

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Director's Corner **Marcie Peterson, Director**



Each year at the beginning of March, school children around the country kick off National Reading Month by celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Our school theme for this first week of March is dedicated to *all* of the Dr. Seuss books! Every day each teacher will choose a different Dr. Seuss book and plan activities around each story. Ms. Nicole is planning a special lunch on Seuss' birthday, March 2nd, and we will enjoy a different Dr. Seuss snack every day.

We would like to continue the focus on reading this entire month. We have even planned a book fair to be held the week of March 14th! With all of the wear and tear our books receive, this is a wonderful way to not only grow your child's book collection but to help replenish the teachers' resources for use in their library centers.

Research findings outlined in a recent report by The National Early Literacy Panel highlight the fact that literacy skills actually begin to develop at birth. The Panel identified a number of early skills that are related to – and may even predict – a child's later success with reading and writing. Skills such as alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness and writing the letters in one's own name are just a few of the ways we can prepare young children for reading.

We foster these important skills by singing the alphabet song. We play a game of I-Spy having children hunt for letters displayed on pictures and posters. We play with alphabet letters by using magnets, blocks, and puzzles. We trace them and we write them using different media. Upper case letters can be easier to tell apart, so they are introduced first. At the same time, lower case letters show up more in print, so there are good reasons to include both. It is also important to match the letters with the sounds they make along with a familiar word that contains the letter sound.

Have you ever wondered why younger children ask for repeated readings of the same book? Your child is memorizing the text and enhancing her listening comprehension. Books with predictable, repetitive storylines are great books for your child to "read."

With the assurance that even the youngest of our children are on the road to reading, we all need to embrace March as National Reading Month, building on these important foundational skills. While each child's developmental journey has its own pace, the time spent together in print has rich rewards, indeed.

God Bless,

Ms. Marcie

March Highlights

March 1: LCPS Closed

March 2: Dr. Seuss' Birthday! Green Eggs & Ham Day

March 8: Picture Day

March 11: Plant a Bulb Day

March 13: Daylight Savings Time—Spring Forward!

March 14-18: Book Fair Week

March 15: ROY G BIV Day

March 19: Parent's Night Out

March 21-25: LCPS Spring Break

March 24: Maundy Thursday

March 25: Good Friday—NLC Closes at 2pm

March 27: Easter!

This Month at School...

- * Dr. Seuss and his antics will entertain the children the first week of the month.
- * Another Picture Day is being offered both for individual children and class pictures. With the addition of new students and an opportunity for pictures taken outside, we are always excited to capture the children in different seasons. Please do NOT feel obligated to purchase.
- * All month the children will continue learning about Lent and will participate in making a giant handprint cross.
- * Beautiful rainbow crafts will decorate the walls for St. Patrick's Day, and we can't wait to see the mischief Mr. Leprechaun will bring to our classrooms!
- * Most of all....we are hoping for much outdoor time as we see and feel the welcome warmth from the sun!

Friendly Reminders

- * The NLC is a **nut free** facility. Please do not send your child to us with any food products containing nuts, whether tree nuts such as almonds, or peanuts. We have several children with severe anaphylaxis reactions to these foods—it is a life-threatening condition.
- * If your child eats breakfast in the car please have them finish it before entering the facility. If they are eating something containing nuts, please wipe their face thoroughly and have them wash their hands immediately upon entering the NLC.
- * We will be heading outside to welcome the warmer weather. Please send your child in appropriate layers and update their cubbies with a full change of spring clothing.

Needed: A Few More Gallon Milk Jugs & Lots of Water Bottles

The igloo is almost finished, thanks to Ms. Rachel's hard work and creativity! All that's left is the entrance tunnel, so keep the empty, clean gallon milk jugs (with caps, please) coming. We want to get this fun project finished before the spring thaw is here to stay!

Please turn your collection focus to **water bottles!** We have two different projects in mind that require empty water bottles. Please drop them off in the collection tub by the Front Desk. Thanks!

Staff Spotlight

My name is Ally Fetch and I am the Business Manager here at the NLC—you'll normally see me in the mornings while dropping off, but sometimes I can be a little elusive, working back in the office! I am born and raised inside the Beltway and have spent all but 2 years of my life in the state of Virginia (North Carolina was a brief, enjoyable sojourn). I attended The College of William & Mary where I obtained a BA with a concentration in Psychology, and then earned my MBA from the University of Maryland's Smith School of Business. My background is in sales and marketing—Director of Marketing for a logistics software company—though I never found that career path to be an ideal fit. My true calling at this stage of my life is being a wife to my husband of 17 years and mom to our fantastic 8 year old son. I've been a member of St. Andrew for about 7 years now, and have recently accepted a call to be an Elder (member of the governing board of the church). My passions include reading—any genre, truly!—and I have challenged myself to read 65 books this year. I love to travel and found our two week, 2,000 mile RV trip last summer up through New England and into Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to be a trip of a lifetime! I'm also looking forward to spring's arrival so I can get back out into my flower and vegetable gardens. I am honored to be part of the team here at the NLC!



The Pastor's Corner:

Practicing Lent at Home—Getting Ready for Easter

In our chapel time, we are practicing Lent by journeying with the Faces of Easter through our Godly Play curriculum. The color purple is our story mat, and our kids know that when we have the purple mat out it signifies a time to get ready. In Lent, we are preparing ourselves for the surprise of the empty tomb at Easter. Lent is about readying ourselves to journey towards Good Friday and then to the Good News of the Resurrection of Easter morning.

Some folks decide to spiritually get ready for Easter by abstaining from things. We often say that we are giving up (chocolate, sweets, meats, alcohol) for Lent so to sacrifice something in the manner that Jesus sacrificed his life for us. Others spend more time in prayer or fast or do works of kindness. Lent began a couple of weeks ago, but you can join in Lenten practices any time.

Here at St. Andrew we are focusing on the last 24 Hours of Jesus' life through our small group and

worship campaign called the *24 Hours that Changed the World*.

Each week we are devoting our time to different practices. We invite you to consider these

practices as a way to grow closer

to Jesus' walk to the cross in his last 24 hours on Earth. These include eating meals with family and friends just like Jesus did at his Last Supper, spending time in prayer, acting out of love and not fear, bearing witness to Jesus, walking with someone who is suffering, and then finally giving generously of one's self. It may not be giving up something, but we think that your faith will be made richer for adding in these intentional moments with God, with family and those in need!

Lastly, we hope you may join us for Holy Week at St. Andrew. You and your family are most welcomed as we celebrate the culminating events leading to Easter!

Blessings,

Pastor Jessica



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!

March 12—6pm—Movie Night! Title to be announced soon.

March 20—10am—Palm Sunday Worship Service

March 24—Maundy Thursday—6:30pm—Seder Dinner & Communion Service. Never been to a Seder Dinner? Family friendly for all ages, come enjoy

fellowship and a good meal while remembering and exploring the Jewish Passover, the meal Jesus and his disciples ate during the Last Supper. **Please sign up in the entranceway.**

March 25— Good Friday Tenebrae Service— 7:30pm—Worship at Catoctin Presbyterian Church, Waterford.

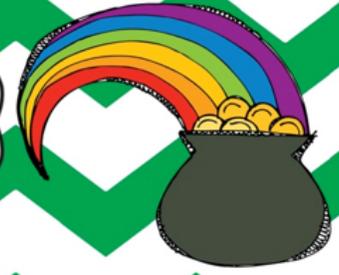
March 26—Easter Vigil—5pm-7pm—Interactive, Discovery Station Worship designed to be “come and go and stay as long as you feel called.”

March 27— Easter

- **7am Sunrise Service**
- **9am Easter Worship Service 1**
- **9:45am Pancake Breakfast**
- **10:30am Easter Egg Hunt—**On the playground. We have extra baskets if you forget yours!
- **11am Easter Worship Service 2**



March 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Dr Seuss</i>		LCPS Closed 1	Dr Seuss' Birthday 2	3	4	5
6 <i>Nursery Rhymes</i>	7	PICTURE DAY 8	9	10	Plant a Bulb Day 11	12
Daylight Savings time 13 <i>St Patrick's & Wild Weather</i>	14	ROY G BIV Day 15	16	St Patrick's Day 17	18	PNO 19
20 PALM SUNDAY <i>Easter</i>	21	22	23	24	Good Friday 25 CLOSE @ 2 pm <i>Waffle Day</i>	26
EASTER 27 <i>Signs of Spring</i>	28	29	30	31		

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Giggle Corner!

Q. Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

A. Real rocks are too heavy!

Q. What type of bow cannot be tied?

A. A rainbow!

Q. Why do frogs like St. Patrick's Day?

A. Because they're already wearing green!

Knock, knock!

Who's there?

Irish.

Irish who?

Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day!

- St. Patrick's Day began as a religious holiday to honor **St. Patrick**, who brought Christianity to **Ireland** in the fifth century.
- The actual color of St. Patrick is **blue**. **Green** became associated with **St. Patrick's Day** during the 19th century. Green, in Irish legends, was worn by fairies and immortals, and also by people to encourage their **crops** to grow.
- Legend says that each leaf of the **clover** means something: the first is for *hope*, the second for *faith*, the third for *love* and the fourth for *luck*.
- According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the highest number of leaves found on a **clover** is **14**.