

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Director's Corner

Marcie Peterson, Director

How do we encourage caring and sharing in our children? The simple fact is that behavior shapes belief. An act of compassion is a powerful reinforcement for developing attitudes of compassion and generosity.

It is important to know that selfishness comes before sharing. The power to possess is a natural part of the child's growing awareness. During the second and third years, as the child goes from oneness to separateness, a little person works to establish an identity apart from their mother and father. The growing child develops attachments to things as well as persons. This ability to form strong attachments is important to being an emotionally healthy person. The one-year-old has difficulty sharing her mommy; the two-year-old has difficulty sharing her blanket.

True sharing implies empathy: the ability to get into another's mind and see things from their viewpoint. Children are seldom capable of true empathy under the age of six. Prior to that time, they share because we condition them to do so. Children under two are capable of parallel play: playing alongside other children, but not with them. As children begin to play with each other and cooperate in their play, they begin to see the value of sharing. As each child's temperament is different, follow your child's cues in judging when he is ready to share.

Don't force a child to share. Instead, create attitudes and an environment that encourage your child to *want* to share. There is power in possession! In the preschool years, children naturally go through a "what's in it for me" stage which will progress into a more socially aware "what's in it for us" stage. Gradually, with a little help from teachers and parents, children learn that life runs more smoothly if they share.

Every month we work on social skills with the children. This time of the year we tend to focus on being thankful and modelling generosity while we teach our children to share. Let YOUR sharing spirit shine!

God Bless,

Ms. Marcie



November Highlights

November 2:
Last day for Square 1 Art orders

November 3:
Picture Day, starting at 9am

November 6:
Daylight Savings Time Ends—Fall back!

November 7 & 8:
LCPS Closed, NLC OPEN

November 11:
Veteran's Day
Write Letters to Soldiers

November 14:
World Kindness Day

November 15:
Guest Reader:
Thanksgiving Reads

November 17:
Homemade Bread Day

November 22:
Thanksgiving Luncheon Feast

November 23:
LCPS Closed, NLC OPEN

November 24 & 25:
NLC CLOSED for Thanksgiving

November 30:
SAPC Advent Workshop
4–6pm; Chili Cook-Off at 6pm

This Month at School...

November is a time to learn about getting ready for winter by exploring hibernation, squirrels, nuts and trees. We also start preparing for Thanksgiving and end the month with a week focused on "I Can Dress Myself", just in time for the layers that come with colder weather.

- Picture Day is on Thursday the 3rd. Starting at 9am with the youngest students and working up through the kindergarteners, group sibling shots are also available. After pictures are taken, proofs will be provided online and you can order directly.
- Monday and Tuesday the 7th and 8th, Loudoun County Public Schools will be closed, but the NLC will be open as normal. We have fun field trips scheduled for the school-agers, with Monday being Great Country Farms and Tuesday being Park-and-Picnic. Please let us know if you are planning on dropping your school-ager off so we can plan accordingly. A drop-in fee of \$35 applies for school-agers attending.
- On the 11th we will honor our veterans by writing letters to (and coloring pictures for) soldiers.
- The 22nd will be our celebration of Thanksgiving with a luncheon feast, complete with all the trimmings!
- Thursday the 23rd LCPS will be closed but the NLC will be open as normal. We will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving so we can all enjoy time with our loved ones.
- Wednesday, November 30th is the St. Andrew Advent Workshop and Chili Cook-Off! See "This Month at St. Andrew" in this newsletter for additional info on this fun family event!

Donate Thanksgiving Bags for Loudoun Hunger Relief!

For 25 years, Loudoun Hunger Relief has served as Loudoun County's primary emergency food pantry, providing food assistance to the hungry and food insecure in Loudoun. This year they expect to serve 1,800 families for Thanksgiving.

Each classroom will be given two bags to fill – any extra items will of course be donated and be much appreciated. Each bag is to be filled with the following items (to feed four people). Completed bags are due by Sunday.

November 13th. Place items in the box outside your child's classroom door.

- \$10 gift card to a local grocery store for purchasing meat
- Powdered gravy mix or jarred/canned gravy
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Two types of canned vegetables
- Canned sweet potatoes/yams or a mashed potato mix
- Stuffing mix
- Cornbread, muffin or bread mix
- Canned fruit for dessert or a box dessert mix

Staff Spotlight

My name is Stacey Hibbitts and I would like to thank the NLC for inviting me to be a part of their family! I enjoy my job so very much. I have been a part of the NLC family since April of 2016 and plan to continue to grow here. I am continuing my education to achieve my goal of earning a CDA. I am currently a "floater" so I get to enjoy every child within the center! I take my job very seriously and enjoy every minute of my day and could never ask for a better way to spend my days. I really appreciate my job and the families and their children and thank you again for all the support that I receive and for all the love that has been shown.



Winter Weather Ahead!

Please remember to send your child to school in layers—unless it is below freezing we take them out to play. Gloves and hats are a must!

Please also update the extra clothing in your child's cubby to reflect the changing weather. Don't forget to label everything with their name!

Finally, remember that the NLC follows the Federal Government's Inclement Weather closings, NOT the school system. We will notify you via text and email as soon as we learn of Federal Government closings/delays.

The Chaplain's Corner: Looking Ahead to Advent...

As we prepare to gather around tables for Thanksgiving, we know that on the heel of Turkey and Pumpkin Pie is Christmas. It is like a whirlwind as we go from Halloween to the New Year. We can almost feel like we can't catch our breath between gatherings, parties and gift lists. I want to advocate for a slower kind of approach to the Holiday Season, one that focuses on what is essential and is life-giving.

I think that when we really practice Advent we can approach the hustle and the bustle from a different point of view. When we practice Advent (the 4 weeks preceding Christmas), we focus on the waiting, the anticipating, the expecting. We slow down the rush of Christmas by taking our time to get there.

To learn more about this slower approach to the Christmas Season, I invite you to join us at our Advent

Workshop on November 30th. Together as a church and school, we will we prepare our hearts for this slowed down journey towards Christmas. We will make our own Advent wreaths to be used in our homes, where we will slowly light a candle each week until Christmas when it is all bright once again. We will share opportunities and ideas to do as family to re-focus our attention on the journey to the manager rather than the department store.

Advent Workshop is a fun and faith filled night to ready our hearts for Jesus to come again. Wreath-making, crafts, decorating the church, devotions, carols and worship will fill our afternoon beginning at 4pm. To cap off our night, we will gather for our annual Chili Cook-Off at 6 pm. All activities happen in the Fellowship Hall and sanctuary. If you have any questions or want to enter your chili, give me a call or send me an email at mcclurearcher@gmail.com.

Happy S- L- O- W Holiday Season!

Grace,

Pastor Jessica

Winter Weather Gear Drive

Please help us collect cold weather gear for our DC TOP (Teens Opposing Poverty) ministry. These are items that can truly save lives this winter. Most items can be gently worn, except socks and underwear. Please drop items in the designated area in Fellowship Hall and/or the main entry area.

- Men's winter coats (XL, XXL, and XXXL)
- Hats

- Gloves
- Scarves
- Hand and foot warmers
- Sleeping bags
- Thick socks
- Underwear (XL, XXL, and XXXL)
- Sweatshirts
- Sweatpants
- Boots

This Month at St. Andrew...

Weekly Worship: Saturdays 5pm; Sundays 10am

NOTE: Child care is available at all worship services for the littlest ones. For children age preschool and up, Sunday School is provided during Sunday worship services—your child starts the service sitting with you, will leave for Sunday School and then will return to you before the service concludes. The first Sunday of every month is Family First Sunday, when children remain in the service and their joyful noises are welcomed!

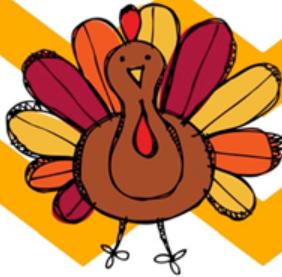
November 4th—3 in 1 Tailgate at LVHS vs. Woodgrove Football Game—Stop by for some hot cocoa and cookies before the big game!

November 13th—Holiday Grief Retreat—12:30-3:30pm—Join us for a relaxing day here at St. Andrew, learning alternative therapies to help guide you through those tough holiday moments. Designed for families, ages 3 and older. Free event but please register by emailing heartmarksarttherapy@outlook.com

November 30th—Advent Workshop & Chili Cook-Off—4-7pm—Let's prepare our hearts, home and church for the Advent season. The workshop will feature making your own Advent wreath for your home, greening the church, making special take-home crafts and more. We will end the night with our annual Chili Cook-Off starting at 6pm, sponsored by the Connections Committee. Prizes to be awarded to the Chili Cook-Off winner! All ages are welcome at this very family friendly event.

November

2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Trees, Squirrels & Nuts</i>			1 Square 1 Art Orders Due	2 Picture Day starting at 9am <i>Music</i>	3	4
Daylight Savings Time Ends <i>Hibernation</i>	6 <i>LCP8 Closed, NLC OPEN Chapel</i>	7 <i>Election Day LCP8 Closed, NLC OPEN Chapel</i>	8	9	10 <i>Music</i>	11 Veteran's Day Write Letters to Soldiers
13 <i>Giving Thanks</i>	World Kindness Day <i>Chapel</i>	14 Guest Reader: Thanksgiving Reads	15	16	17 Homemade Bread Day <i>Music</i>	18
20 <i>The First Thanksgiving</i>	21 <i>Chapel</i>	22 Thanksgiving Luncheon Feast	23 <i>LCP8 Closed, NLC OPEN</i>	24 <i>Thanksgiving NLC CLOSED</i>	25 <i>NLC CLOSED</i>	26
27 <i>I Can Dress Myself</i>	28 <i>Chapel</i>	29	30 SAPC Advent Workshop 4 – 6pm; Chili Cook-Off 6pm			

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Reminders...

We hope that you read the weekly "Friday Footnotes" which include information about the past week, the coming week's adventures, as well as a friendly reminder. Here is a reminder recap:

- Please drop your children off before 9:00 am. If you arrive past then, a staff member will walk your child back to their classroom. Our teachers work hard on their lesson plans, and their day is well under way at 9. We are striving to lessen disruptions and maximize instruction time. Thank you for helping us with this! (The Butterfly Tree is exempt.)
- Please label your child's items! It's so easy for things to get misplaced and so hard to get them back to their owner. Also, if you have any extra pants/sweatpants for 3's, 4's, or 5's please consider donating them to the NLC to use for emergencies. Thank you!

