

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Director's Corner

Marcie Peterson, Director



As we kick off 2017 and find ourselves in the midst of our 5th NLC year, we are feeling very blessed by both the families and staff who make our school what it is today. We are proud of our center, our families, and our staff who bring the classrooms to life every day for your children.

In many respects, 2016 was a very good year for the NLC: Our programs continued to grow and strengthen; we had wonderful new staff members join our team; our preschool classes now have waiting lists; and our After School and Kindergarten Enrichment programs continue to grow in numbers. With us nearing the center's overall enrollment capacity, we look forward to 2017 as being a year of reflection and refinement.

Starting this first week and throughout the month of January, we will begin a period of self-assessment to consider and identify the areas in which we are doing very well, as well as the areas in which we could be doing things a bit better.

We consider this one of our greatest strengths—our open-mindedness—being open to fresh ideas that will help us continue to grow to be the best care and learning facility we can possibly be. Our hope is to excel as a unique, warm, enriching, Godly environment where your children as well as our staff thrive, and the needs of our NLC families are met.

All of our family and staff are invited to participate in this process. For the next two weeks a Reflection and Refinement box will be found in our Fellowship Hall. Please take the opportunity to jot down for us (anonymously is absolutely fine) the things you love most about our center and the areas where you would love to see some change. The box will be available through Monday, January 16th for input. We will then share insights and resolutions in the upcoming NLC newsletters throughout the year.

Wishing you all a wonderful New Year full of blessings,

God Bless,

Ms. Marcie

January Highlights

January 2:
NLC CLOSED in observance of New Year's Day

January 4:
National Spaghetti Day

January 6:
Snow Games

January 12:
Last day to donate blankets and coats

January 16:
NLC CLOSED in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 17:
10:30am—Interactive Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales with Ms. Brooksey

January 18:
Winnie the Pooh Day

January 20:
Inauguration Day

January 21:
5:30pm—9:00pm—Parents' Night Out

January 25:
Opposite Day

January 27:
LCPS Closed, NLC OPEN

January 31:
Gingerbread Man Cookies Day

This Month at School...

In January our focus is on the theme “Winter Wonderland” and many of the aspects of the winter season such as snow, mittens, and arctic animals. It’s also a time to enjoy cozy stories inside while it’s cold outside, so we also will be exploring nursery rhymes and fairy tales!

- Friday the 6th we will celebrate the arrival of winter (and hopefully snow?) with Snow Games! We will be making snow angels using packing peanuts, will “Pin the Nose on the Snowman,” have snowball fights with indoor snowballs, enjoy relay races and more indoor winter fun.
- Ms. Brooksey will visit us on the 17th for an interactive nursery rhymes and fairy tales program! Starting at 10:30 all ages will gather for this fun and engaging event.
- Winnie the Pooh Day on the 18th will involve a teddy bear picnic, so bring your best teddy bear friend to school!
- Opposite Day on the 25th will be full of backwards fun—think backwards clothes, backwards walking...you name it!
- The 31st is Gingerbread Cookies Day, with stories, crafts and, of course, making gingerbread cookies!
- Please note that the **NLC will be closed on the 16th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

Sick Child Reminders

If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them home. The best defense against illness entering the NLC is keeping sick children home! We sanitize toys and surfaces on a daily basis, and more often when illness is present, but once a sick child comes to school, their illness comes along with them.

Please remember that your child must stay home for 24 hours after symptoms resolve or if accompanied by a doctor’s note. Symptoms that would exclude a child from attending the NLC include fever, red/drainage eyes, severe cough, diarrhea, undiagnosed rash, vomiting, sore throat, and difficulty/irregularity in breathing. Please review our full Sick Child Policy on our website at <http://tnlcenter.com/important-notice/friendly-reminders>

Thank you for doing your part in keeping our kids healthy!

Donations Needed

Gently Used/New Coats & Blankets: The not-for-profit organization Embrace Relief is gathering coats and blankets to distribute in Iraq to Syrian refugees. St. Andrew is the town-wide collection point for these items. The last day for collection is January 12th.

Packing Peanuts: Needed for our Snow Games!

Empty, Clean Gallon Milk Jugs: Last year our amazing Ms. Rachel made an igloo...this year a snow fort is in the works!

Tax Statements

End of year tuition statements for tax purposes will be available in the next two weeks. They will be emailed to the email addresses we have on file for each child’s guardian(s), but paper copies are available on request.

Snow Days Approaching

All NLC families and Staff members will be notified via email and text message regarding NLC closings and delays due to weather. For parents/guardians, these messages will be sent to the cell phone and email address noted in our database for “Guardian 1”. Please ensure we have the correct information on record!

Keep in mind, **our closings and delays follow the Federal Government, NOT Loudoun County Public Schools.**

You are also able to access the following website to determine the closing & delay status of the Federal Government: www.opm.gov/status

The Chaplain's Corner:

WAC's Secret Truth

Our Wednesday Afterschool Cafe program is really about Intergenerational Relationships. Shh.... that's the big secret. Sure, the official word is that Wednesday Afterschool Cafe is for fellowship, family time around the dinner table, Bible Study and Worship Arts. But the real truth is that it is a time ripe for relationships to take root across generations.

Our youngest WAC participant is 2 (thanks to Hannah Seipt who joins her brothers for dinner!) and our oldest is well into his 80's. Sure, some are actually registered as WAC kids, while others are known as our wonderful volunteers. Coming together each Wednesday, allows this board spectrum of ages to have a place to meet and get to know one another.

We live our lives these days in segmented realities. Our kids are in school marked off my grades and developmental stages. We, big kids, go to work and join our peers in the office. Our middle schoolers and high schoolers rebel to avoid the generations on either side of their own as they seek out independence outside the home. Many of us live far away from our extended families, where intergenerational kinship relationships are more widely available.

Wednesday Afterschool Cafe is about providing the space and place for generations to come together and to develop relationships. We know that mentoring has a profound impact on our young people, especially those

most vulnerable. We also know that increasing the number of important adults in the lives our children can make a big difference, especially as it expands their web of support. And, who doesn't need an extra grandma, grandpa, aunt or uncle!

Last month in the church newsletter we posted a picture of Charles working with our tweens. Charles is in his 80's. Most of his days are spent at the Carver Center, where he is able to continue making peer connections and learn new things like how to operate a computer. On Wednesdays, he rides the Carver Center bus to church. In all honesty, Charles' involvement started because his ride to church was in anticipation for Wednesday choir rehearsal (but that doesn't start until 7 pm!). So, we got Charles a place in our WAC program.

We weren't sure how it was going to work out, but we soon found him a perfect spot! Charles works with our 3rd-5th graders primarily in the free time, homework room. He brings paper airplanes and 3-D art, among many other interesting projects. He also brings his stories and his simple presence, which is the most important. After his scheduled time with 3rd-5th graders, Charles pops into Bible Study, often with the 6th grade class with Miss Kathi.

Charles' involvement in WAC means that anyone can participate and give of themselves, no matter their age or the gift. It is all needed. As we head into the new year, it is a ripe time to connect across the generations. We invite you to be like Charles and join us at WAC in 2017!.

Grace,

Pastor Jessica

This Month at St. Andrew...

Weekly Worship: Saturdays 5pm; Sundays 10am

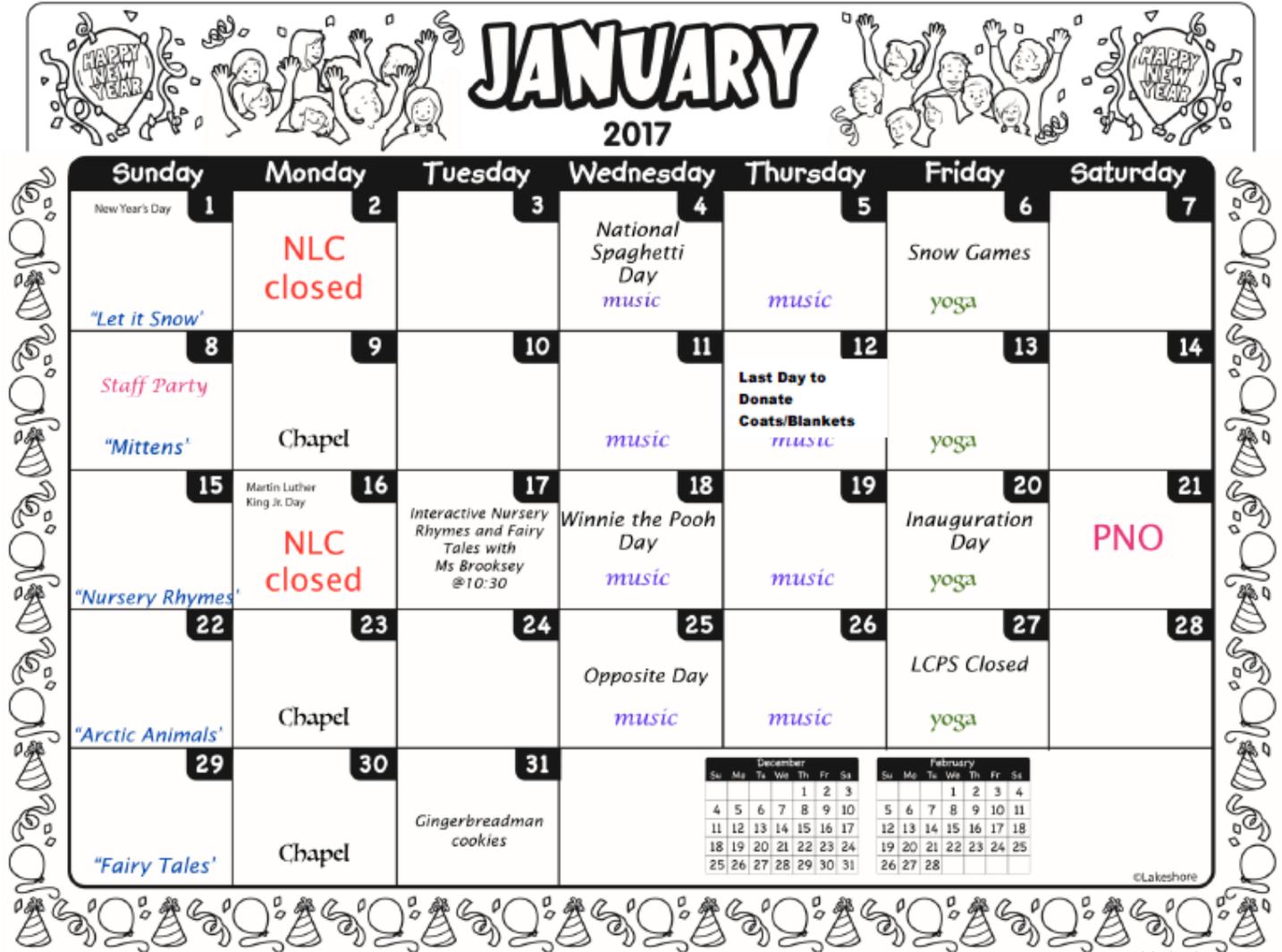
NOTE: Child care is available at all worship services for the littlest ones. For children age preschool and up, Sunday School is provided during Sunday worship services—your child starts the service sitting with you, will leave for Sunday School and then will return to you before the service concludes. The first Sunday of every month is Family First Sunday, when children remain in the service and their joyful noises are welcomed!

January 7th, 14th & 21st—New Member Class—9:00am-11:00am—Would you like to make St. Andrew your new church home? Our 3 week new member class, Believing & Belonging will be starting up. Please contact Pastor Dave Milam for information at revdocdavem@aol.com

13th-15th—Winter Youth & Family Retreat—Held at Deer Valley YMCA Camp, the theme is "Staying Present in the Midst of Conflict." Multiple tracks for families, middle schoolers and high schoolers.

We hope your children enjoy this new “coloring calendar” format so they can add their own color to the fabulous calendar events they will enjoy throughout the month!

This month's theme - "Winter Wonderland"



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:

- Ensure that your children have appropriate outdoor clothing. We make every effort to have the children play outside every day. We take them

out unless it is below freezing or if there is active precipitation.

- Please check the Lost & Found basket regularly. Be sure to label all of your child’s belongings.
- **The NLC is a nut-free facility.** Please have your child finish any snacks/foods before entering the building. If your child has dietary restrictions and you provide snack/lunch items, ensure that they are NUT FREE.