



The Neighborhood Learning Center



Inspire, Instruct, Imagine



The Director's Corner

Marcie Peterson, Director

We seem to finally be enjoying some warmer weather and of course we all know that "April Showers bring May Flowers!" We have spent so much time indoors and we are ready to get outside. Our upgrades to the playgrounds should start in a few weeks and it will be exciting to watch the transformation occur. Most parents value spending time with their children. But all too often our lifestyle doesn't lend itself to "togetherness." Even when we plan special times with our chil-

dren, things don't always go smoothly. Here are some tips for helping make the time spent together happy and productive for all:



- If you spend time at work during the week and your child spends the majority of time in school or at childcare, staying home and having an unstructured day during the weekend might be a better way to nur-

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January Highlights

- April 2 - National Children's Book Day
 - Wear your pj's and bring your favorite book to school
- April 12 - Parents Night Out
- April 13 - The Ant and Owl class singing at SAPC
- April 14- 18 - LCPS spring break
- April 18 - Good Friday - NLC closes at 2 pm.
- April 20 - Easter
- April 22 - Class pictures/ individual retakes

Staff Spotlight



Hi, my name is Carl Christensen and I am 18 years old. I am from Leesburg but was raised in Lovettsville, Va. I have been working mainly with the after school program since June of 2013 but have enjoyed getting to know all the children at The NLC.

When I am not working for The NLC, I am a volunteer firefighter/EMT. I also like being with friends.

I look forward to working with the school age summer camp program again this summer.

This Month at School

This month at school we look forward to spending lots of time outside. Our children strengthen growing muscles when they are climbing, running, playing ball and jumping. We will also be taking time to discuss all the changes around us. In the month of April we will learn about new life through watching butterflies, ants, praying mantis and lady bugs go through their life cycles. We will study the symbols of Easter and the gift of life Jesus has given us.

One thing our parents can do is take the time to point out all of these wonderful miracles God shows us in

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Did You Know...

**Vacation Bible School
sails into town
June 23 - 27!**

Join us as we GANGWAY to Galilee this summer. Mark your calendars and check the church website (www.standrew-pres.org) for online registration coming soon. VBS is held each night from 5 to 8 pm with a family dinner!





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ture a relationship than going to see a movie. A relaxing time doing what you all enjoy—which may be as simple as fixing pancakes for breakfast or going on a hike— may be the best use of your time.

- Do something with your children that you like to do. If you do something you enjoy, the pleasure is often contagious. What about a game of miniature golf? Go swimming together. Play a game of croquet.
- Consider the basics: hunger and sleep. It's difficult to have fun with a tired or hungry child (or adult, for that matter). Try to keep naps on schedule. Eat an early lunch if you're going out for the afternoon, or take along a simple lunch or snacks.
- Sometimes let children join in your projects. The adult world is appealing to children. After all, children want more than anything to be "big."

Friendly Reminders

- Please remember to check the NLC Lost and Found on a regular basis for your lost belongings.
- Please restock your child's cubby with weather appropriate outfits. Extra clothing is a must!
- We will need to update all sunscreen forms. Watch for updates to come.
- Check out the new NLC bulletin board by the front desk!!!! Ms. Lorie wants to keep you informed of what's happening, weekly & monthly. You will find the newsletter, weekly menu, daily schedules and much more...

They also want to spend time with their parents. For example, while you're making dinner, put a plastic tablecloth down on the floor. Give your youngster a pan of water (not very deep) and some potatoes to wash with a vegetable scrub brush.

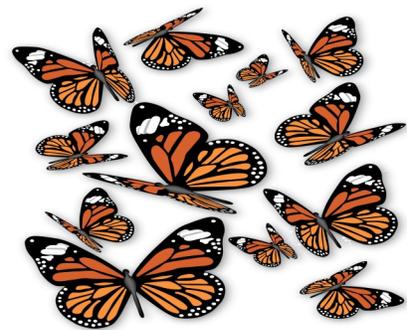
- Make a short list of four or five activities you can all participate in. Then let the kids choose the one they'd like most. This helps them feel like they are part of the family, and that their preferences are considered. We need to manage ourselves to make time for what's important to us. But that isn't always easy. Kids are kids for only a short time. Building a strong relationship with them now means you can enjoy the rewards for a lifetime.

Happy Spring, Happy Easter!

Ms. Marcie

A child is like a Butterfly

A Child is like a butterfly in the wind
Some can fly higher than others,
But each one flies the best it can.
Why compare one against the other?



Each one is different.
Each one is special.
Each one is beautiful.



The Chaplin's Corner

Preschoolers Sing for Palm Sunday

Some of my most vivid memories of church happened on Palm Sunday. All of us kids at my home church would be given Palm branches so to usher in Holy Week although we could barely comprehend the enormity of our jobs. We loved to carrying those Palm branches and waving them like little fans over our heads. As we did, we tried hard to belt out the Hosanna tune we've carefully learned the month before in Sunday School. To be honest, it is really hard to sing, walk and wave a palm branch. Thankfully, no one seemed to mind that the only recognizable words were simply Hosanna.

I love Palm Sunday because it is the most kid oriented Sunday we have on the church calendar. It is about parade. It is about whooping it out in loud song. It is about waving palms in expectation. It is when kids get to be center stage, and we get to be child like

This Month at School (From Page 1)

everyday life. You will be helping them expand their language, communication skills and help them to be eager learners!

EXCITING NEWS! A COMMUNITY GARDEN IS COMING!!!

The St. Andrew Youth Mission group teens are building community garden beds on the church property as a training exercise in preparation for their summer mission to Kentucky. They are to be checked out on several tools on our Serve Sunday (April 27th.)

This garden will be organic and an ongoing project benefitting the NLC and our community. You can help by donating (untreated) lumber. The following sizes are needed: 2 x 8s in 8', 10' or 12' lengths; 2 x 2 square stock in 6' or longer lengths; 2 x 4s in 8', 10' or 12' lengths. Contact Ms. Marcie at Marcie@theneighborhoodlearningcenter.com or Ms. Lorie at lorie@theneighborhoodlearningcenter.com if you are able to help.

Many thanks.



again. (I know - because I watch how many palms become crosses by the hands of the adults during the service!)

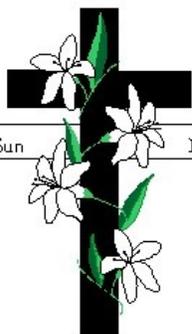


This Palm Sunday our NLC preschoolers (The Ant Hill and Owls' Nest) get to help usher in Palm Sunday. We've been learning for weeks in chapel time and music class a song fit for a parade for Jesus. It's called I Danced in the Morning. The Owls' nest will sing at the 9:15 am service. Our Ant

Hill kids will sing at the 11 am service. I also will need their help in leading our Palm Sunday parade. They will be given the special honor to pass out the Palms and lead us in marching in the sanctuary. Hope to see you there!

In God's gift of new life!

Pastor Jessica



April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Music w/Ms. Kathy April Fools	2 National Children's Book Day Wear Pajamas & bring a book today	3	4 Music w/Ms. P	5
6 Ladybugs & Butterflies	7 Chapel	8 Music w/Ms. Kathy	9	10	11 Music w/Ms. P National Pet Day	12
13 Easter Symbols NLC Kids Sing Palm Sunday	14 Chapel LCPS Spring Break Week	15 Music w/Ms. Kathy	16	17	18 Good Friday Close at 2pm	19
20 Gardening/Plants/ Vegetables EASTER	21 Chapel Staff Meeting	22 Class Pictures & Retakes Earth Day	23	24 National Take Your Child To Work Day	25 Music w/Ms. P	26
27 Pond Life	28 Chapel	29 Music w/Ms. Kathy	30			



Author of the Month

Eric Carle is acclaimed and beloved as the creator of brilliantly illustrated and innovatively designed picture books for very young children. His best-known work, [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#), has eaten its way into the hearts of literally millions of children all over the world.

Born in Syracuse, New York, in 1929, Eric Carle moved with his parents to Germany when he was six years old. But his dream was always to return to America, the land of his happiest childhood memories. So, in 1952, with a fine portfolio in hand and forty dollars in his pocket, he arrived in New York. Soon he found a job as a graphic designer in the promotion department of The New York Times.



One day, respected educator and author, Bill Martin Jr, called to ask Carle to illustrate a story he had written. Martin's eye had been caught by a striking picture of a [red lobster](#) that Carle had created for an advertisement. [Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?](#) was the result of their collaboration. It is still a favorite with children everywhere. This was the beginning of Eric Carle's true career. Soon Carle was writing his own stories, too. His first wholly original book was [1,2,3 to the Zoo](#), followed soon afterward by the celebrated classic, [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#).