

The Neighborhood Learning Center



The Director's Corner

Marcie Peterson, Director

I hope the time with your family, near and far, over Christmas break was filled with lots of joyous memories. All of our classes would love to hear about your family's holiday experience. Any pictures or stories you have to share are welcome. Bringing these memories into class, where the students can see

and share them, continues to build our home-school connection.

You guide the development of your child's character and mental health and help form the foundation from which they develop life-



Parent Teacher Conferences

Continued on Page 2

Parent teacher conferences will be held the end of this month. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside your child's classroom door 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 their child's 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 the allotted time for each conference, please be prepared with questions or concerns you would like to discuss.

Outdoor Play

Children love to get outdoors and experience the wonders of each season. Outdoor play is also very important to the development of motor and social skills. We will go outside every day unless it is raining, below freezing or excessively hot. The Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers requires, weather and air quality allowing, one hour per day if the center operates more than five hours per day. Please dress your child

so that he or she is comfortable and well protected. Secure footwear is always needed to prevent injury from running, jumping and climbing. If your child has a medical condition that requires him or her to not participate, please notify your child's teacher.

January Highlights

January 1st - Happy New Year! Center closed

January 7th - Winnie The Pooh Day - Bring your favorite book or character

January 9th - PJ day

January 15th - National Hat Day - Wear your favorite hat

January 16th - Scholastic Book orders due

Schedule your parent/teacher conferences

January 19th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Center closed

January 21 - Blue Sky Puppet Theater show 10 am

January 30 - Wear Your Favorite Football Jersey Day

Just a reminder about future weather related closings and delays -

- All NLC families and Staff members will be notified via email and cell phone text messages regarding NLC closings & delays due to weather. For our parent contact information, these messages will be sent to the cell phone and email address noted in our database for Guardians. Please ensure we have the correct information on record. Keep in mind, our closings & delays are tied to the Federal Government closings & delays (not LCPS.)
- You are also able to access the following website to determine the closing & delay status of the Federal Government: <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/current-status/>
- Remember to check the NLC Lost & Found basket for your belongings and please make certain all items coming into the school from home are labelled.





Director's Corner (From Page 1)

long attitudes and interests. And because your home is the primary environment in which your child's potential and personality will take shape, it's important to make sure that you create a positive, open atmosphere that will not only support what goes on in the classroom, but will also instill the desire to learn. It is through your love and encouragement that your kids will become motivated — first to please you, and then to please themselves. This leads to self-confidence, curiosity, the enjoyment of mastering new tasks, and other healthy attitudes, all of which contribute to successful learning.

But unless you are home-schooling, you will not be the one teaching your child their ABC's or 123's. And while it's true that all of the facts, skills, and concepts your child learns at school are influenced by what you do at home, your child's education is equally impacted by the relationships you form with their teachers. Building an effective relation-

ship with the teacher is a critical task, and, like you, every teacher wants to achieve this goal. As with any relationship, mutual respect, the ability to listen, and lots of communication form the foundation.

When parents and teachers work well together, everyone benefits. Parents and teachers can provide each other with unique insight and different perspectives about the same child, culminating in a more complete understanding of that child, their abilities, strengths, and challenges. The teacher will know much more about the curriculum and the school culture, while you know more about your child's personality, tendencies, and family life. A successful parent-teacher partnership also shows a child that an entire team of adults is on her side.

Be sure you make time the end of this month to participate in your child's parent/teacher conference.

Blessings, *Marcie*

Staff Spotlight: Michelle Andersen



I'm so happy to have joined the staff of NLC! I feel blessed to be surrounded by a group of such dedicated people, who care so much about kids.

As far as my background, I have a bachelor's in English and a master's in education. I was lead teacher in the Catholic school system for three years in the state of Ohio, which is where I was raised, married, and had my two children. While my children were young and even through middle school, I was a stay at home Mom. Those were amazing, exciting years for me and gave me a chance to volunteer a great deal in the Purcellville community.

My goal at this school is to blend faith with learning. The students know I truly care for them, and that I also RESPECT them. I take it as a huge responsibility to teach them and to love them.

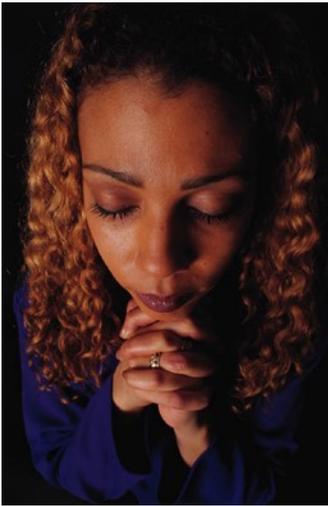
I have always felt child care was one of the most important jobs in the world.

Michelle

The Chaplain's Corner

Developing New Habits – Spiritual Disciplining

It's that time of year again. It is out the old and in with the new. I love the New Year because it's full of promise, full of not knowing what will happen next, full of mystery and anticipation. Can you imagine what will happen in the next year? Some of it will be good, and we know some of it will not be so good. How can we handle what may befall us in 2015?



I know you are thinking about your New Year Resolutions for self and family, but may I suggest cultivating a new prayer habit. Deepening our prayer life has the power to help us through whatever may happen in 2015, as it strengthens our trust in the God in whom we make our prayers. We know that developing habit takes work and lots of practice. A marathoner doesn't immediately take to the race, but must develop good practices that form the habit.

Habits take time. A common phrase out there is that it takes at minimum 21 days to form a new habit, but if you have ever decided to jump start a new exercise routine, you know it can take longer. Researchers suggest that it may take about 66 days to become fully committed to a new habit and practice it without much thought. At any rate, we know that first comes the decision followed by continual practice and even some relapse.

Developing a prayer habit doesn't have to mean eloquent, wordy prayers, but can be simple breath prayers. Breath prayers use the inhale for one phrase and the exhale for the second phrase – repeating over and over again until the words and breathe become synchronized. Examples include – Lord, have Mercy/For I am a sinner; Be Still and Know/That I am Your God; Trust in the Lord/ for God is Good. Begin your day with a breath prayer and then end it with one another. See if you can jump start your prayer habit!

Curriculum Corner

As we continue to explore our monthly curriculum and its many crafts, we have discovered that many "extra" supplies are needed for various projects. Most are simple things you may have lying around the house, filling your junk drawer.

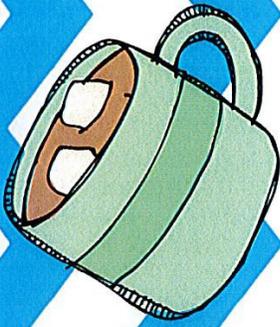
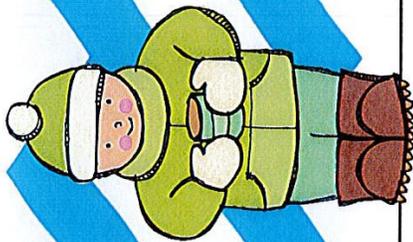
We would like to ask the parents if they would help to donate these articles. This month we are looking for old magazines and clothespins.

A decorated box designated "Curriculum Corner" will be located near the front desk. Thanks so much for your help and support!

Weekly Electronic Tuition Payments

To clarify any misunderstandings, the tuition payments collected electronically using the eCheck system are collected for the preceding week. Consequently tuition payments with the vacation credit applied will be withdrawn very early on the Monday following the week the vacation credit was used.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this.



January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Center Closed LCPS Closed New Year's Day	LCPS Closed	
Theme: Snow Days 4	LCPS Back to School Chapel Communion Lesson 5	6	Winnie The Pooh Day Bring your favorite Book 7	8	Music w/Ms. P. PJ Day 9	10
Theme: Snow Days 11	Chapel The Holy Family 12	13	14	National Hat Day. Wear your favorite Hat 15	Music w/Ms. P. 16	17
Theme: Day and Night 18	Center Closed LCPS Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day 19	20 Staff Meeting	21 Blue Sky Puppet Theater	22	Music w/Ms. P. 23	24
Theme: Day and Night 25	Chapel Baby Jesus is Presented to God 26	27 Parent Teacher Conferences	28 Parent Teacher Conferences	29	Music w/Ms. P. Wear Your Football Jersey 30	31

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