



NEWSLETTER January 2020

CALENDAR

January	11	TUITION DUE, School Resumes
	18	Martin Luther King Birthday Holiday, School closed
	22	2010-2021 Applications due for current 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 go out this week to all currently enrolled students except those students eligible for kindergarten next year. Applications will 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.

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.** What we learned in December is that now that ACPS classes are virtual, they are more likely to close their buildings for reasons that do not apply to us so there may be times that they close and we open late.

PARENT EDUCATION In the community....

Virtual Conscious Discipline Parent Education Class hosted by Westminster Weekday Preschool

Join teacher Pam Beard and director Carolyn Burke as we view Dr. Becky Bailey's Conscious Discipline Online class: *Building Resilient Schools and Homes*. There is NO COST.

Who: All interested local families

When: January 28, February 4, 11, 18, and March 4 from 7-9 p.m.

Where: We will be zooming in to your home. The link will be provided.

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

to register and for more information. This is a highly recommended event and, in the past, Fairlington Parents have participated and enjoyed it

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.

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 at snack and picking up small legos at Clean up Time.