



NEWSLETTER

February, 2021

CALENDAR

February	1	TUITION DUE
	15	Presidents Day School closed
	17	2021-2022 Tuition Deposits Due



VALENTINES DAY

Each class will do their own Valentine's Day celebration.

Please look for information from your child's classroom teacher. In keeping with our snack policies, we ask that **no candy** be sent into school for Valentine's Day.

2021-2022 ENROLLMENT

There are openings available for every age. Returning student applications are due now. If you are unsure about your child returning, please speak with Carol or your child's teacher.

ODDS and ENDS:

- In case of snow or ice, please call the school or look for an email from the office regarding whether the school will be open or closed. Since ACPS is all virtual, they are more likely to close the building when indeed, Fairlington could safely open school. In the past, we have ALWAYS followed the school systems but now Carol consults early in the day with other half day programs and decides. We will open when it is safe to do so in that walks are salted and the parking lot is plowed.

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

The Value of Risk

March 16, 2015 , Exchange Every Day

Age seldom arrives smoothly or quickly. It's more often a succession of jerks.
-Jean Rhys

In the introduction of her article, "[The Role of Risk in Play and Learning](#)," in the Community Playthings online magazine, **Collage**, Joan Almon observes..

"Real play means taking risks — physical, social, and even cognitive.

Children are constantly trying out new things and learning a great deal in the process. They love to move from adventure to adventure. They face the risk of mistakes and even of injuries, but that does not deter children. They embrace life, play, and risk with gusto, and they are prepared for a certain amount of bumps and bruises while growing up. Even a broken bone doesn't slow them down for long. Fortunately, they heal fast."

Although no one wants to see a child injured, creating an environment that is overly safe creates a different kind of danger for them. Growing up in a risk-averse society, such as we currently have, means children are not able to practice risk-assessment, which enables them to match their skills with the demands of the environment. As a result, many children have become very timid and are reluctant to take risks. At the opposite extreme, many have difficulty reading the situations they face and take foolhardy risks, repeatedly landing in trouble.

As Early Childhood Educators at Fairlington, we value the idea that children need to take risks. Our playground is designed to be safe, but still allow risk taking. The uneven grass helps children learn to balance their running and walking. The paths through the woods encourage exploration as well as practicing motor planning (the brain tells the body where to place feet or how to move through a tight space). And the swings provide a lot of sensory input for the children.