



Mrs. Dowd's Summer Reader...

What a whirlwind summer Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service has had! We had over 250 kids join us for our "Fun in the Sun" Learning Camp, and we had a **FANTASTIC** time playing games, making friends, and of course, learning. Don't miss the article on page 2 for more details!

How has this summer season been treating you? Have you had the chance to enjoy a warm day outside with your family? Are you ready to send the kids back to school in the fall? I know that this summer has gone by so quickly for everyone here at MDTS and I'm sure for you as well!



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We are already planning for the Fall 2006 Module! With that being said, I'm going to let you in on some *outstanding* news: If your child was served by MDTS during the 2005-2006 school year (and summer too!), you are eligible to bring your child back for another 27 hours of *free* tutoring during the 2006-2007 school year! That's right, you are hearing me correctly! Once school begins all you have to do is go to your child's school office and fill out a SES Response Form, then the rest is up to us! You can also call the office and we will be more than happy to help you out. Your children have been such a joy to work with. We look forward to seeing more of you this school year!

Have a wonderful, relaxing end of the summer and we will see you in the fall.

— Colleen Hooker

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Special points of interest:

- *How was the Summer Session?*
- *We have the BEST Teachers & Students!*
- *What does "Freedom" mean to you?*
- *Hear from Mrs. Dowd!*
- *What do kids think about MDTS?*

August 1st: BASEBALL! (ARE YOU COMING?)

In our last newsletter, we let you in on the hottest summer deal – Mrs. Dowd's at a Bowie Baysox Baseball Game. On Tuesday, August 1st, Mrs. Dowd will be taking every student who has completed the 27 hours of the MDTS summer program along with his or her family to a Bowie Baysox Baseball game. This is a completely *free* event for

you to enjoy with your family and friends and is a way for us to thank you for choosing Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service. In order for you to participate in this *free* event, your child must have graduated from our summer program by completing the 27 hours allotted by the Maryland State Department of Education. Remember that there will be one make-up week of instruction (July 17th-20th) for any student who has not completed their hours. For those who are close enough in hours to attend, expect a letter shortly.

Please, we encourage you to help your child finish out the summer session. We can't wait to see you at the stadium!



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Summer Session

Summer has made her presence here in PG County! Amidst the torrential amounts of rain over the past week, to the scorching days earlier this month, kids have been faithfully coming to Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service's "Fun in the Sun" Learning Camp. It has been exciting to travel to the various sites and see all the bright faces of young ones who are eager to learn and excited to have fun. In the first week of camp, students took the Wide Range Assessment Test, were placed into learning groups with kids on their academic level, worked diligently on math and reading, made friends with both kids and tutors, and have had a great time playing both inside and out.



Mr. Ernest Pretlow with two students from Bladensburg E.S. at Mrs. Dowd's Learning Center

Once the kids got used to the way our program was run, they made themselves quite at home! Most of our students know everyone by name, which makes our sites more like a family instead of a summer camp. We have watched your children grow in understanding their math and reading. We believe that the instruction they have received from us will be useful to them as they enter the next grade in the fall.

We have all had a great time getting to know your children! A huge thanks goes out to you, the parents, on making sure your kids get out the door and onto the buses! Without you, none of this would be possible.

Outstanding Teachers & Students

Preparing curriculum, setting up the site, preparing snacks, grading papers...these are just some of the tasks that our faithful teachers do everyday at each one of our sites. This summer each teacher has gone above and beyond the call of duty and I think it only fair to highlight a few of them.

Caitlin Strine, a young teacher from Baltimore, MD, braves the hour commute from Baltimore to PG County to work at Judge Sylvania Woods and Robert R. Gray everyday. She works wonderfully with her students at both sites and has won the respect of the managers, teachers, and students. Thank you Caitlin for all that you have done to make this summer such a success!

Two young men, Jeremy Peggins and Mark Novivo, have done an outstanding job at Buck Lodge Middle School where they have been working. Both Mark and Jeremy have made friends with their students as well as helped them understand their math and reading. Mark and Jeremy are young college students and are able to relate well to our middle school students. Great job guys!



*A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell where his
influence stops.*

—Henry Adams

Our Resource Specialists are those who are not quite old enough to tutor but are talented with paperwork and have a heart to serve. One Resource Specialist, Jerrod Etherton, worked with us for only a brief time but did such a great job, we had to tell you about him! Our first week we had over 85 kids at Robert Gray and Jerrod was our *only* Resource Specialist; Aside from that, it was his first week on the job! Jerrod stepped up to the plate and worked extra hard at helping the managers and teachers. Great job Jerrod!

Brhea Fortune, one of our students at Robert R. Gray, deserves a great big pat on the back for her **PERFECT ATTENDANCE!** Miss Fortune also has had a wonderful attitude about learning from her tutors! She comes prepared everyday for a new lesson! Way to go, Brhea!

Two students at Riverdale Elementary, Larissa and Dellon Peters have made quite the adjustment to our program. Having just moved here from Guyana, Larissa is working her hardest at reading and phonics. The hard work is paying off and Larissa is doing a fantastic job! Great job Larissa and Dellon!

As I hope this brief articles shows you, we have the hardest working teachers and students around! We love what we do and it pays off to see the joy a child gets when he/she understands a new concept. Thank you teachers, students, parents, and everyone else who makes learning a success!

Let Freedom Ring!

For the 4th of July we gave every student at MDTs the assignment, **“What Does Freedom Mean to Me?”** Below are some of what the children wrote:

“I am lucky because I live in a free country. I get to go swimming. I can visit my godmother and play with my godsis-ter anytime I want to. On the 4th of July I get to see fire crackers at our Nation’s Capitol. I can go to the pet shop and get a dog or a fish or a cat. You may get free candy. You can go to your father’s job. You can go fishing. I can go to Chucky Cheese.”

— Wayne Palmer

“To be free means that I am safe in my home. We are free to play outside with our friends. To be free means that I can say what I’m thinking. My family is free to go to any church.”

— Cindy Jimenez

“If I was free I’d help people and I would go church. I would go outside. I would paint my room pink.”

— Yanina

“Freedom to me means no more school in the summer. I’m glad I’m free so black and white people can be together.”

—D’Andre McNeely

“I think being free is having the right to vote. Next, I think being free is doing things you couldn’t do before. Then, I think being free you can go to schools that have your grade. Finally, You can go to any pool.”

—Emmanuel Ramirez

What a great country we live in! The men who gave their lives for our freedom knew the beauty of what freedom means. It’s obvious that your children are on their way to understanding what freedom is and what blessing it is to live in the United States of America.



LOVE Division

1,250 lunches...540 breakfasts...4 ladies. The U.S Department of Agriculture provides lunches for Title I SES Providers through-out the school year and summer. For our program it took about a week to set-up lunch delivery. For that week the Love Division women Mrs. Carol Chappellear, Mrs. Vickie Anderson, Jackie Black and Colleen Hooker took up the calling to feed our hungry students. You should have been in the office to see such a production! Bread all over the conference room, our refrigerator stocked with enough ham and turkey to feed a kingdom! When all was finished no mouths went unfed...including teachers! One manager told us that the kids were ecstatic about their lunches! “These lunches were way better than what they normally serve us!” Great job ladies!

The LOVE Division has received many responses to the letter we sent out at the end of June. As I type this, we are doing all that we can to help those in need. Please be patient as we do our best to respond to each family as we are able to.

“Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting.”

—Mother Theresa



Carol Chappellear, Vickie Anderson, and Colleen Hooker help out with the lunches.

Director’s Corner

Dearest families,

How can we ever thank you for giving us the chance to work with your children this past school year? The memories we have are absolutely precious: a 4th grader running up to her teacher yelling, “you didn’t forget me!”; or watching three kindergarten students practicing phonics and really getting it, all the while laughing and giggling at the sounds; or the set of serious middle school student twins who drew all their teachers and yours truly for their friends and gave me the original copy? I never looked so cute – laugh out loud here.

Seriously, the joy of seeing students learn, really learn math and reading, is, as the MasterCard commercial goes, “priceless.” And...we are getting ready to do it all over again! **Stay tuned for School Year 2006-2007 where your children are eligible to be tutored with our amazing teachers. Can’t wait to see you then!**

Have a safe rest of the summer, you are all loved,

Mrs. Eileen Dowd

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Until every child in PG County is served...



Fun Facts to Know and Tell...

The animal responsible for the most human deaths worldwide is the mosquito.

Wackiest Street Names:

Unexpected Road in Buena, N.J.
The intersection of Lonesome and Hardup in Albany, Ga
Psycho Path in Traverse City, Mich.

Did you know that there are 206 bones in the adult human body and there are 300 in children (as they grow some of the bones fuse together).

The world's largest amphibian is the giant salamander. It can grow up to 5 ft. in length.

The poison arrow frogs of South and Central America are the most poisonous animals in the world.

The human eye blinks an average of 4,200,000 times a year.

Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

If you stretch a standard Slinky out flat it measures 87 feet long.



LOS ANGELES TIMES, December 9:

A man walked into a branch of the Antelope Valley Bank and handed a teller a note demanding money. The man had one hand in his pocket, as if holding a gun, so the teller began handing over the contents of her cash drawer.

When she had forked over \$7,000 the robber said, "That's enough" and walked out the door. It's hard to find a bank robber who knows when he's had enough.

I hope this makes you laugh until you cry...Share these with your friends and make them smile too!