

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Director's Corner *Marcie Peterson, Director*



Computers in preschool: hurting or helping? What do you think? According to Laurie Edwards of education.com, by the preschool years, most children are spending time on computers at school and/or at home.

Because computer literacy is vital in today's society, many parents believe that the earlier their children begin to use the computer, the better. Some studies have shown that children who use computers from an early age have several advantages. Preschoolers who are already familiar with the operation of the keyboard and mouse will be ahead of the learning curve. They may also have an advantage if they have the opportunity to play with educational programs, as many learn language, reading, and number skills from computer software.

Some experts suggest that allowing preschoolers to have computer time can be beneficial because computer use: introduces educational skills, teaches spatial and logical skills, prepares children for future computer use, increases self-esteem and self-confidence, stimulates language comprehension, and improves both long-term memory and manual dexterity.

The greatest benefits, though, occur when children use computers side-by-side, or when they work with adults. In these situations, preschoolers develop cooperative problem-solving skills. They also have the opportunity to interact with others, which enhances their overall learning.

We would like to enhance the computer learning experience for all children at the NLC with the proceeds from this year's Spring Fling. Our goal is to use the proceeds of this event to purchase 6 Kid's Edition Kindle Fires, 6 pair of children's headphones, 6 pair of older children's headphones, 6 Chromebooks, and a media cart to store and charge all of our equipment. Your support through providing silent auction items and contributing to the theme baskets – not to mention attending and having fun! – will all help us reach our goal of purchasing these items.

Computers, used wisely, are tools for stimulating preschool learning. We strive to provide a program that supports open-ended, discovery-oriented learning, that balances computer time with social interaction and physical exercise.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Spring Fling on May 14th!

God Bless,

Ms. Marcie

April Highlights

April 1: April Fool's Day & Pajama Day

April 5: Frog Program for 2's and 3's, presented by Oatlands

April 6: National Walking Day

April 8: "In the Small, Small Pond," read by a guest reader

April 14: Kindergarten Readiness & Enrichment Presentation, 7:00pm

April 18: Pre-K/K Field Trip to Oatlands, leave at 11:10, Brown Bag Lunch

April 19: "Grandma's Kitchen," presented by Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, 10am & 11:15am

April 20: Make Your Pizza Party, presented by Vocelli's Pizza, 11:15am

April 22: Earth Day

April 26: National Pretzel Day

Barnyard Buddies presented by Wildlife Ambassadors

April 27: Tractor Show and Tell

This Month at School...

The focus this month is all about spring, pond life, farms, and gardens! The children will enjoy lots of fun guests and hands-on activities to learn about the new life springing up all around us.

- Oatlands Plantation will come and present a program about frogs to our 2 and 3 year olds on April 5th. Live frogs will be among the guests!
- A guest reader will read the award winning book In the Small, Small Pond on the 8th to help the children learn about and explore the life that teems inside these small bodies of water.
- Our Kindergarten Enrichment teacher, Rachel Soffel, will hold a Kindergarten Readiness & Enrichment Presentation at 7pm on the 14th for rising kindergarten parents. Bring a friend!
- The field trip to Oatlands Plantation on the 18th for Pre-K and K children will focus on butterflies: their development and habitats. All while strolling the gorgeous Oatlands grounds!
- The Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum will pay us a visit on the 19th to present “Grandma’s Kitchen,” a one-hour program that includes lots of fun topics, including a comparison of a 1900’s kitchen to modern day, and ending with a biscuit making demonstration. Toddlers, 2’s and 3’s will attend at 10am; 4’s and Kindergarteners will attend at 11:15.
- Children will help make their own lunch on the 20th when they attend the Make Your Pizza Party in our very own kitchen. Vocelli’s Pizza will come and teach our kids how to make one of their favorite foods—pizza, of course! - and the children will eat the fruits of their labors at lunchtime!
- Earth Day on the 22nd is a wonderful opportunity to teach about the three R’s—Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Did you know that we have a brand new compost bin outside of our kitchen? To help talk about energy conservation the lights in the classrooms will be turned out for part of the day and the children will get to explore glow sticks and the like in this fun, different environment.
- Wildlife Ambassadors, always a favorite, will return on the 26th to bring us a Barnyard Buddies presentation, complete with barnyard friends to meet!
- A tractor show-and-tell will visit us on the 27th! Joe Cahill, one of our generous NLC parents, will be bringing some of his working tractors: a larger tractor, a combine attachment, hay baler, and even a smaller Gator that the kids can easily sit in. All of the children will gather in Fellowship Hall at 10am for a brief talk by Joe and will then break into smaller groups to go outside and visit the tractors. Lots of photos will be taken, so keep an eye out! Thank you, Joe!!

Children’s Files Updates

We are in the process of updating all of our children’s files. Many of our families received a notice in the last few weeks regarding information in your child’s file that was either missing or requires updating. **This information is state mandated, and is required for enrollment at the NLC.** Thank you to the many of you who have returned your paperwork already. If you have not already done so please submit completed paperwork as soon as possible to your child’s teacher. If you need fresh copies of the forms please contact Ally Fetch, our Business Manager at ally@theneighborhoodlearningcenter.com.



Did you know that we have a brand new Facebook page? Please visit us at facebook.com/theneighborhoodlearningcenter or search for “NLC—The Neighborhood Learning Center”. We are posting reminders, news, fun pictures, events, and updates—please “like” us and give a review if you feel so moved. Thanks!

The Pastor's Corner:

VBS Approaching—Save the Dates:
June 26th—July 1st

This summer our Vacation Bible School is taking us to Egypt! We will journey with Joseph from dreamer to laying in a pit, from prison to his place as Pharaoh's right hand man in the palace.

In addition to journeying with Joseph, we will make our way into the Bazaar Marketplace, play games, have dinner together and be greeted by special furry visitors (a real live CAMEL, perhaps!) You won't want to miss this Egyptian Adventure!

Join us beginning Sunday, June 26th through Thursday, July 1st. We begin with family dinner at 5:15 pm and

then the program runs from 6pm til 8pm. VBS is open to children 3 years old through finished 5th graders.

Kids attending the NLC aged 3 and older can be transitioned from their NLC day to VBS night. Volunteers will sit and eat



dinner with your child and then help them have a GREAT VBS night. Families are encouraged to come and eat together, too! Oh, in case you're wondering—there is no charge for VBS or for dinner.

Watch out for the LIVE registration to be coming soon! Volunteers are needed

too! Questions, see Pastor Jessica at mclclurearcher@gmail.com.

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!

April 3—9am—Serve Sunday—This annual St. Andrew tradition gathers the congregation at 10am for communion and a brief commissioning service. Then we disperse into the community to volunteer and serve others! You can travel to the Carver Center to help with landscaping, visit Mobile Hope to assist

with organizing their donations, or even stop by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore to help paint. Other opportunities are available and many are child-friendly, so please join us Sunday morning!

April 10—10am—Children & Youth Service—Our children and youth from Sunday School and WAC will lead our worship this day.

April 13—Last Day of WAC—We will celebrate a great year of WAC at Purcellville Skating Rink. We will provide transportation to the rink from the church beginning at 4 until 4:30pm. The party will go until 6:30pm with parent pickup at the skating rink. The cost is \$10/student and includes pizza, drinks and skating!

April 16—Believing & Belonging Class— 10am-12pm—A four-week orientation and introduction to learn about faith, the Bible, worship, and what it means to be a Presbyterian. Speak to Pastors Dave or Jessica if you're interested.

Sunscreen & Insect Repellant

Spring has sprung, and with it comes more time outside playing and exploring! If you would like us to apply sunscreen and/or insect repellant to your child during the day you must 1) Fill out an Over-the-Counter Medication Permission Form giving us permission to apply the product(s), and 2) Must supply your child's teacher with the product. Be sure to mark all bottles with your child's name—you will be notified when the product starts to run low so that you can supply more. We cannot apply sunscreen or insect repellant without a completed form, so please be sure to get that in to us before the sun starts burning and the bugs start biting! If you need another copy of this form please pick one up at the front desk, or print one from our website at tnlcenter.com.

Summer Camp Now Enrolling!

Journey to Adventure!
June 20th—August 26th

We are excited to announce that we are starting enrollment for 2016 Summer Camp with the theme: Journey to Adventure! As a continuation of our Abeka curriculum, our camp offers a fun-filled summer program for children 4 years old through 5th grade.

Although we want the children to have the best summer possible, we can't forget about all they've learned during the school year. Our Abeka summer curriculum is designed to review and strengthen skills taught during the school year. Various academic activities will be integrated throughout your child's daily summer experience.

Each week will have a new theme such as Deep Sea Dive, Arctic Chill, and Road Trip USA. These themes will be explored with exciting experiments, awesome art projects, group projects, observation, and of course good summer camp fun!

School-Agers: The school-agers will travel three days a week to fun field trip destinations such as the pool, park, local museums, and many more!

Even if you are currently enrolled in our After School program, you must fill out a camp enrollment form which can be found at the front desk. Full pricing information can be found on that form.

T-Shirts & Water Bottles: There will be a \$20 fee for *all campers aged 4 and up* that will cover the cost of a camp t-shirt and water bottle. Because these ages will be traveling on field trips, t-shirts enhance safety by making it easier to spot our kids at a glance, and water bottles ensure we all stay hydrated.

Fall Enrollment

4's and younger: We are preparing for fall enrollment and we need to know if we are holding a place for you! Your teachers will be asking about your plans.

For preschoolers, you need to maintain a 2 day per week minimum enrollment over the summer in order to hold your place in the fall. *If you will be changing your attendance over the summer please let us know as soon as possible.*

Referral Incentive

The NLC Board has recently announced that they will offer a referral incentive to current NLC families! Every time you, as a current family, refer another family to the NLC and that new family enrolls and pays their first tuition, you will receive a one-time credit of \$75—if the new family enrolls multiple children you earn \$75 *per child*! This credit will be deducted from your tuition. For staff members providing referrals, a \$75 gift card will be offered per enrollment. Let others know how much you love the NLC—and earn a little for yourself, too!



Thank you to everyone who supported our Book Sale! Lots of books were earned for our classrooms, and we are on our way in our fundraising for sand and water sensory tables for each playground!

Now that the weather is warming we are finding more reasons to get outside. Ms. Sarah enjoyed instructional time with her class out on the playground!



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 let us know by 9:30am if your child will not be attending the NLC that day. We closely monitor our staffing headcounts, and it can be awkward for our dedicated bus drivers if they are trying to pick up a child who is absent from school that day!
- As we are now able to enjoy the sunshine on the playground, please send in a water bottle marked with your child's name so they can stay hydrated during their playtime, and all the time!
- Please check the lost and found for any lost items.
- Remember to send in sunscreen as the weather warms and we spend more time outside. If you need a copy of the OTC Permission Form (which includes sunscreen and insect repellent), please pick one up from the front desk.
- The NLC School Safety Rules mandate that closed-toe shoes must be worn when on the playground. Please ensure that your child can play with their friends outside by carefully selecting their daily footwear.



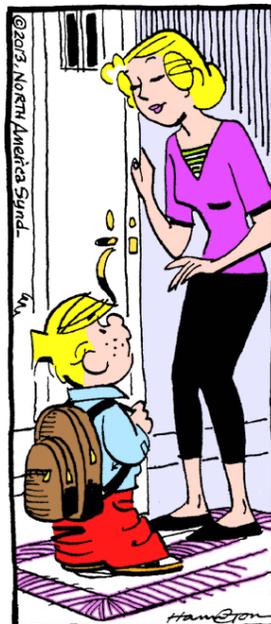
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					April Fool's Day Pajama Day Yoga	2
3 <i>Signs of Spring</i>	4	Frog Program by Oatlands 2s & 3s	5 National Walking Day <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	6 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	7 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	8 <i>In the Small, Small Pond;</i> Guest Reader Yoga
9 <i>Pond Life</i>	10 <i>Gardens</i> <i>Fruits & Vegetables</i>	11	12 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	13 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	14 K Readiness & Enrichment, 7 pm <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	15 LCPS Teacher Workday Yoga
16 PNO	17 <i>In the Kitchen</i>	18 Pre-K/K Oatlands Leave @11:10 Brown Bag	19 Grandma's Kitchen; Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum 10 & 11:15 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	20 Make Your Pizza Party 11:15 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	21 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	22 Earth Day Recycle Lights Out!!!! Yoga
23	24 <i>Farms</i>	25	26 National Pretzel Day Barnyard Buddies Wildlife Ambassadors <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	27 Tractor Show 10-12 am <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	28 <i>Ms Prestipino</i>	29 Yoga
30						

2013 © Sarah Kinky

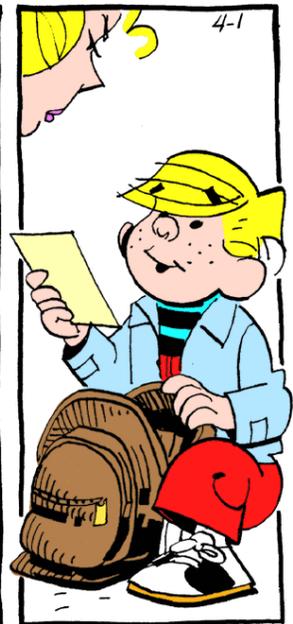
Giggle Corner!



"I think Mother Nature is tryin' to pull an April Fools' trick."



"NO NOTE FROM MY TEACHER TODAY."



"APRIL FOOL."