



NEWSLETTER January 2020

CALENDAR

- January 6 TUITION DUE, School Resumes
6-9 2020-2021 returning student applications distributed
9 Yellow 2's first day of school 9 – 11
15 2010-2021 Applications due for current students
15 Open House for new enrollment at 9:30
20 Martin Luther King Birthday Holiday, School closed
22 Snow Date for Enrollment Open House
31 Teacher work day **Red and Teal rooms only. No school for students.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is hard to believe that January is here and in January it is time to think about enrollment for the next school year. Re-enrollment applications went out today to all currently enrolled students except those students eligible for kindergarten next year. Applications were put into cubby bags. If you did not receive an application for next year, please let us know in the office. Also, if you have a younger child who would like to attend Fairlington, please stop by the office for an application; siblings are considered new students so there is a different application. If your child is eligible for kindergarten and you are thinking of another year in preschool, please let Carol know. Yellow 2 families will receive their applications on Friday, January 10.

January also brings us a new class of two's and some new families. Welcome to all new families to Fairlington Preschool. We are so glad you have joined our community!

SNOWY WEATHER

It is that time of year where the weather could possibly cause school closings and delays. **Please note that if Alexandria City Public Schools are closed, Fairlington Preschool will be closed. If Alexandria City Public Schools open late, the preschool will open at 10 and close at noon.**

Community Partnership bus students will be picked up 2 hours later than their regular pick up time. Every effort will be made to get a message on the voicemail or an email to you if school will be closed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We need 2 or 3 parents to volunteer to speak with prospective parents at the Open House on January 15 at 9:30 and help lead parents from the fellowship hall to the classrooms; including the classrooms on the third floor. If you can help, please let Carol know.

PARENT EDUCATION In the community....

Conscious Discipline Parent Education Class

Join teacher Pam Beard and director Carolyn Burke as we view Dr. Becky Bailey's Conscious Discipline Online class and engage in group discussion afterwards.

The cost is \$150 per family (both parents can attend for this cost) and includes the course outline. If you have taken a class before, you may join us again for \$50.

Who: All interested local families

When: January 15, 22 & 29, February 5, 12 & 19, 7-9 p.m.

Where: Haverkamp Room at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Contact preschooldirector@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-5267

to register and for more information.

ODDS AND ENDS

- **Dress your child appropriately for the weather.** Outside play is an important part of our day. However, if it is very cold or windy, we may play indoors. Sometimes, the 4's may go out but the 2's and 3's stay inside. Please make sure children are prepared to go outside every day. Children need a warm jacket, hats and mittens. Please store your child's hat and mittens in the sleeve of his/her coat. Boots are helpful if it has been raining or if there is snow. Please mark your child's outerwear with his/her name on the label.
- **Please remember to bring in snack on your assigned day!** We understand that it is easy to forget but this is an important part of our preschool day. We always have snack on hand so if you do forget, please replenish what we used from our cupboards.
- **In an ongoing effort to keep our kids safe, all doors are locked at all times with the exception of the green awning door.** That door will be unlocked between 8:50 and 9:10 only. Also, unless you know the person coming in behind you is a preschool parent, please do not hold the door open. You may say something like, "you need to buzz in for who you wish to see, and that office will unlock the door."

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

This month's article comes from Exchange Every Day, October 8, 2019

Changes and Challenges in ECE

October 8, 2019

Rae Pica, on the Community Playthings blog, writes about three things. She explains: “Early childhood educators tell me a lot of stories when I keynote or train. And since I’ve been speaking and training for almost four decades, you can imagine just how many stories there have been. Lately, though, I keep hearing the same three stories from teachers throughout the country.

1. More children are unable to cross the midline of the body.

Sadly, this isn’t surprising, considering one pediatrician’s contention that infants are spending upward of 60 waking hours a week *in* things, like car seats, high chairs, and such. One of my colleagues calls this ‘containerized kids’...

2. Children don't know how to play anymore.

When I did my first professional development training in 1981, never in my wildest imaginings could I have foreseen teachers complaining that children don’t know how to *play*. Yet this is the second thing I’m hearing. Some of the reasons behind this aberration are painfully clear. Between digital devices and television, children have a multitude of images at their fingertips. They have no need to *imagine* because marketers and video producers have already done all the imagining for them...

3. The children have no fine motor control.

‘The children can’t grip a crayon or paintbrush. The children can’t use scissors. The children don’t know how to hold a pencil.’ On and on it goes—much of it coming from kindergarten and first-grade teachers. And the sad part is, this isn’t a surprise at all. There are two major reasons why. The first is that the little ones are far more likely to be holding a digital device these days than a crayon or pair of scissors...”

At Fairlington Preschool, children have many opportunities to move their bodies during the day; during circle times, Fair Play activities, clean up time, as well as during outside time. Play takes place during the whole morning, not just Work Time. Fine Motor skills are strengthened throughout the day with the use of a variety of materials and doing everyday tasks like peeling a clementine and pouring water from the water pitcher at snack.