

FALLSTON CHILD CARE CENTER OCTOBER 2020

OCTOBER!!! Wow! Can you believe we are finished a month of school already? We are off to a great start for our school year. Lots of new friends! We ask a lot from our little ones—imagine being left with big people and little people you have never seen before!

Congratulations to all of our students and parents. You have all done a fine job. There has been quite a bit to contend with this year as far as new rules and regulations. Everyone has quickly gotten used to new schedules and procedures with very few tears (from kids OR parents—haha!). After a very eventful September, we are now into our lessons full swing!

HOOKED ON BOOKS:

Typically, each school year, we participate in Share the Gift—a library sponsored program for preschoolers aimed at promoting literacy. Our own Miss Jackie heads up this initiative and the students just love it! This year, with COVID closing our libraries, Miss Jackie is retooling the program to suit our needs on her own and has developed “Hooked on Books.” We are excited to offer this monthly

activity for your child. Miss Jackie will bring special materials monthly to do lots of fun and holiday centered songs, stories, and surprises with each class. The goal is to hook them on reading as young as possible!

MASS EMAILS: Are you getting the mass email reminders from Fallston Child Care Center regularly? These have lots of information about events and due dates. They can be extra helpful in letting you know what is coming your way. But most importantly, you will need this when bad weather hits. Any school closings or FCCC altered schedules will be sent out via email and updated on our website, usually by 6:00 am. It will also be posted on our face book page. Keep in mind, we need to wait for Harford County Public Schools to make a decision. In any case, you will always want to make sure that you check your email and our website before venturing out on a questionable morning.

For those of you who are new to our center, we have a pretty good track record in bad weather.

But please understand, our staff needs to get home safely too. If you know bad weather is approaching,

please start making plans to head back to get your child before it gets too bad out.

So now is the time to double check that you are getting the emails. If not, go to the home page of our website at www.fallstonchildcare.org to subscribe. You can also subscribe any other adult who helps attend to your child, as in a grandparent or a nanny. If you are busy at work and don't catch an email, they may.

FACEBOOK: If you are a Facebook user, please be sure to follow us. This is another way to get up to the minute reminders about all that is happening at our school!

FIELD TRIPS: At Fallston Child Care Center, we LOVE special activities and field trips. Typically, in October we have the fire truck come for a visit and we go to the farm to pick apples. However, these plans are yet another casualty of the pandemic. We are not currently cleared to transport children to field trips or to invite outsiders into our program for these special activities. We are, however, encouraged by the positive trajectory of numbers in Maryland as well as the easing of restrictions that were noted in Governor Hogan's press conference today. There appears to be light at the end of this tunnel!

While we won't be scheduling trips at least through February and perhaps the entire school year, please know that the teachers and staff are constantly working on activities that will enhance the standard curriculum. We have some

very talented educators here! We will do our best to make it an academically productive year in spite of our regulation challenges. We all look forward to restrictions being lifted so that we can give your child a multitude of experiences outside of his or her classroom

SCHOOL PICTURES:

School pictures also fall into the category of COVID cancelations. We are not allowed to hold Picture Day this fall, even outdoors. The conflict comes from inviting a photographer within close proximity to children. MSDE is concerned that it adds additional, unnecessary germ exposure to your child. This is the same reason why parents aren't allowed into the program currently. Even if we did it outside, they would require we use a different photographer for each class to keep the cohorts from mixing. It is quite a complicated and costly scenario.

Therefore, we will not be doing fall school pictures. Depending on when and how restrictions begin to lift, we may possibly be able to do our school pictures in the spring.

If that is still not an option, we will do informal class pictures on our own, so that you have something to document your child's school year.

TUITION: Please be aware that tuition is due every other week on the first day that your child attends school. You will not receive a bill but you will receive a receipt AFTER you have paid. If your tuition isn't paid the week that it is due, a \$20.00 late fee will be applied. We

are unable to allow families to “carry a balance”.

Many of you have now set up automatic payment through your bank. This is usually free for you and much easier for us.

As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.

FIVE-YEAR-OLD IMMUNIZATIONS:

The Maryland State Department of Education follows a specific immunization schedule. Certain immunizations were required before your preschooler was allowed to enroll here. When they turn five, an additional set of shots are due. (Some doctors do it at the four year old visit). In any case, our office is required by MSDE to have documentation of those additional shots by the fifth birthday.

First, please always ask for a copy of your child’s shot record when you are at the doctor to turn in to our office. (We do not need to document flu shots as those are elective).

Second, as your child’s fifth birthday approaches, please make the appointment in advance so that we are all set by the deadline. Thank you for your help!

FUMC CONNECTION:

Fallston United Methodist’s Pastor, Karin Walker, will be meeting with us periodically to share a very special message of faith with our students. You will also notice lots of exciting church activities and plans posted on Facebook and coming home with your child’s papers. Please accept this as a personal invitation to participate in these activities as well.

Some of you participated in Vacation Bible School. Worship is available online on Sundays and the doors have opened back up to in person services. Please never hesitate to ask if you would like more information about our parent church.

FIRE DRILLS: As part of the Maryland State Department of Education, Fallston Child Care Center is required to conduct monthly fire drills.

During the fire drill, each teacher gets her class medication box, her cell phone and her class clipboard (roster). The children drop whatever they are doing and line up behind her. She does a head count and moves the line quickly out the nearest exit. The director brings the staff medication, a binder with all parent contact information, and another cell phone. We all meet on the playground silently where the children are quickly seated. Each teacher does another headcount and then reports the number of students to the director who, in turn, does a total headcount of all staff and students.

In the event of a true emergency, at this point, we will begin calling parents to come pick up. If the emergency requires us to take shelter away from the Center, we will walk to Fallston Library and await your arrival. Even if the library is closed, there is a covered area where we could wait for parent pick up safely away from smoke, fumes, and emergency vehicles.

SCHEDULES: It is our goal to have every day at our school be

as much fun as it is educational. We plan many exciting activities to enhance your child's academic and social experience. Please keep in mind that classes begin at 9:00. We ask that all children are in class at that time. By then, head counts have all been done, snack has begun to be prepared, and attendance has been taken. Arrival after this time requires several corrections and changes for things that have already been prepared. Additionally, children who arrive consistently late are not getting the full benefit of our curriculum.

Now, we also have the addition of temperature taking. The door will no longer be monitored after 9:00. Of course, if you have a doctor's appointment or something special that day, simply let us know in advance and we will be happy to come out and greet you when you arrive.

IDENTIFICATION: Did you know that Fallston Child Care Center has a capacity of 90 students? (We are currently lower than that, due to COVID restrictions, but will slowly add students as restrictions are lifted.) That's an awful lot of parents and countless babysitters and grandparents that we encounter on a regular basis. Our staff members try our best to get to know your family on a personal level, but keep in mind that sometimes we substitute for one another or occasionally have altered work schedules. For this reason, the staff has been instructed to ask for ID any and every single time we are seeing someone we don't know very well. While this may momentarily slow you

down, remember that it is for the protection of the little person you love most in the world---a job we take very seriously!

DAYCARE BOARD: As a business, Fallston Child Care Center is a non-profit organization set up as a mission outreach of Fallston United Methodist Church. We first opened our doors in 1982 with 6 students! Today, we have a capacity of 90 students spread over two floors and 18 employees. We operate eleven hours a day, year-round.

We are governed by a Daycare Board within the church. The Board is made up of chairpersons of various other committees such as the Finance Committee, Trustees, etc. The Reverend Dr. Karin Walker sits on our Board, as does our own Board chair.

We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs. Marina Lattanzi as our Daycare Chairperson. For those of you who don't know her, Marina retired last year from Youth's Benefit Elementary School as the lead secretary. For many years, she was the "go to" lady for everything! So, she is quite familiar with education, students, buses, scheduling, and all the wonderful things that go along with it! Her input has proved to be invaluable, particularly in supporting the navigation of our COVID closure and reopening.

Our Board also must always carry Parents At Large. The role of these individuals is to be a voice for parents at the table when policy decisions are being made. They must be church members.

Rebecca Trump will continue in her role for her third year. She represented the parents nicely last year, particularly since she came from another daycare center, she was able to compare and contrast other policies and fees during our discussions.

As the saying goes, it truly takes a village to raise a child. We have worked hard to put a fantastic team in place and are looking forward to an amazing year for our little ones!

CHILD FIND

PROGRAM: As a childcare center and preschool licensed under the Maryland State Department of Education, Fallston Child Care Center finds itself in the fortunate position of having access to Child Find services.

Child Find is a continuing program of activities, screening and evaluation aimed at targeting students who may need extra services on a variety of levels. The goal of this program is to identify special needs as early as possible and to then provide the support services indicated.

Child Find is completely voluntary and completely free. Only the parent can initiate the process, beginning with filling out a questionnaire for a referral.

Beginning with the first day of school, your child's teacher has been assessing each individual child's abilities and needs. They will be notifying you in the next few weeks or so if they feel that your child would benefit from these services. At that point, it is completely your decision if you choose to have your child

assessed. If you complete the application and submit it, your child will be tested by professionals within the school system who will identify the areas of concern. It may be as simple as some speech enhancement to more involved services such as behavior modification.

If it is determined that your child would indeed benefit from these services, then a Child Find specialist comes to Fallston Child Care Center and works one on one with your child in the classroom. We have found these professionals to be a wonderful support system for us as well as the child, offering many resources for different teaching styles that may help with a specific need. The specialist may work with your child weekly, bi-weekly or monthly, depending on the goals. In some cases, particularly speech services, they may need to meet with your child off site.

It is important for parents not to be alarmed if your child's teacher approaches you about these services. Please understand that it is our responsibility to do everything we can to prepare your child for Kindergarten. Please listen with an open mind and rest assured that all final decisions will be made by you, the parent.

If you have any questions regarding this service or wish to have your child tested, please don't hesitate to ask.

FROM OUR TEACHERS:

MISS KAYLA'S TWO-YEAR-OLD CLASS: It's

October already...I can't believe it! Last month we met our new friends and got to know one another by playing, sharing family pictures and talking about our interests.

This month is full of lots of fun fall activities. Our class will be focusing on the letters C, D, E, and F. We will also be discussing fire safety. We will explore the colors orange and black and the shapes triangle and circle. Finally, we will wrap up the month with a fun Halloween celebration.

Be on the lookout for any upcoming details! Happy Birthday to Nathan on the 12th! Happy Halloween to all!

MISS ROSIE'S THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASS:

Happy Fall everyone! It is hard to believe that October is already here! We have been very busy in our room during September and it appears that October will be just as busy.

We have been working on letters A, and B. We have also been learning classroom routines and making new friends. Our themes for the month of October are weather and Fall. We will be introducing letters C, D, E, and F. We will also have some fun with dinosaurs. The colors of the month will be orange and black and the shape will be a triangle.

This month we will also begin writing our names and working on our cutting skills. Remember, thumbs up when helping your child with his or her cutting skills!

Just as a reminder, please send in an extra jacket or sweatshirt for your child to keep

in their cubby as we will be going outside every day, weather permitting. It does get very chilly on our playground!

Happy Birthday to Becca on the 13th and Gavin on the 16th!

Happy Fall to all!

MISS BEKAH'S THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASS:

October is here! The busy month of September is past. We have been getting to know each other, learning school rules and getting into a routine. We have been taking walks and getting familiar with our new surroundings.

This month will be just as busy and I am looking forward to it! We have finished introducing the letters A and B. We will continue on letters C, D, E, and F. The colors of the month are orange and black and the shape will be a triangle. We will practice our cutting skills too!

I have some cool art activities planned so keep a look out for them! In addition, we will be discussing and doing activities in the classroom for Fire Safety (Stop, Drop and Roll) as well as looking for Signs of Fall in our unit studies. We will also master putting on our own jackets in preparation for cooler weather.

Welcome, Jackson, to our class!

MISS DIANE'S FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASS:

The school year is off to a great start. The children are adjusting nicely and getting comfortable with the rules and routines.

This year we will be getting ready for Kindergarten. Some of the skills we will be working on are writing our

names, using correct pencil grasp, identifying upper and lower case letters of the alphabet (along with the sounds they make), recognizing sight words, cutting, identifying numbers, and so much more!

During the month of September our themes were "Getting Acquainted" and "All About Me". We have been busy learning letters A and B.

Letters for October will be C, D, E. and F. Themes for this month will be Fall, Pumpkins, and Fire Safety.

Please watch for a note about a special snack for Halloween.

Our goals for your child are mastery of pre-kindergarten skills as well as development of social skills. Most importantly, we want them to have fun while they learn!

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Happy Birthday to Shea on the 6th!

Happy Fall to all!

MISS MAURA'S FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASS:

Welcome to a New School Year. I am so excited to be back with the four-year-old group! I LOVE every age group but there is something special about getting ready for the next step into Kindergarten. We are preparing for the big change in all we do now. We are learning routines and how to work independently.

Fall is a great time of year for Science. We will explore all the changes in our Fall unit.

Plus, we will gain a better understanding of Fire Safety and its importance in our lives.

Halloween will be not be forgotten. I will let you know our Halloween plans as soon as I can.

The Letters for the Month are Cc. Dd, Ee and Ff. and our skill of the month is Name Writing. Most of us can write our name, but we are working on using a proper pencil grip and getting those letters nice and neat.

Just a reminder, we go outside every day, even if it is just for a walk or a run outside of our back door. Please send in a jacket as the weather gets cooler. Our playground is extra windy.

Happy Birthday to Carmichael on the 18th and to Casey on the 30th.

I hope all of you take some time to enjoy this cool season. Roast some marshmallows or just heat up some hot chocolate and snuggle under a blanket out under the stars.

MR. CHRIS, MISS NINA, AND MISS CHARLA'S SCHOOL AGE GROUP:

Wow! What a great group of kids this year! It has been a privilege to have a chance to work with this age group! We believe we are getting into a routine now.

Please keep in mind, you as the parent, need to look over that homework at night still. We cannot assume responsibility for incorrect work.

This month, we will be welcoming fall with lots of fun and engaging games, crafts, and activities. We have some fun things planned, such as Etiquette Day.

We will be having a special snack and games the morning of the 30th

starting at 7:15. Get ready to celebrate Halloween!

REMINDERS:

- No nuts of any kind!
- Call before coming, so that we may have your child ready.
- Bring a jacket every day.
- Lunches are still completely disposable.
- Please move through drop off line quickly. If you need a few moments with a teary child or to look for a mask, it is just fine to pull over in the parking lot and take that time before returning to our line. Be mindful of those behind you trying to get to work.
- Read and respond to emails!
- Call 410-879-4399 or email valeree.imperiale@fallstonumc.org if your child will be absent for any reason.
- Be patient. We are doing our best!

MUSICAL “NOTES” WITH MISS JACKIE:

Welcome to a new musical year! Music! What a wonderful language! Children love music and I love sharing music with them. Why do we have a regular music program at FCCC? Scientific studies have shown that music instruction helps in the development of the brain. Children can express themselves through music at an early age. Music can create a positive learning environment. All young children love music, and music instruction uses that basic love to enrich a child’s education and growth experience for a lifetime. Music is fun! In September we

discussed how sounds are made – vibration. Everyone can do the “vibration” – just stand up, reach for the sky and wiggle down! Each month we will investigate a new musical concept, sing some of our favorite songs and just have fun with music! Your child will have the opportunity to see and hear many different instruments, learn about the orchestra’s instrument families and learn many musical terms. We will, of course, always review our fundamentals. Music is a language and it is a language understood by everyone. Enjoy a song with your child, have a sing-a-long in your car! Always keep a song in your heart.

SPANISH LESSONS WITH MISS VAL:

We are very fortunate to have foreign language be a standard part of our preschool curriculum. Studies show that if a foreign language is introduced when a child is still developing their capacity for communication (as opposed to high school when that developmental milestone has already been reached), it will be natural for them throughout life.

These half-hour sessions will be taught twice a month. Lessons will include stories, songs, games, taste-testing, and a culminating fiesta!! Your child will be introduced to the alphabet, numbers 1-20, colors, culture, and vocabulary. A brief summary of each lesson will be posted at your child’s cubby on that day. Please ask them about what they learned.

