

# The Neighborhood Learning Center



*Inspire, Instruct, Imagine*

## The Director's Corner

*Marcie Peterson, Director*

### Dear Parents,

As the crisp fall days fall into November, families are compiling guest lists, shopping, cleaning special linens, booking flights, decorating the house and much, much more.

We are all in high gear, planning for Thanksgiving, yet we may be forgetting the essence of the holiday—a spirit of thankfulness for the bounty we receive every day.

Freedom, food, clean water, health, toys and an adequate home are basics of life most Americans enjoy and often children take them for granted.

With all of their books, computers,

gaming systems and phones, children have become overly contented.

Good parents are charged with giving children perspective, teaching them they are not merely entitled to the good life.

There are many things parents can do to change that mindset and help their children develop a sense of gratitude, selfless giving and thankfulness.



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### Staff Spotlight



My name is Sonia Malone. I'm currently the Infant Room Teacher at The Neighborhood

Learning Center. I grew up in Georgia and now, living in West Virginia for the past 6 years with my two daughters, Kalie and Summer. I attended Shepherd University with an BA in Elementary Education and a emphasis on Child Development. I am happy to join with you the passion and importance learning has made on my life. I made the most important decision of my life, to educate and become a good role model for students in our schools. My philosophy of education is that you

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### Special Reminders

Special reminders that help all of us!

- NLC's sickness policy states your child must be fever free for 24 hours without medication.
- All medications to be administered during the day, must be accompanied by a doctor's signature on our medication form. All medication must be in their original box.
- Those families using our school buses—we leave every morning by 7:15. If your child does not need to be picked up from school in the afternoon, PLEASE notify our school office.

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### November Highlights

**NLC CLOSING: November-28th & 29th**

**LCPS CLOSED: November 4th & 5th and November 27th-29th**

**November 3rd—Daylight Savings Time Begins (Fall Back)**

**Nov 5th—National Donut Day**

**Nov 11th—Veterans Day** (Come on in and be show & tell in your child's class if you are a veteran)

**Nov 13th—Family Feathers Due**

**Nov 14th—NLC Spirit wear day**

**Nov 16th—Parents Night Out & craft event**

**Nov 19th—Story teller & wear brown day**

**Nov 26th—Sharing Feast**



**WINTER IS FAST APPROACHING!**

Children need outdoor time year round. Unless it is below freezing or raining, we will continue to take the children outside for fresh air. Please send your children to school with warm coats, hats and gloves. It is also very important that you put their names on everything.

Please check their cubbies and switch out the extra clothes with appropriate winter clothing. Extra sets of pants, shirts and socks come in very handy!

# Thanksgiving

## Director's Corner (From Page 1)

- **Be a role model:** be the giving, empathetic person a parent wants his/her child to be.
- **Recognize heroes:** from the president to Spiderman to the Boy Scout down the block there are a host of real and fictional heroes around. Children will emulate their good deeds. When they do, stop and praise their kindness.
- **Discipline wisely:** understanding consequences, power and emotion help breed justice and respect. One day they may actually thank you for being tough.
- **Discuss feelings:** sadness, frustration, and elation are all part of life and its daily surprises. This helps children development empathy for others' feelings as well.

Remember showing compassion and empathy will help a child appreciate his/her life and change a "Me" attitude to a "We" consciousness. Everyone will be happier and everyone will do their part to keep "thanks" in "thanksgiving."

Enjoy your family time!

**Ms. Marcie**

## Staff Spotlight (From Page 1)

have to treat the whole child. Getting to know all the little ones this year in our Infant Room is such assurance in their hearts and a great joy in mine that happiness comes most effectively through growth and positive success. I appreciate each of our parents and staff while working at NLC for all their endless support and commitment to better our classrooms. We are creating many precious moments to teaching and learning. 😊

## This Month At School

This month at school will be another busy month! Tuesday, November 5th is National Donut Day. Each class will experience some way of making and tasting donuts, also watch out for our color day and spirit wear day. At the beginning of the month, feathers will be sent home for families to decorate and we would like you to write down the things you are thankful for. We will stuff our turkey in the hallway with all your feathers for everyone to see. Later in the month we will have a special story teller share stories of the first Thanksgiving and on the 26th we will celebrate our own sharing feast.

### Sharing Our Blessings

In November, as well as all year long, we celebrate our blessings. Our students learn about how grateful we are to God for our families. The NLC will be sponsoring a food drive to support families at Loudoun Interfaith Relief. We would like to put together food baskets and help families in need prepare a Thanksgiving dinner. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Each class is responsible for different items. Please check the list outside your child's class and a box will be provided to place your items in. The deadline is November 15th.

### 10,000 Villages Festival Sale at St. Andrew

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church will be holding a Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale on Saturday, November 16 from 9 am to 4 pm and Sunday, November 17 from 9 am to 2 pm. Set-up for the sale will be in the Fellowship Hall on the afternoon of Friday, November 15 which means that NLC parents will have the first opportunity to peruse (and purchase) all the wonderful sale items when they come to pick up children. Ten Thousand Villages is an exceptional source for unique handmade gifts, jewelry, home decor, art and sculpture, textiles, serveware and personal accessories representing the diverse cultures of artisans in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. One of the world's largest fair trade organizations and a founding member of the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO), the company strives to improve the livelihood of tens of thousands of disadvantaged artisans in 38 countries. Ten Thousand Villages accomplishes this by establishing a sustainable market for handmade products in North America, and building long term buying relationships in places where skilled artisan partners lack opportunities for stable income. Product sales help pay for food, education, healthcare and housing for artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. St. Andrew is able to keep 10% of the gross sales, and those funds will be donated to Loudoun Interfaith Relief, the local food pantry serving Loudoun County.

# Thanksgiving

## The Chaplin's Corner

### Preschool 4 and Kinders SING Nov. 10th Veterans' Day



As mom of an owl in the Owl's nest, I couldn't have been more proud of my special little one, Camrynn, and her dear friends as they sang at the Fall Festival.

What a treat to see the fruit of their hard

work learning their songs while in music class and in the classroom! I imagine lots of wonderful images were captured that afternoon, even though they likely never touched a bite of their dinner after all those party treats!

Our NLC children are learning more than their ABC's and 1,2, 3's. They are learning about community. They are learning about music and the movement of their bodies. They are learning about following directions, being a line leader and special helpers. They are also learning the sacred stories that shape who we are in relationship to God. That's where this invitation comes in.

Our Preschool 4 Class and Kinders have been learning their chapel songs so well that we decided that we can't keep them to ourselves, to the sanctuary just on Mondays. **Our Preschool 4 Class and the Kinders will help lead us during our Veterans' Day service on Nov. 10th at the 9:15 am service.** Please join us

### Class Sharing Feasts

During the month of November the children will be exploring the concepts of family, the history of Native Americans and the Pilgrims' journey to America. We will learn what we have to be thankful for every day and how different groups of people learned to live together and share with one another. As a special sharing feast was planned long ago, we too, would like to give thanks to God for our blessings and our friends. On November 26th all classes will have an opportunity to celebrate a sharing feast. Each class will make a dish to contribute to the feast, such as corn muffins, fruit salad, etc. and the school will provide the turkey and a vegetable.

### Special Reminders from Page 1

- Special thanks to the Purcellville fire department for spending so much time educating our children and sharing their equipment last month.
- Please read the bulletin board outside your child's class for special announcements DAILY.
- PLEASE SLOW DOWN when driving through the parking lot. Safety first!

as our NLC Preschool 4 and Kinders help lead us in learning the sacred story and song of our lives. Parents - let your child's teacher know if we can expect them.



I can't wait to share what they have been learning in chapel with you, your families and the whole church family.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jessica

### Separate AD for Children's Choir

Did you know that on Wednesdays NLC Afterschool kids can join a choir? Each Wednesdays at 5:30 pm - children 7 - 12 years old - can participate in the Children's Choir. Our Children's Choir is under the direction of Cynthia Cummins, St. Andrew Music Director. The Children's Choir offers their music several times throughout the year in worship. This fall they are undertaking an adaptation of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. To sign up, see your Afterschool teacher for details.



*Pastor Jessica*

### Coming soon...

We are beginning the rollout of electronic billing this month. The first phase is online payments via credit card. If you have already filled out a form or spoken to Marcie, you will be part of our first group to use this option. Watch for more details.

## Active Parenting



Parenting was one of my highest joys when my children were still at home. A mentor had once modeled a great attitude to my wife, Bonnie, and me. When our oldest was a two-year-old, she had teenagers. Her continual refrain was: "I love having teenagers." This was a different tune to what we had usually heard, parents dreading adolescence with its increasing independence often fought out in conflict. Our mentor's attitude helped Bonnie and me to see that if we invested ourselves into practicing good parenting skills, we might someday be able to say much the same thing. In fact, we did. We ended up delighting in having teenage kids.

One resource was especially helpful, a program called *Active Parenting*. It encouraged parents to find a middle way between being dictatorial and a doormat, between having an autocratic style or a permissive style. Michael Popkin, the author of the program, invited those who learned the skills he taught to have an authoritative style, thriving as an "active" parent. He taught that children can not only be taught respect, but be respected, that the two go together. He gave ways to practice this essential vocation of parenting.

Popkin's chief premise is that children have four main goals. They wish to have connection, power, protection and the ability to withdraw. Children achieve these goals either in a healthy manner or in an unhealthy way. Seeking to achieve connection, for instance, positively they might contribute or cooperate, negatively they might pursue undue attention-seeking. Positive and negative examples of the power goal include independence and competence, positively, or rebellion, negatively. The active parent is able to pick up clues to their child's goals by the parent's own feelings. But instead of being *reactive*, the program taught skills that would help the parent being proactive in helping their children achieve their goals in a healthy manner.

Sometime in the new year, I am considering offering a six-session course on Active Parenting. I'd be delighted to have parents from the Neighborhood Learning Center participate. Please let Marcie or me know if you would be interested.

Yours faithfully,

*Pastor Dave*



# November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Tuition Due	2
3 Sunflowers & Scarecrows; Fall Back (DST)	4 Communion Lesson; LCPS, No School	5 National Donut Day; Decorate Donuts Day; LCPS No School	6	7	8 Tuition Due	9
10 Blessings, Things I'm Thankful for; Pre-K and K Church Singing	11 Song of Ruth; National Young Veterans Da	12	13 Family Feathers Dude; World Kindness Day	14 NLC Spirit Day (Wear your New Shirts)	15 Tuition Due	16
17 Pilgrims and Native Americans	18 Story of David and Goliath; Mickey Mouse's B-day; Staff Meeting	19 Color Day Wear "Brown"; Special Story Teller Day	20	21	22 Tuition Due	23
24 Feast Days and Thanksgiving	25 The Prophets show the way to Bethlehem	26 Sharing Lunch	27 LCPS No School	28 Thanksgiving Center Closed	29 Center Closed	30