

# Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

## The Director's Corner

Marcie Peterson, Director



Fresh paint, new room assignments and layouts, new toys and manipulatives, new staff, and new curriculum: We are starting off our fifth September at the Neighborhood Learning Center with a bang! Some news to start off the new school year:

- Our staff spent long hours here on Friday (and over the weekend) preparing their classrooms for the new school year. Their dedication and teamwork were both heartwarming and inspiring. We thank all of you for supporting our Teacher Work Day. The time was put to very good use not only in the classrooms, but also during our lunch time training session with Pastor Jessica who provided an overview and some preliminary training on how the NLC staff will more actively participate in the Godly Play curriculum in both the weekly chapel lessons and daily during afternoon circle time—please see Pastor Jessica's "Chaplain's Corner" article later in this newsletter to learn more.
- Welcome to our newest staff members: Ms. Aliyah and Ms. Marijo! We are truly blessed to have them as part of our NLC team.
- We are very excited about the "Handwriting Without Tears" curriculum being implemented in our threes program this year. This curriculum draws from years of innovation and research that demonstrates children learn most effectively by actively *doing*, while using materials that address all styles of learning. The threes parents will learn more about this at our Back to School Night scheduled for next Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Please mark your calendars for **Back to School Night next Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. See the Back to School Night article for details.
- Another date for your calendar is Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. All grandparents are invited to come during afternoon snack time to enjoy a few minutes with their grandchildren in celebration of Grandparents Day.
- Please ensure that you regularly read this monthly newsletter. This is one of the ways important information about the happenings at the school is conveyed to parents. We are excited about this new school year and are blessed have your family join ours!

God Bless,  
Ms. Marcie

## September Highlights

### September 5:

NLC CLOSED for Labor Day

### September 8:

Back to School Night with Potluck Dinner—6:15—7:30pm

### September 9:

Celebrate Grandparents Day

### September 11:

Community Helper Sunday—see "This Month at St. Andrew"

### September 17:

Parent's Night Out 5:30—9:00pm

### September 20:

Cody & BJ Show

### September 28:

Wednesday Afterschool Café (WAC) Preview & Open House with Dinner

## This Month at School...

Welcome back to school! The themes this month revolve around teachers and classrooms, friendship and kindness, letters, and "I Can Do It!"

- Back to School Potluck and Dinner—Please see the full article regarding this important night.
- Celebrating Grandparents—Friday the 9th —During afternoon snack time, grandparents are invited to visit and join their grandchild's class for a special treat. Please see the signup sheet outside of your child's room.
- Children will be making thank you cards for the community helpers who are invited to the September 11th church service. Please see the "This Month at St. Andrew" article for additional information about this meaningful day.
- Cody and BJ Show—At 10:30 on Tuesday the 20th this dynamic musical duo will present "Family and Friends Having Fun." Their interactive, fun show is filled with original music, with a wish to inspire people of all ages to give back to society and Mother Earth, and contribute to making the world a better place.

## Back to School Night

**Thursday, September 8th**  
**6:15—7:30pm**

Please mark your calendar for this VERY important night!

- Potluck dinner starts at 6:15pm. Please see the signup sheet outside of your child's classroom.
- Childcare is available—if you need care please

sign up on the sheet outside your child's classroom. A moonbounce will be available!

- You will have the chance to go back to your child's classroom to meet with your child's teacher. Information packets will be handed out with info you will need throughout the coming year, from class schedules and policies, developmental and academic goals for the year, parent/teacher conference info, methods of communication, and so much more!

## Staff Spotlight

Hello, my name is Aliyah McCarthy and I'll be working with Miss Stacey in the Frog Hollow. I am 20 years old and although that may seem young, I have tons of experience with kids! I am the oldest child and have 8 younger siblings. I was previously employed by Loudoun Valley Christian Academy as well as Purcellville Children's Academy before I came to the NLC. So, in a sense, I've been in childcare since I was old enough to babysit. I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you this school year!



## Rate Changes

The NLC Board recently approved changes to our rate structure, as reflected in the full rate schedule posted on our website. Rates are increasing approximately \$5. It should be noted that last year there was no rate increase. If you have any questions please contact Lorie or Marcie. New rates were effective August 29th, 2016.

## The Chaplain's Corner:

### Godly Play All Week

This past Spring Marcie and a few of our teachers went to Godly Play Training, sponsored by the National Capital Presbytery, our regional governing board of local Presbyterian churches. They were inspired, especially to better educate all our NLC teachers in the Godly Play method as well as to find ways to incorporate Godly Play beyond Monday morning chapels. This past summer we have thought of intentional ways to incorporate Godly Play into the classroom, thereby reinforcing our weekly Biblical story through the key components of this method - Storytelling, Wondering and Exploring.

Last Friday at the teacher work day, I led a training of the NLC staff in the Godly Play methodology and



provided an introduction to the weekly Godly Play integration curriculum. The movement of the weekly Biblical story will include introducing the story on Monday to exploring the story via retelling the story, art, outside world discovery and classroom projects to then conclude with the students telling the story themselves by Friday. We will begin this integrated Godly Play approach (that will supplement your child's developmental education) on September 19th.

If you wish to explore Godly Play, visit [Godlyplayfoundation.org](http://Godlyplayfoundation.org). Also, search YOUTUBE for lots of Godly Play stories.. What a great way to extend what we are doing in the classroom by watching these videos at home. This month in Godly Play chapel and in the classroom - we will explore Introduction to Chapel, Creation and the Flood and Ark.

In Grace,  
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!

**September 11th—Community Helper Celebration & Fire Truck Visit during Sunday School**—Our community helpers—from police officers to librarians—will be honored during Sunday's 10am worship service. During Sunday School time our children will be invited to explore a visiting fire truck and to visit with the fire fighters who keep us safe every day.

**Weekly, starting September 11th—Sunday Morning Study—9am**—Join Cindi Rampulla in our basement lounge for a book discussion on Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber. The study will conclude October 16th. The first week will be introductions and book handout. All other weeks will focus on chapter-by-chapter book discussion. Books will be available for purchase at the first class.

**September 18th—Fall Sunday School begins with Godly Play for All**

**September 25th—"Sunday Concerts at St. Andrew: Music with a Cause Series": Pas de Deux—4:00pm**—Franco-Belgian music for few or many strings featuring Joshua Hong on violin and Olivia Kim on harp.

**September 28th—6:00pm—Wednesday Afterschool Café (WAC) Open House with Dinner**—Register for WAC and transportation, meet your teachers, and learn more about our LOGOS-modeled midweek ministry.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
School is Cool					Yoga	
4 My Teacher, Classroom & Me	5 NLC Closed - Labor Day	6	7 Music	8 Back-to-School Pot Luck dinner 6:15pm Music	9 Celebrating Grandparents Yoga	10
11 St Andrew Potluck Lunch Friendship & Kindness	12 Chapel	13	14 Music	15 Music	16 Yoga	17 PNO 5:30-9:00
18 Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (Letters in Our Room)	19 Chapel	20 Cody & BJ Show	21 Music	22	23 Yoga	24
25 I Can Do It!	26 Chapel	27	28 Music	29 Music	30 Yoga	

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## 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 send a water bottle in with your child every day. The days are still warm and we want them to stay well hydrated.
- Please apply sunscreen (if desired) to your child before drop-off; we will reapply during the day per the sunscreen permission form you complete.
- Breakfast is served until 8:00am. To keep on schedule we need to stop serving at that time, so if you would like your child to eat breakfast with us please arrive prior to 8 o'clock.

