

# The Neighborhood Learning Center



## The Director's Corner

Marcie Peterson, Director

Dear Parents,

We all know that parents are children's first and foremost teachers. It's also no secret that in today's world, there has been a significant increase of shared responsibility of children ages 0 to 5 and through elementary school, with teachers and caregivers who provide child care and early education. Most studies on parental involvement show a high correlation between the level of

parent involvement and the educational achievement of children. Research shows that when parents and other family members take an interest in what children are learning, provide opportunities to do learning activities at home, and offer encouragement to a child's learning efforts, the impact can be significant. It appears that



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### Staff Spotlight



Hello!! I would like to take a moment to introduce myself! My name is Ashley Peppers and I am thrilled

to say that I am the Kindergarten Enrichment teacher at the Neighborhood Learning Center! I am married (going on 24 years!) to my husband, a retired Army officer, and quite a wonderful man. We have lived in many different places throughout the years and settled in Leesburg in 2000. We have two girls

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### This month at school.....

We usher in March with looking for signs of spring, season changes, wind and weather and Easter celebrations. We will study healthy living focusing on nutrition and exercise. During the middle of the month, we will study Spring on the farm. We plan to set up an incubator with eggs and count down the days until they hatch. Be sure to ask your child about this wonderful experience!

### MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- Dr. Seuss's Birthday March 2nd
- Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon—March 6th (Bring your favorite Dr. Seuss book to school)
- Daylight Savings Time: Sunday, March 10th Spring Forward!
- Scholastic Book order due: Friday, March 13th
- St. Patrick's Day celebration- March 15th Wear green to school
- Parents' Night Out: Saturday, March 16th 4–8 pm. Please sign up to reserve your spot. Cash ONLY.
- March 20th—1st day of spring
- NO LCPS—March 25—April 1st
- Class Easter Egg Hunts—March 27th
- NLC closes at 3 pm—March 29th in observance of Easter
- March 31st. - Easter Sunday - Easter Egg Hunt

### Getting Ready for Summer

This summer at The NLC, school age children (rising 1st graders and children up to 12 years of age) will have the option to attend weekly theme-based camps. You may choose 1, 2, or all 12 weeks. We will be using "Summer of Wonder" a faith-based Pinnacle Curriculum. The themes each month, "Weathering the Storm," "Weather at Work," and "Weather Phenomenon," will include weekly field trips to local farms and orchards to

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the earlier parents are engaged in their children's learning, the more likely that pattern will continue.

We also know that the interaction between parents and early childhood staff is often more regular and more intensive than parent communication in school later. This is partly because the settings may be less formal and partly because parents tend to be particularly concerned about their children's first experiences in group settings.

Every day your child is with us, we partner with you and share in the experience. We want you to view us as your extended family to help share in the challenges and joys of raising your children. Keep in mind that working in partnership with your child's teachers requires daily attention.

Sharing their days is an important part of the open communication that must occur in order the partnership to be successful. We must communicate daily in sharing what is important to you as a parent, and what requirements are

**Staff Spotlight (From Page 1)**

of our own; Samantha is sixteen and a junior at Tuscarora High School, and Sarah, who is nine years old and attends the 4th grade at Leesburg Elementary School!

I have greatly enjoyed working with young children through the years as an "After-Schoolers" teacher at a child development center, serving in my church as a Mom's co-op nursery manager, working as a Loudoun County Public School substitute teacher, and as a three's and four's class preschool teacher.

I have several different endorsements within the early childhood field, and am currently working on my degree in Early Childhood Education. Teaching children is one of my greatest joys, and I have truly enjoyed spending the 2012-2013 school year teaching this wonderful group of children at the Neighborhood Learning Center!!

necessary for your child's success.

This month we will be learning about healthy living with an emphasis on exercise and nutrition. Your worries about whether or not your child is developing good eating habits should be lessened knowing that your child is exposed to a variety of foods at school. Being with other children, especially at different ages, may help your child develop better feeding skills. Checking our menus regularly may help you plan meals for your family that complement what is being served at school.

Celebrating holidays and birthdays can be an opportunity to teach all the children about the different ways families celebrate.

Working together on guiding your child's behavior requires constant communication between home and school. Children need to learn self-control over their behavior so that they will act appropriately when their parent or teacher isn't there. We need to work cooperatively, using the same guidance to help each child be the best they can be!

God Bless,  
Miss Marcie

**Parent's Night Out**

Our first Parent's Night Out, or as some called it, Children's Night Out, was a huge success! Two NLC staff took care of 7 multi-aged children in the Fellowship Hall from 4 pm to 8pm. Pizza was served and a good time was had by all. There was a very positive response from the participating parents and they are looking forward to March 16th when we will offer it again. The cost is \$30/child or \$50/family. Watch for the sign-up sheet or email:

Marcie@theneighborhoodlearningcenter.com.



**Parents Alert**  
**Our Lost and Found box is pretty full!**  
**Please make a habit of checking it every couple of weeks.**



# The Chaplin's Corner

## Chaplain's Corner - Signs of Easter - Invite a Friend Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt News, too!

This month in Chapel we are exploring the *Signs of Easter*. We talked this morning about the signs outside like today's warm, bright sunshine filling us with the promise of warmer days, the green shoots peeking through the ground telling us that tulips will be blooming soon and the little buds that are starting to make their appearance on the ends of tree limbs. We call this sign - Spring's a-coming. We talked also about the way in which the sanctuary is changing, too. We saw lots of purple that was not there before. There's purple fabric on the communion table and the pulpit, which then leads our eyes to the purple cloth draped on the cross. We call this sign Lent, the church season leading to Holy Week and Easter. We also shared the signs of Easter in our story time, where during these next few weeks we will walk with Jesus to the cross and to the surprise of the empty tomb.



We invite all of our NLC families to join with us in looking for the Signs of Easter and journeying together with Jesus. We especially invite you to join us this Lent for worship, fellowship and even an EASTER EGG HUNT!



**On March 17<sup>th</sup> - St. Andrew is sponsoring an Invite-a-Friend Sunday!** We hope you feel welcomed to be our friend that Sunday. There will be special tokens of welcome to visitors and families! **On Easter Sunday (March 31<sup>st</sup>), we will hold our Church, NLC and Community Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30 (in between our two services at 9:15 am and 11 am).** Our Egg Hunt happens on the playground, where it is literally covered with eggs. Bring your basket! We also will have a Pancake Breakfast then, too.

We are blessed to share in space, ministry and mission with our NLC Families. We are so happy that you feel welcomed here!

*Pastor Jessica*

### New Young 2's Class

The NLC's first class of babies are growing up! They have quickly progressed through the toddler stage and are now beginning their adventure as 2 year olds. We have started moving 2 year olds born between December 1, 2010 and mid March 2011 to a new class, "The Young 2's." Miss Ginny, who started working with these children along with Ms. Lisa in the infant/toddler room is now the "Young 2's" teacher. In a few weeks, we will have infants enrolled at the NLC again. By summer, we hope to have a new class of infants to love, nurture and enjoy! As the older toddlers approach their 2nd birthdays, they will move to the Young 2's room.

### Seven Healthy Snack Tips

1. Kids love to dip things.
2. Use fat free, reduced fat and light versions
3. Look for 100 calorie snack packs.
4. Watch portion sizes.
5. Read labels carefully.
6. Offer fresh fruits whenever possible.
7. Allow your child access to healthy foods.



### MEDICATION FORM REQUIRED



NLC will NOT administer a non-prescription medication unless it is accompanied by a physician's request to do so. The center will administer physician-prescribed medication and non-prescription medication only upon the request of the child's parents or guardians on our "**Medication Authorization**" form. Tylenol or other over the counter medication that does not list required dosage, must be accompanied by a doctor's signature. This is a license requirement by the Department of Social Services and must be adhered to.



*Author of the Month*

This month's author of the month is Dr. Seuss. Theodor Seuss Geisel (March 2, 1904–September 24, 1991) was an American artist and cartoonist know for his children's books written under the pen name, Dr. Seuss. He published over 60 children's books which were often characterized by imaginative characters, rhyme, and frequent use of trisyllabic meter. His most celebrated books include the best selling Green Eggs and Ham (which the children had for breakfast on his birthday), The Cat in the Hat, and One Fish Two Fish. Numerous adaptations of his work have been created including 11 television specials and a Broadway musical.



Getting Ready for Summer (From Page 1)

learn how weather affects local community supported agriculture. Each camp is intended to provide opportunities for students to interact with each other as they participate in activities that challenge their creativity and provide a social/recreational outlet. We will also go swimming at Franklin Park twice a week. Watch for more details to follow.



# March 2013

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

					<b>1 Tuition Due</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6 Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8 Tuition Due</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Daylight Savings Time Spring Forward</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 Scholastic Book Clubs orders due</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 Tuition Due St. Patrick's Day</b>	<b>16 Parent's Night Out</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 1st Day of Spring</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22 Tuition Due</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25 NO LCPS</b>	<b>26 NO LCPS</b>	<b>27 NO LCPS Easter Egg Hunts</b>	<b>28 NO LCPS</b>	<b>29 Tuition Due NO LCPS NLC closes at 3 pm</b>	<b>30</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)

**Did you know.....**

What the leaves of a shamrock symbolize?  
 One leaf is for FAITH...  
 The second is for HOPE...  
 The third for LOVE....  
 The fourth for LUCK!



In Irish tradition—the shamrock or three-leaf clover-represents the Holy Trinity: one leaf for the Father, one for the Son and one for the Holy Spirit. When a shamrock is found with the fourth leaf, it represents God's Grace. Watch for sign-up sheets in your child's classroom so you can help them celebrate St. Patrick's Day.