

Summit Private School Newsletter

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John M. Mike, M.D., Headmaster
Susan L. Mike, M.D., Vice Head
Bari Schwartz, Business Administrator

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



Noah, from Ms. Jo's class placing pennies in the Pennies for Peace Jar.

What a Wonderful Year

It's hard to believe that an entire school year has gone by and what a wonderful and amazing year it was! My wife, the staff at Summit Private School and I are honored to have had this opportunity to nurture, train, educate and love these incredible children. As Dr. Montessori has said, "The child is truly a miraculous being and this should be felt deeply by the educator." When educators respect the child at such a deep level it permeates the entire school campus and everything we do.

Thanks to all of the students, parents and staff who helped make extraordinary events happen throughout this year. Together we served so many children and families in need in Haiti, at the Youth Activity Center, through UNICEF and Pennies for Peace. We helped send our Upper Elementary students to the Montessori Model United Nations where they represented us so proudly and gained a new level of personal confidence as leaders. We enjoyed the beautiful gardens and organic vegetables that the students cared for under the loving guidance of Ms. Jayne. We learned firsthand about Elections as we voted on campus and watched a historic event as President Obama took his oath of office. We marveled at the progress your children made on their lessons and in their development.

The students were so impressive and innovative in The Science Fair and Science Carnival. Where these students will go in their lives is so far beyond our imagination and the Science Fair and Science Carnival were just glimmers of the wonderful future they will create. The performances your children gave us all at the Holiday Program, the World Peace Day, Kindergarten Graduation and at the Spring Dance & Music Recital were outstanding. Our sports teams were so fun to watch and they were all winners! Our hearts were touched by the friendships the students made and the love that they poured out to us and each other as a community. Your children are beautiful, amazing human beings that we feel so blessed to know and love. Thank you for sharing your children with us and for being so involved in the school community. Together, we make Summit what it is - a wonderful school community and family.

We are also grateful to the staff for all of their time and devotion to the students. They go above and beyond to make your child's school experience memorable and rewarding. We have so many reasons to be grateful this school year, even beyond what we have mentioned here. The future at Summit is so bright, as our elementary continues to grow, the middle school plans are moving ahead and our curriculum continues to expand into new educational opportunities in the sciences, foreign language, geography, higher level thinking and problem solving, as well as in the arts and areas of service. Thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful summer!

Gratefully yours,
Drs. John and Susan

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 6/4: Last Day of School
12:00 pm Dismissal
- ◆ 6/8: Summer Camp
2009 Session I begins
- ◆ 6/26: Last Day of
Summer Camp Session I
- ◆ 6/29: Summer Camp
Session II begins

Used Ink Cartridges and Boxtops

This is a reminder that we are still collecting Boxtops and Used Ink Cartridges. This month we were able to send in another boxtops submission and we will be receiving \$95.00 for the PTA as a result of that. Please keep collecting these items over the summer and bring them to school in August. Every bit counts!

Thanks,
Andrea Cole

Toddlers



Ms. Jo's class in the Toddler playground.



Happy Birthday Ms. April!



Together on the playground.



Toddler playground - early morning.



Toddler playground - late afternoon.
We had fun!

Ms. Jo and Ms. April

The end of the year is fast approaching and it has been an eventful one for our class. The children enjoyed planting our Mother's Day beans and watching them grow. We are now looking forward to our Splash Day on Thursday, June 4th (the last day of school). Send your child to school wearing a bathing suit and bring a change of clothes in a bag clearly marked with your child's name. We will have fun playing in sprinklers on the Sports Court.

Many thanks to all of you who have helped in our class throughout the year: Nicole Barry for her talents as Room Mother, Kevin's parents for the generous donation of our Shark sweeper for the clean-up of those pesky crumbs after lunch, Xavier's dad and Hudson's mom for helping in the garden - the list goes on and on. Happy Birthday to Noah who turned 3 this month, and to Madeline - 3 in July. Some of you may have heard that I will be retiring as a lead toddler teacher at the end of this school year. It has been an incredible 18-year experience, and I feel very honored to have been part of the growth and development of such an excellent school. I am leaving my class in the very capable hands of Ms. April and Ms. Johanna. I am not, however, disappearing! I will be doing toddler aftercare, so "The Wheels on the Bus" will continue to go round and round. Ms. April and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for sharing your children with us this school year and for allowing us to be partners in their education and nurturing. We have learned much from each other and it has been a pleasure. Have a safe and restful summer!

Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene

We've reached the end of the school year, and we have to say good-bye to many of our friends who have already reached the age of three! It has been lovely to see how these toddlers have transformed into independent pre-schoolers in only the ten months since they arrived in our classroom. It's quite amazing to see how independent they are becoming, how they plan their day, how they choose their lessons, how they open their lunchboxes and decide what to eat; to see how they've left their diapers behind and are now potty-trained. Very soon they will be in a new environment and be able to prove that they have become independent. We are going to miss you, Good luck!! To all you little friends who are remaining with us, we wish you a great summer so that when you return in the fall you are ready to continue your path towards pre-school. I want to thank all of you for your smiles, your "I love you's", and your early morning hugs; we are going to miss you very much. Thanks to all the parents who supported our classroom, and made this year unforgettable for all.

Ms. Cindy and Ms. Nena

Can you believe the end of school is here!! The past few months have flown by. The children have worked very hard towards their goals this past year and have accomplished a lot. We have so many readers that it is hard to keep up with all the books. We can't wait to see the work that the children will be doing next school year. This month we watch our kindergartners, Lucas, Julien, Max, Harry and Neve graduate from kindergarten and move into first grade. They will be completing a chapter in their lives and starting a new one. We are so very proud of all that they have achieved, academically, emotionally and socially. It is hard to believe that they will no longer be 'our children' as they spread their wings but we will be keeping an eye on them. We will be having our end of year class party at the beach this year and look forward to enjoying a fun day with everyone. Thank you to our homeroom moms, Clare and Jill for their assistance during the year. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our students and to wish those who are moving on to new classes or new schools every success. Ms. Nena and I would also like to thank the parents for their continued trust and support over the past year and look forward to seeing you when we return to school in August. Have a wonderful summer!

Ms. Crystal and Ms. Jennifer

It's hard to believe that this year has come to an end. The children have accomplished so much academically but I feel that they will all walk away with is the joy of learning! I'd like to thank all of you for your contributions throughout the year. It truly has been a pleasure working with all of the children this year. Wishing all of you a great summer!

Ms. Jan and Ms. Jade

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with your children this past year! We are rounding off the year with review lessons and deepening our knowledge of the solar system. Our kindergartners are eagerly preparing for graduation on May 28th in the evening. During the daytime we will have special activities in between our three Thursday "specials" (fitness for all and computer and art for the kindergartners.) We will have a treasure hunt in the garden around 10:00 AM followed by a frozen treat. We will also have a practice graduation so that all children can honor those who are moving up or moving on. Thank you for your support and respect this past year. Blessings to all!

Ms. Lourdes and Ms. Jessica

Our past few weeks have been very eventful as our friends excitedly observed several caterpillars evolve from caterpillar to chrysalis to beautiful Monarch butterflies which we released with such love and pride. At this point any Monarch we see fluttering around campus we assume it is one of ours. We have enjoyed receiving the many exotic and beautiful flowers which the kids have created gorgeous arrangements. Our environment smells and looks so beautiful. We enjoyed having breakfast with Mom and Dad, the kids love having their parents joining and participating in the class with them. At this point in the year we wish our Kindergartners much love and good-luck as they move on the next level. Our graduates: Baylee, Ethan, James, Makana, Nathan, and Sofia. Thanks to all the Moms and Dads for a very successful and delicious Teachers Luncheon...we are all so grateful! Love and Peace, *Ms. Lourdes*

Ms. Angela and Ms. Deirdre

Wow, the end of the year is here and summer is upon us. Yeah! It has been an amazing year and I enjoyed working with every child in our class. They are amazing children. I will miss the remaining students next year but will check on them throughout the year. Margie is wonderful and after spending a few days with her, I am more confident than ever that she and Deirdre will make a great team. Check out the pictures from our crazy month with our Mother's Day Lunch, Field Trip to the Miami Children's Hospital and up next; Field Day, Frog & Crayfish dissection, and Father's Night out at Roger Dean Stadium. Don't forget the last day of school is Thursday, June 4th. We will go bowling and have our annual ice cream truck but lunch will not be served that day. Enjoy your summer!

Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stephanie

WOW! What a great time we had at field day! It was the first field day for many of us - including Ms. Stephanie and I. Some of us were a little apprehensive at first, but once we got into the games, we had lots of fun. The class enjoyed the swimming pool in the afternoon until the rain came. Our class is busy preparing for next year and our move to the upper building. We've enjoyed our space in the lower building, but the students are excited to be closer to the playground next year! We want to wish Ms. Jo a happy, peaceful, and lazy retirement and good luck to Ms. Jan in your new endeavors. We will miss you both. If your children are here this summer for camp, Ms. Stephanie and I will both be working and are looking forward to an exciting summer. If not, have a great summer and see you in the fall.

Ms. Ann and Ms. Maria

Our year end wind down has been a frenzy of activity. The octopus reunion was great! We have grossed close to \$600.00 in sales and are still completing orders. The octopuses our class created are treasured by their proud owners. The science kit we bought with the profits will give the children the opportunity and equipment for hours of interesting experiments. We have yet to put the plaque on the trophy for last year and yet Field Day 2009 is already here. The Manatees and Sea Turtles are very excited about going head to head again in the fun competitions. On June 4th, our last day of school, we are going bowling. We also have an ice cream truck coming to school, which should sweeten the summer good-byes. We wish you all a peaceful, restful summer and we thank you for all of your support this year. It was great year!



Ms. Angela's class held a Special Mother's Day Luncheon.



Evelyn with daughter Bayla.



Dylan and his mom, Leslie.



Adam serving his mom Louise.



Dr. Susan with daughter Olivia.



Ms. Xiomara with string students.



Lower elementary holding their octopuses for all to see.

Specials



Ms. Angela's students decided that they wanted to perform at the Mother's Day Luncheon. After Alexandra P. talked to Ms. Xiomara, a 30 minute program was put together and the students performed in the library with the glass doors open to the picnic area where all the mothers were seated.

Computer Class-Ms. Risa

The children continue to work on mastering computer skills. Kindergarten has been using early literacy programs such as Reader Rabbit Reading, Reader Rabbit Math, Reader Rabbit Kdg, Blues Clues Kdg, Kidpix, etc. They also enjoy working on their literacy skills and Internet skills by visiting age appropriate websites. First and second grades have been learning how to make a slide show of the 4 seasons in Kidpix. They first drew pictures of the 4 seasons using drawing tools and graphic tools to create a picture of each season. Then they created a slideshow using their pictures. The third grade has been creating slide show presentations using Hyperstudio. They have used the internet to research an animal, download photos of their chosen animal and then incorporate them into a Hyperstudio slide show. The fourth and fifth grades are currently creating websites using Web Studio software. They each have chosen a business product to (fictitiously) sell on the internet.

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

Mr. Sesame and Ms. Giulia

The month of May has gone by like a flash. It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. This month we went on a field trip to the Boca Raton Water Treatment Plant. It might not sound like the most interesting place to visit, but the presentation by Ms. Lisa was actually very fascinating. Thanks to the parents for helping us get there and back. This month we focused on finishing the year strong. We enjoyed learning about Evolutionary Chemistry and deciphering the periodic table a bit. Our science year ended with student dissections of both frogs and crayfish. Although not everyone made it through the entire process, we all learned something through the process. This month we also finished our last piece of literature for the year, Sarah Bishop, which covers the period of America's revolution. Thanks again to all the parents for your support over the year, and wishing all a great summer.

Sesame and Giulia.

Specials Corner

Library and Garden - Ms. Jayne

LIBRARY: A very big thank you to Sharon Hill, Chris Patels and everyone who helped with our Spring Book Fair. The theme was **READING MAKES YOU A STAR!** This connected so well with our library theme. Every time a child reads a book it widens their world and builds their brain cells. Thank you for supporting our book fairs. All of the elementary classes have been doing "animal research" in the library this month. Finding incredible facts about animals was interesting, challenging and fun. As each student had a turn to report his or her findings, we learned from each other too. Learning and refining research skills are important tools that our children will use for the rest of their lives. Two favorite books for our Pre-Primary students for the month of May were: "The Vinganee and the Tree Toad", a Liberian folk tale, and "Caps for Sale", a xxxxxxxxxxxx. They were a most enthusiastic audience! Ask your child to sing the chorus from either book. They will surprise you. Our final count of **STARS AND ROCKETS** in the library is 1,250. Lots of brain cells are growing at the Summit School!!! A hint on the Library Theme for 2009-2010..... it has something to do with the **OCEAN!!!!**

GARDEN: I am hoping that our spring and summer showers will help keep some of our remaining plantings fresh. Watering the garden will be a wonderful camp activity! Ms. Deirdre has generously volunteered to care for the **WORM FARM** over the summer months. Her "assistant" will be Jacob G. I am certain that our red wigglers will be most appreciative. Thanks very much to you both. Many thanks to Ana Deluca and Betsy Silverfine for clearing the toddler garden. These Moms have pulled weeds, raked, placed stepping stones and bagged debris. The Lower Elementary students will be helping by planting small perennials that will flower year round. The pond is once again full from the rains and we are still on the lookout for peeper frogs. As a result, the lovely little garden is ready for children to enjoy. It has been a wonderful year, full of learning and development. I have watched the children grow **LIKE WEEDS!!!!** I wish everyone a wonderful, relaxing, healthy and safe summer. And keep in mind the words of Harrison C. "WITH MY BRAIN, I CAN DO ANYTHING."

Art - Ms. Rachael

News from the art room...: The Kindergarten worked on self-portrait collages for their graduation. They spent time studying their faces in mirrors and we learned and saw how much variation there is even in a nose. Kindergarteners had many shades of skin tone from which to choose. Yarn and other shapes were added to complete their faces. Kindergarten also worked on mini tile mosaics. We discussed patterns and repetition in art. Lower Elementary had various projects going on. Several classes drew self-portraits. We used our mirrors and practiced many ways to draw noses and mouths as the students found these to be the most challenging. We looked at Frieda Kahlo's self-portraits and discussed her works. Various classes worked on 'peace boxes' with the peace symbols from around the world. Some of the classes created recycled art. We taped boxes and paper tubes together to create lots of interesting projects. We focused on construction and making strong joints. There was lots of discussion and planning that went into the creations. Upper Elementary finally had time to enjoy working with clay. We went over the basic techniques of working with clay. Students created various sculptures and animals. They also worked with plasticine the last day of art class and made many unusual creations. Clay is always a favorite medium. We also learned about abstract art and had a great time layering different paint colors and creating texture and design in the paint. I wish everyone a wonderful summer! *Ms. Rachael*

Music and Pre-Primary Spanish - Ms. Xiomara

May was a busy month in the music department as the students prepared for their performances. Ms. Angela's class performed for the Mother's Day Luncheon from the library. The Kindergarteners performed "A Trip Around the World" for their parents, family and friends on Graduation Night, May 28. The instrumental students prepared diligently and performed for their Spring Recital on May 29. Special kudos to the String Ensemble who performed at both the Kindergarten Graduation and the Spring Recital! In the world of pre-primary Spanish, the children have been reviewing vocabulary that they have learned throughout the year. The school year is just about to end, and I have to say that the students have come a long way. I am proud of all their accomplishments! I will be at Summit all summer long for Summer Camp. If any student would like to continue or begin private music lessons this summer, I will be available after 3 pm, but spots have already begun to be filled. It would also be a good idea to secure a spot for private lessons in the fall, as those have begun to fill quickly. I wish all of you a wonderful summer with many musical moments!

N.B. Contributions for the Summit Newsletter can be sent to msxiomara@summitschools.com