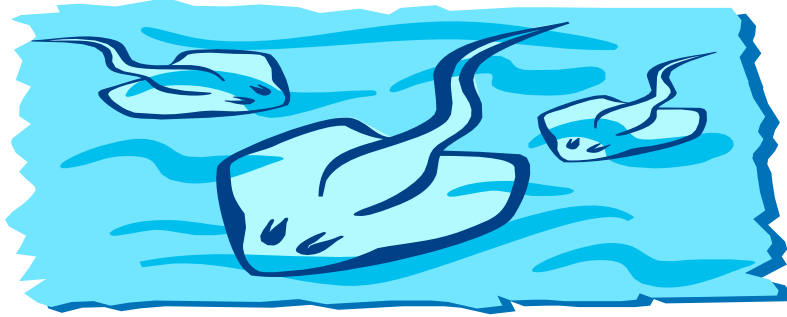


# High Tide



*“News You Can Use” from the Stingray Classroom*

**Gillen Brewer School**

**Summer, 2007**

## Classroom Update

Over the summer our Stingrays have come together to work, exercise and play as a group like never before. Daily soccer games, lunchtime challenges of “guess where my ‘topia\* is!” (using the maps and lots of geography Q & A!), taking turns leading exercise, checking each other’s classwork, sharing movies and books, building circuits at choice time- all these and more have created stronger friendships and a sense of community. Although we may not all be in the same room next year, the friendships and the social skills will continue to comfort and enrich us.

It has also been a summer of learning. The boys have been quite excited by our ancient Egyptian theme in social studies. They love the myths and the death rituals (Anubis is a cult favorite). They have made a diorama, researched pharaohs and deities, made a model mummy from a kit, and deciphered hieroglyphics to solve a riddle. They also enjoyed studying the skeletal and muscular system and worked hard on their assignments. We cannot say confidently that they *enjoyed* grammar, but they exceeded our expectations in the work and will no doubt be correcting our usage soon enough. Our field

trips (Egypt at The Met, Pera Restaurant, bowling) were edifying and fun. Okay, bowling was not edifying, *but* the boys all practiced good sportsmanship, turn-taking, and creative thinking as to how to get more of the teachers' French fries. All in all, a nice wrap-up to a year whose goals were *work hard, be kind & talk about it.*

Tuesday we said farewell to Sarah V., who left a few days early to go home for her wedding. The boys are all excited to call her Sarah C. next year!

We wind up our week with a game of Jeopardy on Thursday (you have seen the study packets, we hope!) and regular swimming on Friday, which is a full day. We will send home items as we clean out the room. Incomplete workbooks can be used to supplement schoolwork or discarded.

The boys have been talking about their vacation plans, and it sounds like everyone has a well-deserved break coming up. We wish you the best and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the generosity, support and kindness you have shown us and all the children. *See you in September!*

*With love,  
Linda, Sarah V. & The Stingrays:  
Dominique, Henry, Hudson, Justin, Leo, Mathew, Sammy*

*'topia began as "Hudsontopia" and soon enough everyone had to have one. They are generally countries or other geographical places, although we do not really have any idea how the 'topia is conceptualized by the boys. We stay out of it.*