

# Summit Private School Newsletter

April 30, 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 8

Dr. John Mike, Headmaster  
Dr. Susan Mike, Vice Head  
Bari Schwartz, Business Administrator

Megan Pflueger, Assistant Head  
Noreen LaBonte, Admin. Assistant  
Xiomara Orue, Editor



Earth/Peace Day at Summit April 22

## Contents

Administrative News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Toddler News	2
Pre-Primary News	2-3
Lower Elementary News	3
Upper Elementary News	4
Specials Corner	4

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ 5/4-8: Standardized Testing - Kindergarten/Elementary IOWA
- ◆ 5/5: PTA Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm
- ◆ 5/21: Teacher's Luncheon
- ◆ 5/22: Pre-Primary/Elementary 12:00 Dismissal
- ◆ 5/25: Memorial Day Holiday  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**
- ◆ 5/28: Kindergarten Graduation 7:00 pm
- ◆ 5/29: Toddler, Pre-Primary, Elementary Progress Reports issued
- ◆ 5/29: Spring Recital 6:30 pm

## What an outstanding month at Summit!

After returning from Spring Break the 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students created their science projects and presented the best Science Fair ever at Summit! The students ages 3 to Upper Elementary, staff and family members enjoyed erupting volcanoes, electric circuits, butterfly & dinosaur habitats, tadpoles maturing, homemade radios and buzzers, videos and live presentations on taking care of the earth by understanding the decomposition of packaging and the harmful effects of plastic, the anatomy of dogs and humans, chemical reactions, air pressure effects, static electricity, solar system quizzes, and so much more! The students worked very hard and really knew their science. The most impressive aspect was their passion to present their findings and the outstanding boards, models, and interactive devices used to educate the crowds. We are humbled by your genius and graciously thank all the parents and teachers for making this a Science Fair to remember!

We were very pleased to have the Upper Elementary students' MMUN experience featured on the front page of the Community section in the Sun-Sentinel. The reporter who did the story was very impressed with our students' answers and also impressed by their questions. In fact, he was so impressed with their curiosity to learn he provided a lesson for the students on how to take an interview and turn it into a story. The children really enjoyed this experience.

Next, the parents and friends of Summit enjoyed a fun-filled night at the PTA Luau. The setting, food & beverages, entertainment and company were wonderful. The PTA raised over \$7000.00 thanks to our Summit family generosity and support. Heart-felt thanks to the PTA Board, Luau committee, sponsors of the event, and all of the parents and teachers who helped to make and collect the auction items.

Next, the Students for World Peace Day on Earth Day was an incredible beautiful event. Make sure you enjoy the photos taken by Alicia Donelan. The songs, quotes, poetry, dances, creative t-shirts, art work and donations for Pennies for Peace truly touched our hearts. The peace tree, with its handmade ornaments representing many ways to show peace, was so beautiful. In only one month our Toddlers - 6<sup>th</sup> graders and staff collected \$280.40 and of that total, 17,733 pennies were collected! That money could nearly pay for a teacher's salary in Afghanistan or Pakistan for 6 months! We will continue to collect pennies and any donations for the remainder of the school year. Thank you to Ms. Angela & Ms. Deirdre's class for creating the poster to explain the value of a penny in helping to serve children in need of education. At the end of Students for World Peace Day the heart-shaped globe mosaic was brought out and Ms. Xiomara lead the children in the song "Put a Little Love in Your Heart." Thank you to Ms. Rachael and all of the art students, Kindergartners - 6<sup>th</sup> graders, who contributed to the peace tree and mosaic. Your beautiful creations made Students for World Peace Day a very special event for all of us. If you have not seen the magnificent mosaic piece of art the children created please stop by the art room, it will take your breath away.

Lastly, many Summit families, past and present, enjoyed Coach Roudy's Fun Run to Fight Childhood Obesity. The support was amazing and we had such a great time! Many Summit staff members either volunteered or participated in the event and the children were entertained by a magician, presented information on nutrition, received various sports gifts and enjoyed a fun run with their friends. Congratulations Coach Roudy on a great event and thanks to all who supported this important cause. We are blessed with such a great community at Summit.

Regards,

*Drs. John and Susan Mike*

## Toddlers



Ms. Jo, Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene  
saying  
"It's OUR turn!"



Children in Ms. Jo's and Ms. April's class  
dyeing Easter Eggs.



Joey and Hannah with Ms. Norma and  
Ms. Irene's class in the playground.

## Pre-Primary



Ms. Cindy and Ms. Nena's class potting  
plants.



Ms. Crystal and Ms. Jennifer with class  
at Peace Day.



Ms. Jan's class in gardening.

## Ms. Jo and Ms. April

Spring Break has come and gone, and we hope everyone had a nice holiday. The children really enjoyed dyeing real eggs and hunting for surprise-filled ones. This month we will continue to focus on things growing. We love watching the level of pennies in our Pennies For Peace jar grow! Put any extra pennies you might have in a baggie and send them in with your children. They get great pleasure out of plinking them into the jar. Thanks to all of you who attended the recent Peace/Earth Day celebration. Didn't the toddlers do a terrific job? Thank you to Ms. Crystal's class for sharing their performance time with us. Dylan turned 3 this month and Ms. April turned?????. Happy Birthday to both!

## Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene

It is incredible how quickly this school year has passed us by. It is already May and we only have a few weeks before summer break. April was a great month. We celebrated our friend Alexander S.'s birthday and also celebrated Peace and Earth Day. Since it was important to explain to the students about our Earth, one of our group lessons was about the Solar System. We learned the names of the planets and their position around the sun. We also learned how important it is to have Peace on Earth. In May we will continue to collect Pennies for Peace. Thanks to your donations, we will now be able to start our garden project. If anyone is interested in signing up to help us clean our garden, just let us know when you are available. As soon as the garden is cleaned up, we will be able to start planting seeds and flowers. Thanks to Jeane Cooper (Guilherme's mom) for her great help and dedication on the project for Luau night and all the parents who helped make this event possible. Thanks to our Room Mothers for all your help! (Shola Olatoye and Jasmine Gomez) *Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene.*

## Ms. Cindy and Ms. Nena

Oh my goodness what a busy month we have had this April. We started out with an amazing Spring/Easter craft day. Our homeroom mom's decided to do something a little different this year. The children got to decorate their own plant holders and then plant a flower into it. They turned out beautifully. They then did an egg hunt - wow one has to make sure one is out of the way when they set off to find those eggs....Thank you to Clare W, Jill S and Claire B for your help. We then had our spring break and came back ready to finish off the school year. We only have just over 5 weeks left and are still really busy showing lessons and mastering the ones that have been learnt. The lower elementary classes did their annual science fair this month as well. We were very impressed by their innovative ideas and the children had a great time wandering through the classes and interacting with the elementary children while they showed our class the projects. This past week we celebrated Earth and Peace day. Our class recited a poem and then some of the children got to say a quotation. We are very proud of what a great job they all did. Also during this month, Julien R celebrated his 6<sup>th</sup> birthday, a very happy birthday to him. In the next few weeks we will be sending out information regarding our end of year class party, please check your email and Friday folders.

## Ms. Crystal and Ms. Jennifer

My how April has gone by so fast! This month in honor of spring we have had the chance to watch a new birds nest develop, explore the hatch on the playground in a tree, we have found a small ants nest and were able to watch the larva move about. On our daily nature walks we took an in-depth look at insects - especially the life cycle of the butterfly. We had the opportunity to explore a real cocoon for show n tell courtesy of Tyler Bougie's family. The children really enjoyed his presentation. A funny story to tell... another student brought in what they thought was a dead caterpillar for the children to explore and to our surprise we discovered it actually wasn't dead and was trying to build a cocoon! The class was delightfully shocked as we observed the movement coming from inside the container! We quickly took it up to the upper building were Ms. Deirdre from the Lower E was gracious in assisting us with the proper care for it. Whewww that was close! It is safe to say that our exploration of insects and life cycles has been anything but boring. I would like to thank all of the parents for your participation in the Pennies for Peace campaign, it is a yearlong project so please keep sending them in!. Happy Spring to All !

*Ms. Crystal and Ms. Jennifer*

## Ms. Jan and Ms. Jade

The children in Miss Jan/Miss Jade's class are learning about the solar system through a mobile, a teaching song written by Miss Jan and her niece and books. Be ready to be informed about the planets by your little astronomers, especially Pluto (which is not considered a planet, anymore!) Miss Jade celebrated Thai New Year with the children on April 14th with beautiful pictures and dolls. Regina Taylan, Bryan's mom, came in to make "boo-boo bunnies" (ice packs) after Easter. Thank you, Regina! We have many merging readers and several proficient ones at this point in the year. It is such a JOY to see the children's faces when they have completed their first books! Happy Spring!

## Ms. Lourdes and Ms. Jessica

We as a class enjoyed planning and preparing for World Peace Day. Our preparations included creating earth-colored T-shirts on which we sponged giant Peace signs (the children were very proud of their creations). We read and studied about people around the world, and how their differences make the world so colorful and beautiful! We would like to thank [Ms. Suzanne Matera](#) (Baylee's Mom) and Ms. Jo Winchester for spending extra time with our class as they answered numerous questions about the guitar, and practiced with us tirelessly for our performance on World Peace Day. We ended our Peace Day celebration with an opportunity to taste delicious foods from around the world, thanks to all the parents who prepared tasty international dishes, cleaned up, and shared a meal with us. In addition to the studies, we have also had the privilege of having parents come into our class to share with us about their; country, culture or religion...our kids are absorbent sponges who find interest in just about anything. They have been on this earth for a short period, and it is all fresh and open for their exploration. Whatever you present to them is something new and unique, and they are eager to learn, please feel free to share your experiences with us. Peace and Love! *Ms. Lourdes & Ms. Jessica*

## Ms. Angela and Ms. Deirdre

Wow, another month down and one more month to go. This month was incredibly hectic as usual. We had our Annual Science Fair which was a huge success and World Peace Day. The students loved their song and were heartbroken you guys did not get to hear them at their best. Of course, if you were here for the Science Fair, you heard them loud and clear. We have been learning about the Greeks and the third graders have developed a fascination with the Greek Gods and Goddesses. In addition, we have been working on Geometry at the second and third grade levels. They love measuring angles. We are working on many exciting areas of the curriculum and can't wait to finish up with frog dissection next month. Thanks for all the support at the Science Fair and we look forward to seeing the mothers next Friday at our luncheon.

## Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stephanie

This past our class has been busy learning new lessons and "following-up" on lessons we are mastering. The students have really enjoyed our geometry lessons. We recently learned that "rhombus" is Greek for "spinning top," as children in Ancient Greece played with a top shaped like a rhombus. Last month we planted seeds using empty yogurt containers. This is a way to "reuse" something we might otherwise throw away. Some of our seeds sprouted, while others didn't. It was a good lesson on what plants need to survive. We have replanted those that didn't grow and are giving it another try. Peace Day was wonderful. If you didn't attend, take a stroll down our hallway (we are located by Bari's office) and see the poems we wrote and read aloud.

## Ms. Ann and Ms. Maria

Hello everyone! Our science fair was a resounding success, as it has been every year. Our talented scientists came up with so many interesting experiments, ideas and theories. A total pleasure as always. As to our octopus business, it was an overwhelming success with gross profits of about \$371 and a net profit of about \$289.00. We were able to order the science kit. Thank you to all of you who supported us and to the children who made any octopuses n(octopi). Praise to all of our Peace Day participants. The day was so thoughtful, and the weather so perfectly pristine for this day and Earth Day. Miss Rachel, we thank you for the magnificent mosaic. It is both beautiful and meaningful for Peace Day and Earth Day.



Pre-Primary and Elementary Students on Earth/Peace Day.



Ms. Lourdes's class on Earth/Peace Day.



Ms. Angela's class on Earth/Peace Day.



Ms. Jennifer's class on Earth/Peace Day.



Ms. Ann and Ms. Maria's class on Earth/Peace Day.

**Have you joined PTA yet?**

*It is not too late!*

*Every membership counts!  
Call Evelyn (561) 367-1270 or  
Robin (754) 246-3954*

## Specials



Ms. Norma's and Ms. Irene's class in the Library.



Duncan holding one of the harvested cauliflowers.



Annick and Alexandra showing a work in progress.



Maxine and Isabella working on the Peace Tree.

## Summit Private School

A Montessori Environment  
3881 N.W. 3rd Ave.  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431  
(561) 338-5020

We're on the Web!  
[www.summitschools.com](http://www.summitschools.com)

## Mr. Sesame and Ms. Giulia

Greetings to all the friends and family here at Summit Private School. Thanks again to everyone who supported the upper elementary delegates on our trip to the MMUN last month. I hope everyone saw the students' picture on the front page of the Local section of the Sunday Sun-Sentinel earlier this month, honoring our students and our school. After our cultural study of Japan, the tea ceremony impressed the community as such a peaceful, respectful, and noble way to honor the people around us that we have been holding ceremonies for people in our community, including Ms. Jo, Dr. and Susan Mike, and Judith Cunningham, the founder of the Montessori Model UN program. Our students are now preparing for Iowa tests, which will begin in May. The class has been working through our Iowa booklets and exploring the format of the test itself. Now we're ready to take the test and move into our science fair. The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Upper Elementary Science Fair will take place next month on May 27<sup>th</sup>, which is a Wednesday. All the students are pondering their hypothesis, variables and procedures, and preparing their science ideas for the big day. This is our final project for the month of May, and we hope all our friends will participate in the science fair. Hope to see you all there. Sincerely...  
*Sesame and Giulia*

## Specials Corner

### Library and Garden - Ms. Jayne

The LIBRARY: Summit children love their library. From the toddlers to the upper elementary. They all have a very special place for peace and learning. A library is more than just books. It is where imagination and creativity are given the opportunity to grow. Here is a poem written by a Summit student that describes her feeling about our wonderful library: by Caitlen M., October 30, 2008

The library is a calm place to be,  
A place with lots of books to read.  
With books on fairies and books on sand  
and books on paper and musical bands,  
With books on reptiles, clocks and mice,  
You ought to find one you'll really like !

Some popular book choices by our students this month were; Toddlers: Owen and Mzee ; Pre-K: The Salamander Room; Kindergarten: The Gingerbread Man; Lower Elementary: Something from Nothing Upper Elementary: Peace Tales. At our latest count, we have surpassed 1,000 stars and rockets in our library universe. Great reading kids!

The GARDEN: Our five cauliflower plants have now been harvested. They were beauties! There is something in the Summit soil that a cauliflower just loves. It is such a treat to watch the children plant seeds, observe them sprout, care for and water them and follow the process week after week until the harvest. There is so much to learn in the garden. The children's ideas are valued and respected. As we begin to wind down this planting season, we are beginning to discuss our accomplishments this year and some new ideas for next year. Among them are topiary, a sundial, a community garden and a "red, white and blue" garden! Your children are talented planners and designers. Please visit the Toddler Garden. See if you can find one of our tiny peeper frogs or tadpoles in the pond. Perhaps around the new fountain?! Lastly, thank you to so many who donated plants, seeds, coffee grounds for the gardenias and the worms, and your advice and support. Our Summit gardens would not flourish without you.

### Art - Ms. Rachael

Our big project in April was creating the mosaic for Peace Day. Several months ago, Dr. Mike mentioned he had been thinking about the world in the shape of a heart. Ms. Xiomara had already been practicing "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" and our project came together. Our kid's geography skills impressed me as we were gluing glass on the mosaic. Even the kindergarteners would say they were working on Africa or South America. For the end of the year we have been working on many different projects. Kindergarten and Lower Elementary are working on self-portraits. We looked at Frieda Kahlo's self-portraits for inspiration. We decided that noses are the most difficult part of drawing the face! Lower Elementary is also working on recycled art projects. They have been busy taping small empty boxes and toilet paper tubes together to make sculptures. Upper Elementary has been working on book art and will soon have a chance to create with clay.

### Music and Pre-Primary Spanish - Ms. Xiomara

April has been a busy month as the instrumental groups are preparing for their upcoming recital Friday, May 29. World Peace Day was wonderful. The students who participate in General Music sung and signed a heart-felt rendition of "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" following the uncovering of this year's mosaic prepared by Ms. Rachael and Summit art students- Our World surrounded by Love. The Pre-Primary Spanish class has been learning and reviewing numbers from 1-100, as well as the alphabet. In the month of May we will bring together all the concepts and vocabulary we've learned this year.

Any financial questions can be addressed with Bari Schwartz. (561) 338-5020

**N.B. Contributions for the Summit Newsletter can be sent to [msxiomara@summitschools.com](mailto:msxiomara@summitschools.com)**