



NEWSLETTER

October 2018

CALENDAR

October 1	TUITION DUE
8	Columbus Day Holiday (school closed)
16	Petting Zoo visits Fairlington
24	School Pictures Lilac, Yellow, Green Red and Teal
25	School Pictures Purple, Blue, Orange, and Coral
31	Halloween Parade on the Playground

WELCOME BACK! After several weeks of school, I can say we are off to a great start! We have loved catching up with our returning families and getting to know our new ones. The children are becoming familiar with new rooms and teachers. New friends are being made. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or just need to chat, please come see me in the office. I want to understand your needs and feedback from you helps the staff and I provide the best preschool experiences possible.

Look for a Fairlington Preschool newsletter to be sent home via email at the beginning of each month. Check the calendar that will always be included to learn about new events or to remind you about already scheduled events.

NEW STAFF

This year we have 1 new staff member. Ms. Maeve is working in the Yellow Room with Ms. Usha. Maeve has a master's degree in Education. She has 2 children, both of whom attended Resurrection Children's Center where she was a co-oping parent and a substitute teacher. Maeve is also active in promoting inclusive education for all children.

SNACK GUIDELINES AND CALENDARS

Thanks to all of you for bringing in healthy snacks. If you are unsure of what to send in for snack, please read the snack guidelines included in your parent handbook. They are very comprehensive and informative. Snack calendars for October will be emailed. A hard copy is posted outside the classrooms.

Please bring snacks in their original containers or boxes so the teachers may check labels for any allergens. If you are sending in fresh fruit, please be sure to wash it and cut it ahead of time. Also, grapes need to be cut in half for the purple, lilac and yellow 2 classes as they are a choking hazard for 2's. Remember that snacks should include 2 food groups like apple slices and crackers or cheese sticks and animal crackers. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to teachers or office staff. A great snack is a banana and some pretzels.

PETTING ZOO

Squeals on Wheels petting zoo comes to our playground on October 16 as they have in the past. The children will have opportunity to pet and play with farm animals including a teacup pig! The Purple class does not meet that day, but parents are free to bring their child to come that morning and enjoy the petting zoo with us! Teachers will let you know what time each class expects to go outside. Parents are welcome to join us on that day but keep in mind that when you leave, your child may become upset.

HARRIS TEETER TIE

This year the preschool continues to raise funds by participating in the Harris Teeter Together in Education programs. These programs bring funds to the preschool by linking your Harris Teeter savings cards to our preschool. Funds are deposited into our account and all you need to do is shop! Cards can be linked to more than one school. Please consider participating in this program. If we have enough families participate, we should be able to meet our goal. It's easy!

- Simply give the cashier at Harris Teeter your VIC card and Fairlington Preschool's TIE number...5236, during checkout OR
- Go to www.harristeeter.com, click the community tab and then enter your information.
- Let us do the work! Fill out a form (available in the office) and leave it in the drop box outside the preschool office.

LIBRARY:

Every week your child has library and will bring a book home in his/her cubby. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to read a book together that your child has chosen!

The library days are as follows: Tuesdays; Yellow, Red and Lilac. Wednesdays: Blue, Coral and Teal. Thursdays: Orange, Green and Purple. Please remember to send your child's library book back on the library day for his/her class and encourage your child to give it to the teacher or leave it in the designated space in the classroom. Thanks!

FAIR PLAY:

Fair Play is Fun Activity Imagination and Recreation. This is a 20-minute time for each class every week led by Karen Joia, our certified Therapeutic Recreational Specialist. The goal of Fair Play is to use recreational games and activities to further enhance the High Scope curriculum in the key developmental skill areas of Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Health, Language, Literacy and Communication, Mathematics, Creative Arts, Science and Technology and Social Studies. Karen sets up different activities and learning opportunities for each class every week. She will also push in to the classes she works with each day and provide support in the classrooms.

PARKING:

The parking lot is a very busy place in the morning at drop off time as well as pick up time at noon. Since many with families drive large vehicles, please be aware that it is difficult to see around these vehicles. Please have your child or children by the hand when walking in the parking lot. Also, when crossing the street, please use the pedestrian signal button to alert cars that you are in the crosswalk. Thank you for not parking in handicap spaces unless you have a DMV hangtag for your car. There are grandparents who pick up children who need those spaces. Also, the only entrance to the upper parking lot is off Menokin St. Exiting is only at Van Dorn St. That is why we have a do not enter sign at the Van Dorn St. exit. If you have a provider or grandparent pick up your child, please share this information with that individual.

HALLOWEEN IS COMING!

Halloween is just around the corner. For most children, Halloween is a fun time to learn some spooky songs and finger plays about witches and pumpkins. It is also a great opportunity for children to “pretend” and experience being something or someone else. We love Halloween here at Fairlington, but we try to keep activities low-key and comfortable for all the children. And we may talk about Halloween after October 31 as much as before the big day. That’s because young children need to experience an event in a concrete way before they truly understand it. And some of our youngest were only 18 months old the last time Halloween came around! We will have a Halloween costume parade on the playground at 11:30 on October 31. More information will be coming home from your child’s teacher closer to that day. We request that costumes not be frightening for younger children and masks may not be worn that day as children have a difficult time being able to see with masks. We also have dress ups here that children can wear if they do not have a costume. Classes that do not meet on Halloween may elect to do something else on a day they do meet. Teachers will keep you informed.

ODDS AND ENDS

- **Please be on time to school!** A late arriving child is disruptive to the classrooms and makes the transition more difficult for the late arriver. Plus, there are so many great things happening in the classrooms, you don’t want your child to miss out! Parents and children arriving later than 9:15 need to come to the office so Lana or Carol can bring the child to class to lessen the disruption to the class.
- **Remember to sign in your child on the sign in sheet.**

- **Dress your child appropriately for the weather.** Make sure they are prepared to go outside every day. As the weather begins to cool off, make sure there is a jacket or sweatshirt available for your child. It is also important to **mark your child's outerwear with his/her name on the label.** Also, since the playground has been muddy, please send in boots for your child to put on for playground time.
- To keep our hallways clear, please leave strollers in the elevator alcove or the area near the church Parlor.
- Thank you to Orange, Coral and Blue room parents for keeping the third-floor hallway clear and standing in the assigned area. This really helps us move everyone through arrival and dismissal quickly and easily.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I will often use this space to share articles about early childhood that I find interesting for parents. This article comes from Exchange Every Day, July 6, 2018

Key Child Development Assumptions

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

The popular book by Jim Greenman, [*Caring Spaces, Learning Places*](#) (newly revised by Mike Lindstrom), includes a list of positive child development assumptions that underpin excellent learning environments.

"From birth, children are active learners who construct meaning through experience...

Development is not a race, and earlier is generally not better in motor development, reading, and most other developmental areas...

The question is not, 'How smart is this child?,' but rather, 'How is this child smart?'

Emotional intelligence is as important to success in school and life as cognition is...

The primary vehicles for child learning are:

- play: active exploration and discovery chosen by the child in an experientially rich environment
- interaction with children and adults
- opportunity for reflection on that experience...

A rich language environment is essential in the first five years of life..."

I am so happy that all our classes provide a rich language environment, active exploration, lots of adult-child interactions as well as interaction with peers. We also take a child where he or she is developmentally and move them forward in their development.