

February, 2021

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

Vaccinations Underway!

As of this writing, half of our NLC staff have received their first COVID-19 vaccination shot, with second shots beginning to be administered this first week in February.

Childcare workers work in person every day, providing loving and up-close care for some of the most important members of society—our children—so parents can continue to work and keep the country and the economy rolling. The Commonwealth of Virginia has recognized the crucial role childcare workers and teachers play by making them part of the 1b group to receive vaccine, only behind frontline healthcare workers. We are grateful for this acknowledgement, and that vaccine is becoming more readily available.



Thank you for doing your part to keep the NLC community safer by: keeping children home when they are unwell, not unnecessarily exposing your family to potential COVID-19 exposure, teaching children how to wash their hands, wearing your mask, keeping socially distanced, and keeping us in the loop. We could not navigate this pandemic as safely as we have if it weren't for your partnership.

This Month's Highlights

February 3

Feed the Birds Day

February 5

Wear your favorite team jersey, shirt, or colors to school!

February 9

National Pizza Day

February 12

Valentine's Day Class Parties

February 15

NLC CLOSED for President's Day

NLC Staff Development Day

February 16

LCPS returns to Hybrid Learning

Mardi Gras

February 17

Ash Wednesday (see page 4)

February 18

"Fill the Trunk" Food Collection 4–6 pm

February 26

Tell a Fairy Tale Day

February Staff Birthdays

5 Amy Lynne Helwig (Penguins)

15 Amy Blair (Bird Nest)

This Month at School

February is a month to learn about love—for others, and for ourselves! The weekly themes this month are: Dentist, Valentine’s Day, Heart Health/Nutrition, and Exercise.

- Mary Poppins isn’t the only one who likes to feed the birds, we will enjoy **Feed the Birds Day** on Tuesday the 3rd.
- The Super Bowl will be Sunday the 7th, so **wear your favorite sports jersey, shirt, or colors to school** on Friday the 5th!
- Tuesday the 9th is **National Pizza Day**—any guesses what’s for lunch?
- Since Valentine’s Day falls on a weekend this year, our **Valentine’s class parties** will be held Friday the 12th. Watch for communication from your child’s teacher about plans for the day and whether children will exchange paper valentines.
- LCPS students **return to hybrid learning** on the 16th.
- The NLC will be **CLOSED Monday the 15th** in observance of President’s Day. The staff will gather for a semi-annual Staff Development Day. CPR and First Aid certification will be offered to those who need a renewal, those staff who are current on CPR/First Aid will attend online training, and staff will gather for general development and planning meetings.
- **Ash Wednesday** falls on February 17th this year; see the article on page 4 for information about how to you are invited to participate with St. Andrew.
- Thursday the 18th is St. Andrew’s monthly **“Fill the Trunk” food drive**. Please consider bringing non-perishable food items at pick up time to be donated to Loudoun Hunger Relief. More people than ever need the help of local food banks and donations are traditionally down in the winter so please help if you are able.
- **Tell a Fairy Tale Day** will provide a lovely bookend to the month on Friday the 26th. What is your favorite fairy tale?

Baby Bump?

If you’re expecting and would like a space reserved at the NLC for your bundle of joy, please let us know as soon as possible. Our infant rooms are filling up for the summer and fall!



Summer Camp

We are excited for another summer of fun for rising Kindergartners through rising 6th graders! Groups will be kept small to maintain safety, weekly field trips are back on the calendar, and LOTS of fresh air and outside time is in the works.

Details and registration in March.

LCPS Hybrid Learning Schedules

School Age families—LCPS will return to hybrid learning on February 16th for all elementary students who chose the hybrid option. *You should have already received an emailed Survey Monkey* asking you whether your child’s NLC schedule will be changing. Please submit the survey no later than Wednesday, February 10th. Let us know if you did not receive it.



The cold weather didn't keep us from having a great time learning & playing in January!



Ash Wednesday

“The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes — placing a cross on one’s forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: **“You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19)** are repeated again and again. We are to remember that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter.

Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one’s faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

Trusting in the “accomplished fact” of Christ’s resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church’s Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed “on the way” to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of *metanoia* “turning around”), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.”

—www.pcusa.org, Presbyterian Church (USA)

ASH WEDNESDAY February 17th !



Even in a pandemic we begin Lent with the tradition of an all-day imposition of ashes. Get ***ashed*** by one of several methods:

- **Drive-through application**
- **Receive and wear available burlap crosses**
- **Apply ashes by your own hand**

Pastor Dave will be on hand to assist you from 7 am to 6 pm

The Neighborhood Learning Center ~ Menu for February 2021

Whole milk is served to children under 2 and 2% milk is served to all others. Menus are subject to change.

*May contain eggs ^May contain milk (T) = Toddler WG = Whole Grain

| | | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|---------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Feb. 1 st – 5 th | Morning Snack | WG Cereal*^ Fruit Water | WG Bagel* Cream Cheese^ Water | WG Cereal*^ Milk | Pancakes*^ Berries Water | WG Cereal*^ Fruit Water |
| | Lunch | Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup*^ Sliced Carrots Pears Milk | Cheese Quesadilla*^ Corn Pineapple Milk | WG Fish Nuggets* Peas Cantaloupe Milk | WG Chicken Patty on a WG Bun*^ Salad w/ Ranch Dressing^ Peaches Milk | Hot Dog on a Bun* Baked Beans* Mandarin Oranges Milk |
| | Snack | Cheese Cubes^ Townhouse Crackers* Water | Groundhog Day Pudding Cup*^ Crackers* Water | Cheese Itz*^ 100% Apple Juice | Yogurt^ Banana Water | Pretzels* Cheese Stick^ Water |
| Feb. 8 th – 12 th | Morning Snack | WG Cereal*^ Water | Sausage Biscuit*^ Water | WG Cereal*^ Milk | French Toast Sticks* Berries Water | WG Cereal*^ Fruit Water |
| | Lunch | Chili *^ Corn Bread*^ Pears Milk | Pizza*^ Salad w/ Dressing^ Mandarin Oranges Milk National Pizza Day! | Taco Salad*^ Corn Roll*^ Peaches Milk | Ham & Cheese Sandwich on a WG Bun^ Green Beans Pineapple Milk | Turkey Meatballs & Gravy*^ Peas Roll*^ Peaches Milk |
| | Snack | Sliced Cheese^ Townhouse Crackers Water | WG Goldfish* 100% Apple Juice | Yogurt^ Graham Crackers* Water | Breakfast Bar* 100% Apple Juice | Special Valentine Snack*^ Crackers* Water |
| Feb. 15 th – 19 th | Morning Snack | NLC CLOSED for President's Day! <i>NLC Staff Development Day</i> | Waffles*^ Berries Water | WG Cereal*^ Milk | Pancake Wrapped Sausage Bites*^ Water | WG Cereal*^ Fruit Water |
| | Lunch | | WG Fish Nuggets* Green Beans Pears Milk | Salisbury Steak* Mashed Potatoes^ Roll* Mandarin Oranges Milk Ash Wednesday | WG Chicken Patty on a WG Bun*^ Corn Bananas Milk | Chicken Noodle Soup* Sliced Carrots Peaches Milk |
| | Snack | | WG Bagel*^ Cream Cheese^ Water | Animal Crackers* Applesauce Water | Cheese Itz* Pear Cup Water | Pepperoni* Sliced Cheese^ Crackers* 100% Apple Juice |
| Feb. 22 nd – 26 th | Morning Snack | WG Cereal*^ Fruit Water | Sausage Biscuit*^ Water | WG Cereal*^ Milk | French Toast Sticks*^ Fruit Water | WG Cereal*^ Fruit Water |
| | Lunch | Chili* Corn Bread*^ Pears Milk | Grilled Cheese on WW Bread*^ Peas Pineapple Milk | Pasta with Meat Sauce* Salad w/ Dressing^ Peaches Milk | WG Chicken Nuggets* Green Beans Applesauce Milk | Hamburger on a WG Bun *^ Green Beans Berries Milk |
| | Snack | Cheese Cubes^ Townhouse Crackers* Water | Pretzels & Dip*^ Cheese Stick^ (T) Crackers Water | Yogurt^ Graham Crackers* Water | Veggie Straws* Raisins* Water | Breakfast Bar* 100% Apple Juice |

February 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|--|---|----------|
| Themes for the month: Dentist Valentine's Day Heart Health/Nutrition Exercise | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | Feed the Birds Day | | Wear your favorite sports jersey to school! | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Online Worship 10 am | | National Pizza Day | | | Valentine's Day Class Parties | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Online Worship 10 am | NLC CLOSED for President's Day NLC Staff Development Day | Mardi Gras LCPS Returns to Hybrid Learning | Ash Wednesday | Fill the Trunk Food Collection 4 – 6 pm | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Online Worship 10 am | | | | | Tell a Fairy Tale Day | |
| 28 | <p>St. Andrew's Worship – Join St. Andrew for online Facebook Live worship every Sunday morning at 10 am! Visit www.standrew-pres.org or join them streaming live on their Facebook page.</p> <p>Ash Wednesday – Even in a pandemic we begin Lent with the tradition of an all-day imposition of ashes. Get <i>ashed</i> by one of several methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive-thru application • Receive and wear available burlap crosses • Apply ashes by your own hand <p>Pastor Dave will be on hand to assist you from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm</p> | | | | | |