

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Director's Corner Marcie Peterson, Director



Halloween is a time of spooky fun – emphasis on the “fun” and less on the “spooky” for our little ones! According to “Early Childhood NEWS,” children's fears are very real, just like yours and mine. While we tend to have different fears as we mature, fears can interfere with our quality of life. It is normal to be afraid sometimes, but it is not normal to be afraid most of the time.

When someone they know asks preschoolers what they fear, they name, on average, two fears. I did my own informal survey with the three- and four-year-olds at the NLC and this what I heard: Harper said things that bite; Sam said a tiger; Carter fears dragons; John, skeletons; Emma, ghosts; Calli and Emma said monster and ghosts; Alli fears bugs and snakes; and Alex is afraid of a monster in his bedroom at night time. My favorite was Cole who said, "Nothing – not at my house either!"

The article confirmed that young children most often report being afraid of supernatural creatures and of animals. Taken together and in context, those responses mostly center on bedtime fears. Because it is cognitively difficult for young children to separate the real from the imaginary, they naturally include the impossible as well as the possible in their mental category of scary things.

The young child's inability to conceptualize cause-and-effect may also contribute to a sense of the world as a rather scary place. A sense of security develops when we come to understand that certain events are predictable because the world is orderly.

As the guiding adults in children's lives, we can teach children that we don't need to be afraid – spooky things like eerie Halloween decorations in the grocery store are only pretend, made of things like paint and paper, so they can't hurt us. Also, the world is predictable – if I stay with Mom or Dad when I'm trick-or-treating, they won't let me get scared by taking me to a house whose decorations are meant for older kids; the house with the smiling pumpkin and happy black cat won't be scary....and they might have the best candy!

God Bless,

Ms. Marcie

October Highlights

October 4:
Kindergarten Enrichment trip to Wayside Farm Pumpkin Patch at 11:15am

October 6:
Pre-K trip to Wayside Farm Pumpkin Patch at 11:15am

October 10:
NLC CLOSED- Columbus Day

October 11:
Purcellville VFD Fire Truck Visit at 10:30am

October 12:
Wear your PJs Day

October 15:
Parent's Night Out— 5:30pm—9:00pm

October 17:
Dress Like an Alien Day

October 20:
Wacky Hair Day

October 25:
Wear Bling Day

October 26:
Wear Clothes Backwards Day

October 28:
Harvest Parade & Songs at 4:30pm—WEAR COSTUMES

October 31:
Halloween Class Parties— NO COSTUMES

This Month at School...

Halloween is full of dress-up fun, exploring feelings, and enjoying the changes that come with the fall!

- Trips to Wayside Farm's Pumpkin Patch in Berryville—the Kindergarteners will visit this fun farm on the 4th and the pre-K will go later in the week on the 6th. During their visit the kids will enjoy seasonal fun like hay bale climbing, a hay ride, and farm games. Visiting farm animals and, of course, the pumpkin patch are part of the fall festivities and education.
- The week of the 9th is Fire Prevention Week. The Purcellville Fire Department will visit on the 11th with their truck—always a highlight of the year!
- Watch the calendar for all sorts of different dress-up days throughout the month, from getting “blinged out” to dressing like your favorite alien!
- Mark your calendar for the Harvest Parade & Songs at 4:30pm on the 28th. Wear your costume!
- Halloween Class Parties on the 31st—NO COSTUMES (save the dress-up action for trick-or-treat in the evening!), but our Pumpkin Patch will have seasonal games and lots of festive fun!

Wednesday Afterschool Café (WAC) Kicking Off!

Our after school children will begin WAC programming starting the first week of this month. During this ministry program of St. Andrew, children of the NLC, church and community come together to learn about and explore their faith—all while having a ton of fun! Homework time, snack, Bible study,

recreation time, worship arts such as children's choir, puppet ministry, and art...there's a ton of fun, fellowship and learning packed in on Wednesday afternoons! It all caps off with a family dinner each Wednesday to which ALL of our NLC families, WAC families, volunteers, and staff are welcome. Please pick up a flyer if you weren't able to make it to the Open House in September, or ask Ms. Karen or Pastor Jessica for details.

Staff Spotlight

Hi! My name is Claudia Faubert and I'm very happy to be working here at the NLC assisting in the Busy Beehive. I have a lot of experience babysitting and housesitting and worked for years at Serene Acres Farm in Bluemont where I worked taking care of the horses and giving lessons to children. I love horses and all animals! I also nannied this past summer and do so in the afternoons after mornings at the NLC. In future, I would love to work with children who have special needs. I'm a member of St. Andrew and came back to the US after living in England for 9 years with my family. I participated in the DC TOP mission for several years (see Pastor Jessica's article!) and went to Belize to help build a church in 2012 as part of the St. Andrew mission team. I'm glad to be part of the NLC family!



Referral Incentive

Did you know that there is a referral incentive for 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!

The Chaplain's Corner: Share Your Blessings: Opportunities to Give This Fall

Hanging on my wall as part of my fall decor is a little plaque with the words "Don't just count your blessings - Share Them!" I love this little reminder to not only give thanks for the blessings that come our way, but also to find ways to share the bounty of blessing with others. That's really the way of Jesus, too. Jesus, the Blessing of all Blessings, shared the abundance of God's grace to those who knew too little of it.

Certainly we can look at our own lives and find ways to share the harvest, too. As we near Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will provide opportunities for you and your family to share your blessings. Our congregation has a ministry to the homeless living on the streets of our nation's capitol.



We have two scheduled serve dates coming up in October (10/16) and then in December (12/18). We will be seeking your help in assisting us in reaching the needs of this vulnerable population.

Look at these serve opportunities (either to serve with your family in DC or to provide needed donations) as a way to introduce and/or strengthen your, your child's and your family's capacity for kindness and care of the least of these our brothers and sisters. We know that generosity is like a muscle, and it enjoys a good workout!

Check out your Friday Footnotes inviting you to share your blessings with our DC Street Ministry Project.

Needed items can include food, individual snacks, socks, cold weather gear, hygiene supplies and more. Remember let' not just count our Blessings - Let's Share Them!

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!

October 5th—Wednesday Afterschool Café (WAC) starts—See the article in this newsletter.

October 7th—3 in 1 First Friday Bonfire—Meet at 7pm for games, fellowship, blessings, and s'mores!

October 16th—DC TOP SERVE—Preparations at 11am; depart for DC at 12:30. All ages are invited to

participate in serving our homeless brothers and sisters in downtown DC. Please see Pastor Jessica or Ally Fetch for details.

October 23rd & 30th—Growing in Faith Together Workshop on Prayer—An this intergenerational program for kids, teens, and adults where we explore and make daily prayer cards. The first week we will construct our prayer cards and fill them in with preprinted prayers. The second week we will write our own prayers that can be said throughout the day!

October 30th—Sunday Concerts at St. Andrew: Music with a Cause Series: Music of 18th Century Virginia - 4:00pm—Benefitting Boulder Crest Retreat, the nation's first privately-funded rural wellness center dedicated exclusively to our combat veterans and their families. David and Ginger Hildebrand bring to life the music of early Virginia, upon appropriate period instruments and in colonial attire.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <i>Pumpkins - Lots of Faces</i>	3 Chapel	4 K- Field Trip to Wayside Farm Pumpkin Patch @11:15	5 Music	6 Pre-K Field Trip Wayside Farm Pumpkin Patch at 11:15 Music	7 Yoga	1/8
9 Fire Prevention Week <i>Germs & Feeling Sick</i>	10 NLC CLOSED	11 Purcellville VFD Fire Truck Visit @ 10:30	12 Wear PJ's Day Music	13 Music	14 <i>Global Handwashing Day</i> Yoga	15 Parents' Night Out 5:30 - 9:00
16 <i>Friendly Monsters- Feeling Scared</i>	17 Dress Like an Alien Chapel	18	19 Frank-n-Krispie Snack Day Music	20 Wacky Hair Day Music	21	22
23 <i>I Like to Dress Up!</i>	24 Chapel	25 Wear Bling Day	26 Wear Clothes Backwards Music	27 Music	28 Harvest Parade & Songs at 4:30 - WEAR COSTUMES! Yoga	29
30 <i>Trees, Squirrels and Nuts</i>	31 Halloween Class Parties - NO COSTUMES Chapel					

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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 be sure to update your child's extra clothing with seasonally appropriate items. Don't forget to label everything.
- Check your child's cubby/folders daily so you don't miss any important information coming home.
- If you want your school-aged child to complete their homework here, be sure to sign up on the whiteboard outside their room.

Thank you, Tom Hill!

The new, custom-made folding bulletin board in the Kindergarten Enrichment classroom is FANTASTIC!

