

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Director's Corner

Marcie Peterson, Director



I am a big advocate of sharing with parents the importance of preschool education and the role it plays in early childhood development. Certain best practices can greatly enhance a preschool program including:

- ◆ Performing regular assessments of each child
- ◆ Supporting active family involvement, and
- ◆ Providing a curriculum that enhances development and learning

The NLC teachers have been busy assessing your children since the start of the school year and are excited to share your child's growth and development with you at this month's parent-teacher conferences. As an active, involved parent you will learn how your child is doing in school and how you can help support our efforts at home.

Another best practice here at the NLC is enhancing our curriculum through music instruction. Musical activities and experiences help children practice important skills including language development, motor coordination and even understanding emotions. Two days a week all of the children are engaged in music and movement with Ms. Prestipino (make sure you check out her staff profile on page 2!).

Young children *love* exploring the creation of sound! When children play with musical instruments they explore cause and effect. They learn to pay attention to changes in music and the sounds they create. Singing songs is a powerful, fun way for young children to practice language, pronouncing words and putting together sentences. Our brains remember language better when it is set to music. Songs with finger motions help children practice fine-motor coordination, a skill necessary for writing and handling small objects. Dancing helps children perfect the control of their arms and legs. It also helps teach, in a very playful way, the social elements needed for successful participation in group activities.

Music is not just an "extra" in our program. Listening to music, singing songs, dancing, and playing instruments provide unique learning opportunities and are lots of fun! Thank you Ms. P for all of the joy and learning you bring to our children!

*Blessings,
Ms. Marcie*

February Highlights

February 2: Groundhog Day; Winter Olympic Activities

February 3: "Stone Soup"

February 4: Wear your favorite football team attire!

February 8: Chinese New Year

February 9: Glee Mania at 10 and 10:30am

February 10: Ash Wednesday

February 12: Valentine's Day Parties—wear pink and red!

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 15: President's Day—NLC CLOSED

February 16: Visit from Purcellville Family Dentistry

February 17: Random Acts of Kindness Day

February 20: Parent's Night Out

February 23: Bring your favorite stuffed animal to school!

February 26: Carnival Day

February 29: Leap Day

This Month at School...

- * February is a month to learn about **Nutrition and Exercise**, as well as caring for others through the lessons of **Valentine's Day**.
- * Stone Soup will be the order of the day on the 3rd, with all classes reading this delightful folktale, learning about the joy of sharing, and then having their very own "stone soup" for lunch.
- * Sue Cournoyer of "Glee Mania" will be visiting us again on the 9th to present the another fantastic and interactive show. If this is not your normal school day you are welcome to bring your child to the show!
10am— 2's and younger program
10:30am— 3's and 4's program
- * On the 16th we will receive a special visit from Purcellville Pediatric Dentistry to learn more about why caring for our teeth is so important.
- * Don't forget the other special days such as Team Jersey Day on the 5th, Valentine Party Day on the 12th, and Bring Your Favorite Stuffed Animal Day on the 23rd!

Snow Days Reminder

All NLC families will be notified via email and text regarding NLC closings and delays due to weather. These messages will be sent to the cell phone and email address noted in our database for "Guardian 1". Please ensure we have the correct information on record!

Our closings and delays follow the Federal Government, NOT Loudoun County Public Schools.

You are also able to access the following website to determine the closing & delay status of the Federal Government: www.opm.gov/status

Needed: More Gallon Milk Jugs

We hope you have noticed the igloo taking shape in Fellowship Hall. Please keep the milk jugs coming until construction is complete! Thanks to Ms. Rachel for organizing this very fun project!

Staff Spotlight

Music is a gift from spirit. I was called to its magic beginning when my mother sang songs with me and we danced when I was a toddler. I began learning piano at 9, still singing and dreaming as I looked out on the Pacific Ocean, a constant companion growing up along the coast in San Diego. Awarded the Bank of America Music Award, my high school Music Award and a music scholarship to San Diego State College for piano performance, I was set on a musical course. All that changed when, at 21, I moved to Washington, D.C. There I expanded musically as I learned to play Jazz, Blues, Rock, play for theaters, dance classes, in bands, writing music, and performing as Peter Pan in community theater. (Yes! I flew!) Eventually, I was led to teach music at the Montessori Academy in Ashburn, VA. There I discovered my gift with children and music. I taught there 8 years using my own curriculum infused with Orff Schulwerk (a method of teaching music to children using percussion and ensemble). Now here at the NLC, I continue to be inspired by the children. I have played in Tokyo, Japan, Bermuda, The Kennedy Center, private parties and weddings to name a few. I continue to play weekly with my violinist husband at Anthony's restaurant right here in Purcellville! We call ourselves Family Fugue. (FamilyFugue.com) So coming full circle from my mother, I have become an extension of her by teaching songs to children and passing on the love and gift of music I learned from her.



The Pastor's Corner:

Ash Wednesday and the 24 Hours of Lent

It snowed on Ash Wednesday last year, so that we had to cancel our annual Pancake Dinner and Ash Wednesday service. Instead, Pastor Jessica and I made ourselves available for the day to meet with individuals, families and groups to explain the purpose of Ash Wednesday and to put ashes on the foreheads of those who wanted to be marked with the sign of Christ and the sign of our own mortality.

The accidental experience was so moving that Pastor Jessica and I decided that we would start being available all day for the imposition of ashes. We will be here at 7:00 am and stay until our Pancake Dinner and Ash Wednesday services that evening.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent which is a forty day observance that helps us walk with Jesus as he goes to his crucifixion in Jerusalem and resurrection on Easter morning. In some churches it is customary to "give up something for Lent," as a way of sharing Jesus' suffering and faithful trust in God.

While we appreciate the idea of giving something up for Lent at St. Andrew, we also believe that the season makes possible the creation of positive practices which both connect us to God and to the community of our neighbors. This year, we've asked our congregation members to give up 24 hours to Jesus Christ and to our fellowship during this forty day

season. That's one hour per week for worship and three hours of a good practice.

We are organizing several small groups to read and discuss a book by Rev. Adam Hamilton: 24

Hours that Changed the World. The book is supplemented by a DVD in which Rev. Hamilton takes us to the last places Jesus visited before his death. As we visit the places where 1) Jesus ate the last supper with his disciples, 2) prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, was tried by 3) the religious and 4) political authorities, 5) carried his cross to Calvary and 6) died, we will encourage one another to spend three hours doing things that parallel what Jesus did. In other words, we will ask people to spend 1) three hours actually sitting down for a meal; 2) three hours in prayer; 3) three hours showing love in the face of fear; 4) three hours of bearing witness to Jesus; 5) three hours of showing kindness to those who suffer and 6) three hours of giving generously of oneself.

We invite families of the Neighborhood Learning Center to join us for our Ash Wednesday observances and to join us in our small groups with the challenge that we give 24 hours to Jesus as we remember the last 24 hours of his life that changed the world.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave Milam



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!

February 10—Ash Wednesday—Imposition of ashes available all day, starting at 7am. Pancake Supper at 6:15pm followed by an evening service at 7:00pm.

February 20-21— 30-Hour Famine—Our youth will fast for 30 hours to experience the effects of hunger and raise awareness of this problem in our society. We will also serve our neighbors in need and have great fellowship with our Bethany and Harmony friends.

February 27— Game Night—6pm—Stay tuned for details, but expect a fun selection of games for the whole family!



February 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Chapel	2 Ground Hog Day Winter Olympics	3 Stone Soup <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	4 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	5 <i>Yoga</i> Favorite Team Day	6
7	8 Chapel Chinese New Year	9 THE WIZARD OF OZ 10 & 10:30	10 Ash Wednesday <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	11 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	12 <i>Yoga</i> Valentine's Parties Wear Pink & Red	13
14	15 NLC CLOSED	16	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	18 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	19 <i>Yoga</i>	20 Parent's Night Out
21	22 Chapel	23 Bring Your Favorite Stuffed Animal	24 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	25 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	26 <i>Yoga</i> CARNIVAL Day!!	27
28	29 Chapel Leap Day					

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Giggle Corner!

Q. What do you call two birds in love?
A. Tweethearts!

Q. What did the bat say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?
A. Let's hang out!

Q. What did the girl sheep say to the boy sheep on Valentine's Day?
A. You're not so baa-ad!

Q. What did the boy cat say to the girl cat on Valentine's Day?
A. You're purr-fect for me!

Q. What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day?
A. Forget-me-nuts

Q. What do you call a very small Valentine?
A. A valentiny.

Q: What kind of flowers do you *never* give on Valentine's Day?
A: Cauliflowers!

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Frank.
Frank who?
Frank you for being my friend!