

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Center's Corner

Children have an innate sense of curiosity about the world!

- What happens if I throw my binky on the ground? Ahh—Mom picks it up and hands it back to me. What if I do it again? Hmm...same result. What if I do it again....
- Does this red block taste the same as the green one? What about my puppy's fur?
- What if I stack one more block on top of my tower? Will it fall over?
- I wonder what will happen if I throw this rock in this puddle? What if I jump in the puddle, will it make a bigger splash?

Our children might not realize it, but they are all scientists! They conduct experiments every day, using all five senses—sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell. Every experiment they try, whether successful or not, helps them to learn more about the world around them.

As parents and caregivers, we can help our children learn and experiment in ways that are safe and can help them learn even more. Talking is very important, according to George Tokieda, a science teacher at the Brearley School in New York City and a curriculum developer. Talking helps children to internalize their observations and start to do the kind of higher-level thinking that enables them to begin to see the larger picture. Even if your child is pre-verbal, or just starting to talk, talking to and with them is a good habit for us parents to get into, and you'd be amazed at how much they understand, even if they can't yet tell you!

Expose your children to new situations, and allow them time to explore. Taking them to the park and letting them spend time watching ants at work, or experiencing physics first-hand on a swing, are excellent examples. According to Tokieda, "Science shows children the interconnections of life and teaches them that the things they observe are not haphazard events." Perhaps one of the most important lessons we can teach our children is that...science is fun!!

Reminders...

- Please drive slowly through the parking lot.
- Please do not teach your child the cipher codes to the secure facility doors.
- Do NOT leave children in the car unattended, whether running or not.

April Highlights

April 7:

LCPS Closed, NLC OPEN

April 10-14:

LCPS Spring Break—NLC OPEN

April 11:

Visit from a Librarian at 10:00am

April 13:

Maundy Thursday
Seder Dinner 6pm (signup in church entryway)

April 14:

Good Friday
NLC CLOSSES at 2pm

April 15:

Parents' Night Out
5:30pm-9:00pm

April 16:

Easter Sunday

April 21:

Silhouette Artist Order
Forms Due

April 25:

Visit from Heritage Farm
Museum: Grandma's
Kitchen at 10am

April 27:

Edward Casey—
Silhouette Artist Visit

This Month at School...

Spring has finally arrived! Our weekly themes include “Let’s Go Fly a Kite,” “Flower Power,” “In the Picnic Basket,” and of course a week focusing on “He is Risen” for Easter. April is also a month for spring break, so please ensure that you notify us if your child will be attending so we can plan our staffing levels accordingly.

- LCPS is closed from Friday, April 7th, through Friday, April 14th. We will be offering a Spring Break Camp for school agers during this week, full of field trips and fun in-house activities. Be sure to sign up soon as space is filling up!
- On Tuesday the 11th we will be visited by Ms. Lorna Howard, a Loudoun County Librarian and also a St. Andrew member. She will talk with the children about what a librarian does, how to take care of books, and will be reading a story. Thank you, Ms. Lorna!
- Friday the 14th is Good Friday and the **NLC will close at 2pm.**
- Parents’ Night Out on the 15th will be FULL of Easter fun! From the movie “Hop” to Easter-themed activities, children will have great fun on this night before Easter!
- The Heritage Farm Museum will once again bring a presentation to us during the last week of the month, which ties in beautifully with our “In the Picnic Basket” theme. This is one of our favorite programs every year and we can’t wait to have the children enjoy this participatory presentation again!
- Edward Casey, a professional silhouette and portrait artist, will be paying us a visit on the 27th, with order forms due on the 21st. Edward cuts the classic silhouettes freehand using only scissors and paper. He uses his talent to create precious keepsakes. It has been called amazing, the way he accurately captures the likenesses of each subject in only a matter of seconds.

Sunscreen & Bug Spray

Along with warmer weather come sunburns, mosquitos, and gnats—all of which can be found on our very own playgrounds! Later this month you will receive a permission form to allow NLC staff to apply sunscreen and insect repellent to your child at times, in amounts, and in locations that you specify. Please remember:

- ⇒ You are responsible for supplying any sunscreen and/or insect repellent for your child. When your supply runs low, your child’s teacher will notify you to bring in more.
- ⇒ Ensure that every bottle you provide is clearly labeled with your child’s first and last name. The best method is to write this on a piece of masking or painter’s tape affixed to the bottle rather than trying to write on the bottle itself.
- ⇒ **We CANNOT apply sunscreen or insect repellent to your child without a written permission form.**
- ⇒ You must apply sunscreen at home in the mornings—we will do a single reapplication in the afternoon but will NOT apply it in the mornings.
- ⇒ Didn’t I fill out this form last year? Yes, you did! We require a new form every year.

Sick Child Reminders

If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them home. The best defense against illness entering the NLC and spreading to others 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/drainng 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-notices/friendly-reminders>

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



The Chaplain's Corner:

Let's SERVE! Serve Sunday, April 23rd

Serve Sunday has become our time to take our worship out into our neighborhoods! It is meant to be intergenerational, so many of our projects are open to our youngest to participate.

On Serve Sunday, April 23rd, we will meet for a short commissioning service at 9 am in the sanctuary, and then we will disperse into the community. We will return for lunch and to share our service experience around the table. All are invited to join and serve our community!

This year's mission projects include:

DC TOP – This will be our final service opportunity for the year to serve our friends living on the streets of Washington, DC. This project will feature a donation team (pre-service) prep team, and a serve team.

Children and Youth are especially welcome.

Carver Center – Focused on the garden, mulching, weeding and clean up will help beautify the space for the many older adults who enjoy the daily benefits of the Carver Center and the Mac Brownell Senior Care.

Mobile Hope – Our Children's Ministry is currently collecting their weekly offerings to benefit Mobile Hope. Mobile Hope cares for precariously housed

children and youth in Loudoun County. Participants will serve at the new office space for Mobile Hope, mostly sorting and packing supplies. *This is a great opportunity for even young children to help serve.*

Loudoun Abused Women Shelter (LAWS) – This ADULT only site will provide gardening and care for the women's shelter in Leesburg, for the women and children seeking assistance when faced with violence and abuse.

Boulder Crest – Boulder Crest provides retreat space for our Wounded Warriors in Bluemont. We will provide care for the grounds and/or the cabins so that it will be a welcoming place for service members and their families.

Every Citizen Has Opportunity (ECHO) – ECHO provides vocational support and jobs for people living with disabilities, recognizing that all have gifts to share. We are excited to see how we may serve with ECHO for the first time this Serve Sunday.

How can you sign up? Visit the Serve Sunday table in the entrance way or visit the online signup when it goes live soon. All of us bring gifts for the world. All of us have been given much, too. So, let's go and be a blessing to our community this Serve Sunday – April 23rd !

In God's Grace and Love,
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 2nd—Children & Youth Sunday—The children lead us in worship!

April 9th—Palm Sunday

April 13th—Maundy Thursday & Seder Dinner—6:00pm—Intergenerational sit-down, traditional Seder dinner, celebrating the Passover meal as Jesus and his disciples did during the Last Supper. Childcare provided for ages 0-3; children over age 3 are welcome at the table and are an integral part of the tradition. Signup in the church entry.

April 14th—Good Friday—7:30pm at Catoctin Presbyterian Church in Waterford

April 16th—Easter Sunday—Outdoor Sunrise Service at 6:30am; Pancake Breakfast 9:45am; Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15am (bring a basket!); Easter Worship at 9:00 and 11:00

April 23rd—Serve Sunday—See Chaplain's Corner



April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Let's Go Fly a Kite!	3 National Find a Rainbow Day Chapel	4	5 National Walking Day Music	6 Staff Meeting - 6pm Music	7 LCPS Closed - NLC OPEN Yoga	8
9 Palm Sunday He is Risen!	10 Chapel	11 Library Workers Day Visit from a Librarian - 10am Yoga	12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day Music	13 Maundy Thursday Music	14 Good Friday NLC Closes at 2pm Yoga	15 Parents' Night Out 5:30-9:00pm
16 Easter Sunday Flower Power	17 National Poem in Your Pocket Day Chapel	18	19 Music	20 Music	21 Earth Day Silhouette Artist Forms Due Yoga	22
23 In the Picnic Basket	24 Chapel	25 Visit from Heritage Farm Museum - Grandma's Kitchen - 10am	26 National Pretzel Day Music	27 Natl. Tell a Story Day Edward Casey - Silhouette Artist Music	28 Yoga	29
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Notes:

Apr 14 : Good Friday	NLC CLOSSES at 2pm
Apr 16: Easter's Sunday	Services at 6am, 9am, and 11am
Apr 27: Silhouette Artist	Order forms due the 21 st ; Watch for additional details!