and
Family Events

Here is an overview of this month's events that may require special planning: conferences, Spring

As we get closer to the beginning of Summer break, many parents are looking for activity suggestions, ways to keep their children engaged in explorations and discoveries. Of course, the Richmond region provides a broad spectrum of organized activities -- everything from ballet to fly fishing -- but for those looking for home-based or close-to-home adventures and free-range fun here are some possibilities:

- **Kitchen Adventures** In addition to the [simple steps that involve children in daily food preparation](#), families can step it up with a Novelty Cooking Night. Perhaps a [Harry Potter Feast](#) for older children, or making sure [all the food is in the shape of animals](#).
- **Cardboard Costumes and Villages** Most moving companies recycle their boxes once they have been used several times, and there is still [a lot of fun to be had](#) with them before that journey to the curb or the recycling center. Consider picking up some flattened boxes and surprising your child with a day (or days) of limitless possibility.
- **Make a teepee** Many an hour can be whiled away in the shade of a teepee. Add in books, favorite toys, or a friend, and you might have an unexpected camp-out on your hands. [Here is a simple guide](#) to making your own teepees from garden stakes and sheets.
- **Look for outside inspiration** Often when we are the most in need of a fresh idea we are too tired to think of one. That's where [lists like](#)

Break, and Family Events where a parent or caregiver is asked to attend.

Friday, May 10, 2013
End-of-Year Family Field Trip
No classes

Friday, May 24, 2013
11:00am
School Closing Ceremony: All Classes

May Birthdays

Toddler

May 5: Marisa's Birthday
May 17: Hunter's Birthday

Primary

May 1: Mackenzie's Birthday
May 7: John's Birthday
May 8: Jack's Birthday
May 22: Leah's Birthday
May 27: Charlotte's Birthday
May 28: Hasaan's Birthday
May 29: Sarah's Birthday

Elementary

May 7: Amani's Birthday

Staff

May 16: Ms. Stefani's Birthday
May 27: Ms. Hui's Birthday

Thank You!

Thank you to all our wonderful parent volunteers who bring energy, talent, and enthusiasm to so many facets of the school year.

Library Books

Today was our last library day of the year. All library books are due by next Friday, May 10th.

Military Outreach



We are coordinating an outreach project to get a number of items to a group of soldiers serving overseas. These will include cards, letters,

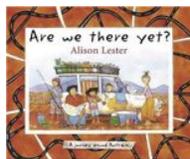
[this one](#) can come in handy. Perhaps a car washing party doesn't sound appealing, but scrolling down the list, flying a kite might be just the thing.

- **Climbing, climbing, climbing** Give your child the chance to climb and grab, balance and jump this summer. The benefits include a boost in confidence and a reinforcement of skills that will help in and out of school. Many of the Richmond area parks have areas, natural and manmade, that are perfect for climbing.
- **An early evening walk** After the heat has lifted (a bit), take 15 or 20 minutes to walk the immediate neighborhood. You can even turn it into a sort of scavenger hunt: children might count squirrels (or cicadas), spell the things she sees, he might walk with the camera and be the evening's photographer -- there are many ways to take a walk and make it memorable.
- **Your local library** Summer reading clubs at the library are a great way to discover new books. For a change of pace, check out the children's book section in the University of Richmond's Boatwright Library. It's a perfect place to spend a rainy afternoon.

While I know the end of the school year is often a whirl of activity, I hope you all can find moments of quiet, throughout this month and in the Summer months to come.

-- Ms. Amanda

Australia Day Memories



Geography: Students went on a "tour" of the perimeter of Australia using Alison Lester's book, *Are We There Yet? A Journey Around Australia* as a guide.

Games: This year's Australian games focused on the Aboriginal Australian culture and its traditional diversions. The children learned about the similarities between these games and some of those played in the United States and how the games helped teach skills needed for hunting and other necessary activities.



Crafts: Children created kangaroo dot art for their Australian craft and discovered more about both kangaroos and the tradition of dot painting.

Artifacts: Australian animals were the focus of the Artifacts section. Students looked at pictures, animals in glass boxes, and realistic plastic replicas. They colored pictures of the animals and placed them on a map of Australia in the place where the animal lives.



toiletries, magazines, and paperback books.

Taylor's Hamilton's uncle, 1st Lt. Michael Abbruzzi, is stationed in Afganistan and has graciously agreed to help distribute our donations to the men and women with whom he serves.

Some other requests for those of you who would like to donate:

- Baby wipes
- DVDs of movies or popular shows
- Potato chips (the soldiers get sandwiches but never chips)

For those donating food items, please keep in mind that the soldiers have no access to microwaves or stoves to heat food or drink.

We will provide more details in the coming days.

Community Event

Arts in the Park

From the website:

The Carillon Civic Association Announces its 42nd annual "Arts in the Park" show and sale at the Carillon in Byrd Park on May 4th, 11-6 p.m. and May 5th, 11-5 p.m., 2013. More than 450 artists from around the U.S. will gather in Byrd Park to display everything from fine art paintings to jewelry and weavings. Arts in the Park is recognized as one of the top art shows in the country and is an event people around the entire state of Virginia look forward to each year.

If you are visiting Arts in the Park, stop in and visit our own Ms. Pam (Pam Connolly) and see her beautiful work!

Classroom Windows

Some glimpses from our teachers and staff

An older Primary student paused in her work to help a younger one put



Food: In Food, the children enjoyed savory pies from The Proper Pie Company and then sampled lamingtons, an Australian dessert.

Calendar



To view the calendar of TMS Events, click the image above.

Many of you received your paper calendar on conference day. If you did not receive one, here are pdf versions: [Toddler Calendar](#) and [Primary Calendar](#) (password if prompted: pinktower).

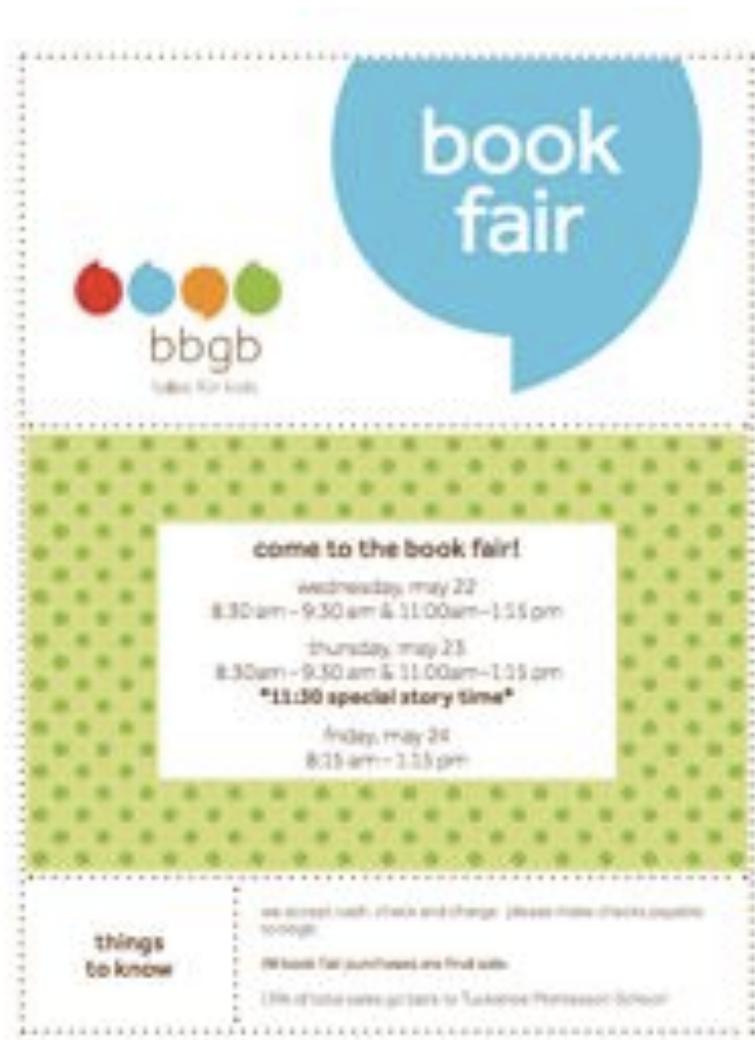
Book Fair

something in the proper spot, but she took the extra time to make sure her friend could do it herself!

When a teacher asked what word we use to describe talking softly, a young student replied, "*Piano!*" A great answer and Ms. Hennessy would be so proud!

A Primary student was working on his map of Australia and remarked, "Do you know that Australia is the only continent under the equator... well, except for Antarctica."

April Memories



book fair

bbgb
Books for Kids

come to the book fair!

wednesday, may 22
8:30 am - 9:30 am & 11:00am - 1:15 pm

thursday, may 23
8:30am - 9:30 am & 11:00am - 1:15 pm
11:15 special story time

friday, may 24
8:15 am - 1:15 pm

things to know

- we accept cash, checks and change. please make checks payable to us only.
- All book fair purchases are final sale.
- 10% of total sales go back to Tussock Protestant School.

From the Toddler Classroom

Oh, the sea life! This month, the Toddlers will be discovering the wonders of the ocean through works and stories.

The classroom is filled with colorful works that let the students touch, see, and (in the case of sea shells) hear the many fascinating creatures and objects from the marine world.

Here, Ms. Teresa presents a new work, Tweezing Sea Life, which is shelved in the Practical Life area of the classroom. The tweezing action helps children build strength and coordination, while the realistic replicas of animals familiarize them with sea life.



From the Toddler Shelves: Tweezing Sea Life

This month, we will prepare lemonade with fresh-squeezed lemons, beginning the Summer with the perfect beverage!

In addition to our sea life work, the children will be exploring butterflies, flowers, and the summer season.

On May 14th (2-Day Toddlers) and May 16th (3 & 5-Day Toddlers) we will be having a Toddler Style Field Day on the Front Lawn. Children will blow bubbles, play in the crawling tube, and enjoy the outdoors. Please send your little one to school in comfortable clothes on his or her Field Day. More details of the event will follow next week.

And, for those of you wanting a glimpse of the classroom, the children were marvelous caretakers for our visitor from the Elementary Classroom, Froggy the tree frog. Every single student was so excited to participate in the care and observation of our special guest!

From the Primary Classroom

The cicadas are coming! Our primary students are preparing for this enormous opportunity for observation and discovery. Just think, when the cicadas return, these children will be 20-23 years old!

Primary students will spend the month discovering sea life, sea shells, the wonders of the coral reef, and many other facets of marine studies. The classrooms are filled works that are sure to inspire.

Here, Ms. Holly demonstrates one of them, a science work focusing on sea animals. An interesting side note, as Ms. Holly was presenting this work for the camera, the afternoon students finished an activity and made their way into the room. The only way you would know that they were arriving is a slight shadow on the floor and a tiny sound. They walked in carefully and took spots on the floor, watching Ms. Holly present this wonderful lesson.



Primary Work: Marine Animals

Here Ms. Holly presents a new work in Practical Life, Sifting Sand to Find Shells:



From the Primary Shelves: Sifting Sand and Surprises from the Sea

Students will be doing a number of interesting "parts of" works including the parts of a worm, a grasshopper, and a flower. They will be learning the characteristics of sharks and whales through sorting and exploring the different characteristics of marine mammals with some watery works!

Reminder: Our Family Field Trip to Three Lakes Park is next Friday. There will be no classes held that day.

From the Elementary Classroom



May in the Elementary Classroom

The month of May will be filled with activity! Watch the video above to hear about all our classroom plans for the month.

Our read-aloud, Little House on the Prairie, is taking the students to Kansas in the 19th century, while the preparation for the Spanish Feria is taking us all around the world!

Reminder: Elementary Spanish Research Presentation: Friday, May 17th @ 1:30 p.m.

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