

# The Neighborhood Learning Center



## The Director's Corner

Marcie Peterson, Director

Dear Parents,

When Christmas ends we eagerly await the words "Happy New Year!" With the onset of the New Year, one will normally ponder about the past year and most often look forward to the new. We tend to remember the occurrences of the past year: the good times, the bad times, the

frustrating times, and the fun times. We remind ourselves of the valuable lessons we learned from our experiences, what God showed us, and how He was faithful through all of it.



We all need to do this as a

## JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS!

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Scholastic Book Clubs orders due January 16th

January 11th—Pajama day!

Schedule your parent/teacher conferences

.CLOSED—January 21st—Martin Luther King Day

Sport's Day—Wear your favorite team jersey—January 25th

Kindergarten Readiness—January 30th—7 pm



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## Staff Spotlight



Hi. My name is Allison and I teach the "Twos." I earned my associate's

degree in Early Childhood Education from LFCC. I have worked with many age groups at the NLC for almost a year. I will return to school in Fall 2013 to further my

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## Friendly Reminders

### SCHOOL CLOSINGS (Updated)

The NLC will follow the Loudoun County Government Offices' schedule for closing due to inclement weather and late opening.



\* If Loudoun County Public Schools have an early dismissal, the NLC bus

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## Parent's Corner

My daughter Ava has been attending The Neighborhood Learning Center since this past spring. She loves the teachers, the routine, and most of all her friends. I could not be happier with the quality of care Ava receives daily.

Tina Miller



closure to one year and an opening to the next. After putting the past to bed, we begin to look forward with excitement wondering what God has for us this coming year. What new experiences are on the horizon, what will we go through and what new lessons will we learn? Do not dwell on the past. It needs to be all fresh and new and exciting!

Doing this helps us to view each year as a season, understanding that God is sovereign and provides new experiences that will allow us to grow. Putting each experience into seasons will remind us of the times we went through seasons of grief and the times we experienced as seasons of joy.

It helps us remember that God is in control and that we are constantly growing as His children. He knows the plans He has for us; plans of new wisdom, insight, and understanding that He wants to impart to us if we will allow Him to.

**Happy New Year & God Bless,  
Ms. Marcie**

### **Wednesday Afterschool Café**

The Wednesday Afterschool Café program for youth (4th – 12th grade) is St. Andrew's mid-week ministry program open to the church, community and the NLC. Our weekly program begins at 3 pm and concludes with family dinner at 6:30 pm. Our afternoon includes snack, tutoring, games, worship lab and Bible Study. If you would like your 4th or 5th grader to participate in the program simply fill out the Wednesday Afterschool Café Enrollment Form on Page 4 and drop it off at the NLC.

### **AUTHOR OF THE MONTH**

This month we have chosen Jan Brett. With over thirty-four million books in print, Jan Brett is of the nation's foremost author/illustrator of children's books. She has spent many years traveling different countries where she researches the architecture and costumes that appear in her work. Please take time with your children to read her books and experience the joy she brings to children of all ages! Visit Jan Brett at her website: [www.janbrett.com](http://www.janbrett.com)

### **Staff Spotlight (From Page 1)**

degree in Early Childhood Education.

I have a wonderful husband of two years, and we are expecting our first daughter in early May. We have two dogs that we love to go hiking with. I also love to cook, camp and travel.

I look forward to spending time with your children, to teach and watch them grow!

### **NEW PARENT HANDBOOK**

Have you received the new parent handbook? Your child's teacher will be making sure you have returned the last page as an acknowledgement of receiving it.

There is a lot of important information for you to be aware of such as tuition policies, vacation credits, meals and food brought from home.

Also, please note we have changed the inclement weather/school closing policy. Instead of following the Federal Government, we will follow the Loudoun County Government Offices' schedule.

*Look for us on the web at* <http://tnlcenter.com/>

## The Chaplin's Corner

### Children and the Sacred

Children have open hearts for sacred and holy things. (That's why they love Santa so much!) They often display such sides when life confronts them with challenges and questions. It is not uncommon for a child, when faced with loss like the death of a pet or a loved one, to delve into heavenly matters and ask questions related to God and God's relationship with people. It is good for them to ask such things even when we don't know the answer for sure. I imagine you may be getting such difficult questions following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary. It is good for them to ask about where God was or how come bad things happen to innocent little ones or whether something like this will happen to them in their schools.

It is important to let them ask the questions. Often, as adults, we want to be able to answer everything. Sometimes it is in allowing the question to hang in the air that we get an answer or at minimum comfort from the God who loves us and grieves along with us



in the face of violence and death. Let kids explore and experiment with the divine. Invite them to pray the way they like and for things that may seem silly, or to wonder out loud how God is so big yet small enough to fit into our hearts. And, if they do stump us in their questions, it is okay to say – I don't know, and follow it up with something you know for sure like this - but what I do know is that you are a Beloved Child of God. We all could use knowing more often how loved we are, especially by the One who has formed and knows us.



Also, know I have an open door policy. If you and your family are in need of space to talk, to pray or simply sit together in the presence of God, feel welcomed to knock on my office door, give me a call or send me an email.

You are in my prayers. Happy New Year!

*Pastor Jessica*

#### **Friendly Reminders (From Page 1)**

- will immediately pick the children up from school.
- \* If the Loudoun County Government Offices have an early dismissal, parents are required to pick their children up immediately.
- \* If the Loudoun County Government Offices have a delayed opening, The NLC will open one hour PRIOR to the opening of the County Government Offices.

When Loudoun County Public Schools are closed due to holidays or teacher workdays and the NLC is open, school-age children may attend for an extra fee. The extra fee is applied if the child arrives before their normal time: i.e. 11:00 am for kindergarten or 2:45 for 1st – 5th grade.





**HALF DAY PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**

**KINDERGARTEN READINESS**

Is your child going to kindergarten this fall? Would you like to know more about our full-day kindergarten program we would like to offer and our current enrichment kindergarten program? There will be an open house held for interested parents on Wednesday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. Take this opportunity to learn about readiness and what skills your child needs to be successful. Ms. Terri, our Pre-kindergarten teacher will lead the discussion and will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent teacher conferences will be held the end of January and the first week of February. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside your child’s classroom for you to schedule a time to stop by or to schedule a phone call. Conferences are an excellent opportunity for parents to meet with their child’s teacher and discuss his or her development, activities and goals. Teachers can also give you helpful information as you make decisions about your child’s placement for next year. In order to stay with allotted time for each conference, please be prepared with questions or concerns for your child’s teacher.

**January 2013**

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

		<b>1 CLOSED New Years Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 Tuition Due</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11 Tuition Due Pajama day!</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16 Scholastic Book Clubs orders due</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Tuition Due</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21 CLOSED Martin Luther King Day</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 Tuition Due Sport's Day- Team Jerseys</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30 Kindergarten Readiness- 7 pm</b>	<b>31</b>		

*Contact us!*

We welcome all comments and are happy to hear your recommendations and concerns. Call The Neighborhood Learning Center at **540/338-3956** or e-mail our Director, Marcie Peterson, at

[Marcie@theneighborhoodlearningcenter.com](mailto:Marcie@theneighborhoodlearningcenter.com)

**Wednesday Afterschool Café Enrollment Form**

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Signature \_\_\_\_\_