

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

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



Children love to pretend, and pretending is important! Through pretend play children learn about themselves and the world. Dramatic play experiences are some of the first ways children learn about their likes and dislikes, their interests and their abilities. They experiment with role playing and work to make sense out of what they've observed.

By three years of age, children want to try out many different roles experienced in the real world: father mother, doctor, fire fighter... Have you ever witnessed children pretending to visit the doctor? One child dutifully holds the stethoscope as the other lines up as the patient. More often than not someone gets shots. This is a child's way of safely exploring an experience that is common and sometimes confusing or scary.

Children often use pretend play to work out more personally challenging life events too, whether it is coping with an illness, the absence of a parent, or a new child in the family. A child may also use pretend play to assume the role of some superhero that he has seen on television, or they may make up their own character.

Preschool children frequently create imaginary companions in their play. At this age it is perfectly normal to have make-believe friends. Usually by the time a child goes to grade school his interests will shift from imaginary to realistic activities.

A child's pretend play is often considered fun and imaginative, but with limited educational value. The truth is, in the midst of creating a farmer's market together, dressing up in grown up clothes or twirling around with friends in a fairy tale land, children are learning to solve problems, coordinate, cooperate, and think flexibly. Imagine the skills required to turn a sandbox into a dinosaur bone dig!

Children develop important complex social and higher order thinking skills using pretend play. It requires advanced thinking strategies, communication, and social skills. Through pretend play, children learn to do things like negotiate, consider others' perspectives, transfer knowledge from one situation to another, delay gratification, develop a plan and act on it, assign tasks and roles, and express and listen to others' thoughts and ideas. We could just as easily be describing the skills needed by an adult to successfully manage a work project as we could be describing children's pretend play!

How we interact with others is key to our lifelong success and happiness. Knowing how to read social cues, recognize and regulate emotions, negotiate and take turns, and engage in a long-term activity that is mutually beneficial are no easy tasks. There is no substitute for creative and imaginative play when it comes to teaching and enhancing these abilities in children.

God Bless,

Ms. Marcie

May Highlights

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

May 6: Mother's Day Program, 4:30pm

May 8: Mother's Day

May 9-13: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 13: Pre-K Farm Visit

May 14: Bluegrass & BBQ Spring Fling, 6pm-10pm

May 16: Wear Purple for Peace Day

May 17: Oatlands Dinosaur Dig Show

May 20: Eat Strawberries Day

May 21: Purcellville Music & Arts Festival

May 30: NLC CLOSED for Memorial Day

May 31: A Day at the Beach Show

This Month at School...

We will be learning all sorts of interesting things about the world around us this month! Our weekly themes are: Insects, Camping, Dinosaurs, Oceans, and Beach Fun!

- Be sure to join us on May 6th at 4:30pm for the Mother's Day Program. The children have been practicing for weeks and can't wait to share the songs they've learned! Two more tickets to the Spring Fling will be raffled off during the event.
- The week of May 9th is Teacher Appreciation Week. Next to the check-in tablet is a binder with teacher favorites—check it out if you need ideas!
- The Pre-K children will visit the farm of one of our NLC families on the 13th to meet animals, picnic lunch, take a tractor ride, and enjoy water play!
- Bluegrass & BBQ Spring Fling is finally here on the 14th!! Please see the article giving details about this fantastically fun fundraiser!
- Oatlands will join us again on the 17th, this time for their Dinosaur Dig Show.
- Make sure to stop by our booth at the Purcellville Music & Arts Festival at Fireman's Field on the 21st. We will have fun activities for the children and would love to say hello.
- May 31st we are looking ahead to summer with "A Day at the Beach Show"!

Bluegrass & BBQ—Spring Fling

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've heard tale of our upcoming Bluegrass & BBQ Spring Fling on May 14th from 6-10pm! Half of the proceeds raised will go towards St Andrew's mission trip to Belize this summer, and half will go towards the NLC's new mobile computer lab which will include tablets, laptops, headphones, and a mobile charging cart. We hope to raise enough to also spruce up the playgrounds a bit!

So what's included with your \$25 ticket?

- **Silent auction** with fantastic items ranging from gift cards and services to fine art, jewelry, getaway vacations, and so much more
- Delicious **dinner** provided by Monk's BBQ and **dessert** by Elena
- **Live bluegrass music** by the Short Mountain Boys—*check them out on YouTube!*
- **50/50 Raffle**
- Beverage tent offering **beer on tap or wine** for an additional charge, and a root beer keg
- **Live emcee**
- **Childcare** available for an additional charge of \$10/child

Buy your tickets at the front desk or online at EventBrite.com (search for "Spring Fling")—there are a limited number of tickets available and we expect childcare to sell out, so don't wait!

Volunteers are also needed for various jobs before, during and after the event—please consider signing up for a slot to do things like help with decorating, assist with selling raffle tickets, and cleaning up when we're all done.

Donations for the silent auction are also needed, so if you have goods or services you would like to donate please see Pastor Jessica or an NLC administrative staff member.



We can't wait to see you there!

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.

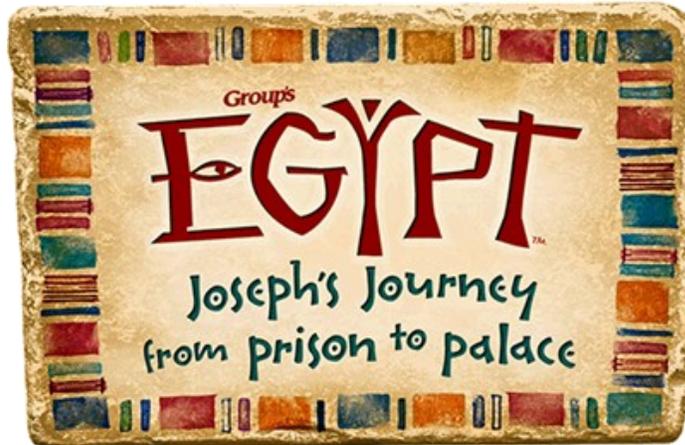
Kids attending the NLC aged 3 and older can be transitioned from their NLC day to VBS night. Volunteers will sit and eat dinner with your child and then help them have a GREAT VBS night. Families are encouraged to come and eat together, too! Oh, in case you're wondering—there is no charge for VBS or for dinner.

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

too! Questions, see Pastor Jessica at mcclurearcher@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!

May 14th—Bluegrass & BBQ Spring Fling—6pm-10pm—Please see the article in this newsletter with details about this fabulously fun fundraiser!

Sunday mornings at 9am—"Living the Resurrection" Sunday Study—As we explore Jesus' resurrection appearances in the Gospels and Acts in our weekend worship, the Adult Ministries Team is hosting a Sunday Study at 9am in the Basement Lounge. Join us for study and conversation based on Eugene Peterson's Living the Resurrection. The study will be facilitated by Cindi Rampulla. Books are available for \$15. The Sunday Study will go through May 22nd. If interested, please email Cindi Rampulla at queenlareina2003@yahoo.com, or just show up on Sunday morning!

May 15—Pentecost & Confirmation—10am

May 22—Reception of New Members—10am

Staff Spotlight

Hey parents and friends my name is Stacey Hibbitts and I am Kendra's new assistant in the Honey Bee Hive. Before coming to the NLC I was a lead teacher for an after school program. I love working with children because their minds are so fresh and ready to learn! I am pursuing my Bachelors in Criminal Law and would one day like to pursue a career in juvenile probation. I believe in the Lord and with him all accomplishments are possible. I would like to thank Ms. Marcie, Ms. Lorie and Ms. Ally for welcoming me here with a position at NLC. The Lord has placed me here and this is where I plan on continuing to grow!



Summer Camp Now Enrolling!

Journey to Adventure!
June 20th—August 26th

We are excited to announce that we are continuing enrollment for 2016 Summer Camp with the theme: Journey to Adventure! As a continuation of our A Beka 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 A Beka 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

4s 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!



Learning about frogs at Oatlands Plantation was fascinating!

Tractor Day was a HUGE success—thank you to Joe Cahill for bringing these fantastic machines, for teaching the children about them, and for your patience with helping them explore the inside of the cab—one by one!



Rolling out biscuit dough as part of the “Grandma’s Kitchen” visit from Oatlands Plantation was a dusty, sticky, fun time for all!

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 DO NOT leave your unattended car running when you are dropping off/picking up. It is unsafe and also illegal.
- DO NOT leave young children unattended in your

car, whether the car is running or not. If you need help dropping off a sibling please let us know and we are happy to help!

- The weather is getting warmer, and we love to take our canine companions with us, however DO NOT leave your dog in the car when the temperature is 72 and higher. If you need help dropping off a human sibling please let us know and we are happy to help. Even better, please leave Rover at home when the days start to get hot.

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Insects	2	3	4 Ms Prestipino	5 Cinco De Mayo Ms Prestipino	6 Mother's Day Program 4:30 Yoga	7
8 Mother's Day Camping	9	10	11 Ms Prestipino	12 Ms Prestipino	13 Farm Visit Pre-K Yoga	14 Bluegrass and BBQ Spring Fling 6 pm
Teacher Appreciation Week						
15 Dinosaurs	16 Wear Purple for Peace Day	17 Oatlands Dinosaur Dig Show	18 Ms Prestipino	19 Ms Prestipino	20 Eat Strawberries Day Yoga	21 Purcellville Music & Arts Festival
22 Oceans	23	24	25 Ms Prestipino	26 Ms Prestipino	27 Yoga	28
29 Beach Fun	30 NLC Closed Memorial Day	31 A Day at the Beach Show				

2013 © Sarah Kirby

Giggle Corner!

