

# FALLSTON CHILD CARE CENTER OCTOBER 2021

---

**OCTOBER!!!** Wow! Can you believe we are finished a month of school already? We are off to a great start for our school year. There are so many 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. 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:**

Once again this school year, we are excited to offer this monthly activity for your child. Our own Miss Jackie brings special materials monthly to do lots of fun and holiday centered songs, stories, and surprises with each class. The goal is to foster your child's love of learning!

## **PERMISSION SLIPS:**

With each exciting activity we offer at Fallston Child Care Center, you will receive a permission slip at your

child's cubby. Some of our activities have a fee and others do not. All the pertinent information will be clearly listed for you. Sometimes, activities are offered to everyone, whether or not it is your day. Please always fill out the form and return these to the office as soon as possible. We use them to plan chaperones, snack, etc.... Often, we must pay in advance for something, so we must know exactly how many to expect. If you are not going to attend, please note that on the slip (even if it is not your day) and still return it, so that we know we did not miss anyone. We never want anyone to feel left out! Simply cut the top off to return, attach payment if required, and keep the bottom portion for reference.

A word about planning our special trips and events: we try very, very hard to include your child in as many opportunities as possible. However, since students attend on various days at various times, occasionally an activity occurs when you are not scheduled to be here. If you are able to join us, please do so. If you cannot make it, that is okay too! There will be plenty of other really neat things to do—we promise!!

**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](http://www.fallstonchildcare.org) to subscribe. You can also register your spouse or parent if they participate in scheduling for your child. The more people getting alerts, the better.

**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!

**FIRE SAFETY DAY:** On Tuesday, October 12th, we will have members of the Fallston Volunteer Fire Company visit us and give a presentation on fire safety. The presentation will take place at 10:30. Your child will get to see them put on the firefighter's gear to understand that there is just a mommy or daddy underneath who will be there to help them in an emergency. We will be learning how to call 911, how to "crawl low and go" and how to "stop, drop, and roll". So much to see and learn!

## **SCHOOL PICTURE**

**DAY:** School pictures were taken on September 27<sup>th</sup>. All 2, 3, and 4 year olds present that day were photographed by Irvin Simon Photographers.

No money is due at this point, and you are under absolutely no obligation to buy.

Photos were taken in front of a green screen, so that you may choose your background when ordering your pictures. Class pictures were taken in front of the tree line. We were fortunate to get a beautiful day!

When your child's pictures come in, you simply view them, purchase what you like. We have dealt with Irvin Simon for many years and this system is really convenient. You are under no obligation to buy anything....but fair warning: they are really cute!!

For your information, Fallston Child Care Center does receive a percentage of the proceeds, so this does count as a fund raiser for our school.

**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, hanging at your child's cubby. Your receipt should always show a zero balance. If it doesn't, you owe money. 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 voluntary).

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, is a wonderful proponent of our school and connects periodically with our staff and kids. You will also notice lots of exciting church activities and plans posted around the church and at your cubby. Please accept this as a personal invitation to participate in these activities as well. Some of you have already registered for Sunday School or bought tickets to the upcoming dinner theater production. 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.

**SCHEDULES:** It is our goal to have every day at our school be as much fun as it is educational. We plan many exciting visitors, trips, and shows 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.

**LESSON PLANS:** Lots and lots of time is put into planning the fun and educational activities your child does on a daily basis. However, we realize how difficult it can be to get a clear picture of your child's day from little ones. For this reason, each classroom has a board posted at the door that will give you the lessons for each day. Teachers may also post reminders for you there, so you won't want to miss it! Take a moment to read it each day. Also, make sure you take home all items posted at their cubby. There will be lots and lots of artwork for your refrigerator!

**FROG STREET CURRICULUM:** Fallston Child

Care Center is excited to announce that beginning on the first day of this school year, we began to utilize the state-approved Frog Street Curriculum!

These professional early childhood education materials have been proven to enhance learning based on the latest accepted practices in the field. Our new curriculum includes music, puppets, vocabulary, activities, and has a very strong social/emotional component.

Additionally, we have kept the strongest pieces of our former curriculum, including music and Spanish and incorporated them into what we believe to be a very strong, child-centered program.

Please watch for the pieces coming home that aide in the home/classroom connection.

## **CURRENT COVID**

**GUIDELINES:** We know that keeping up with all the latest requirements when it comes to the pandemic is a daunting task. We are ALL feeling COVID fatigue. But, because our kiddos are our priority, we ask you to remain patient a while longer.

- Mask up when entering the school wings or gym
- Log in the temperature and symptom check for both you and your child daily
- Walk your child to their cubby, but do not enter the classroom
- Limit your time in our building to 15 minutes a day
- Do not send in children with symptoms or if you are aware there has been an exposure

- If your child is sick, you must return with either a negative COVID PCR test or another diagnosis from a doctor in writing.
- If your child suffers from allergies, or other chronic conditions such as ear infections, you may get a standardized letter from your doctor stating that so we don't send your child home during an episode.

As of the writing of this newsletter, the metrics in Harford County have been dropping. We are encouraged by these numbers. We constantly reassess our guidelines and will ease restrictions as soon as it is deemed safe again. Thank you for your understanding.

**IDENTIFICATION:** Did you know that Fallston Child Care Center currently has more than 60 students enrolled? That's 120 plus 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 67 students spread over two floors and 15 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.

Mrs. Marina Lattanzi serves as our Daycare Chairperson. For those of you who don't know her, Marina retired from Youth's Benefit Elementary School as the head 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 organization and willingness to jump in make her a perfect fit for the job.

Our Board also consists of one or two 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!

## **FROM OUR SCHOOL BOARD:**

*Happy Fall,*

*I hope the start of school was a successful and easy transition for your children and yourselves. It was nice to meet some of you on your children's first day. Thank you for always following our protocol for entering our facility. Safety and health is always our main concern for your children and our staff.*

*It's hard to believe that summer is over, and fall has arrived. I'm sure your children have already started chatting about what they would like to be this year for Halloween. I love seeing all the activities and projects that the children are engaged in on our Facebook page.*

*Embrace and enjoy the upcoming weeks before the holidays are upon us.*

*Marina Lattanzi*

## **FROM OUR TEACHERS:**

**MISS SARA'S TWO YEAR OLD CLASS:** Wow! We have been with each other for about a month now! It's been wonderful getting to know all our new friends and families. I can't wait to keep learning and getting to know everyone!

In October, we will be reviewing letters C and D. We will also be celebrating Halloween with lots of fun activities.

This month we will be learning about firefighters and fire safety!

During our fire unit, we will get the chance to see real firefighters and explore their fire trucks!

Our shape of the month is triangle, and our colors of the month are black and orange!

We will also place focus on our Frog Street Curriculum's concepts such as opposites and positional words.

We will be doing lots of fun fall activities to prepare for November and Thanksgiving!

## **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 and D.

We will be following our preschool-wide Frog Street Curriculum by jumping into opposites.

We will be learning about fall and the changes happening all around us.

We will also be discussing fire safety and even get to visit with real firefighters!

We will explore the colors orange and black and the shape triangle.

Finally, we will wrap up the month with a fun Halloween celebration.

Be on the lookout for any upcoming details!

## **MISS ROSIE'S THREE YEAR OLD CLASS:**

Happy Fall everyone! We have been very

busy in our room during September. We have been making new friends, learning classroom routines, discovering attributes, and working on letters A and B. We are also practicing using our school tools correctly and learning how to trace.

In October, our Frogstreet themes will include Family, Friends, Pets, and Community units. We will be working on writing our names and using scissors safely. We will observe and explore weather and have a little fun with dinosaurs. Fire safety will also be covered this month.

As a reminder, please have your child dress for the weather and bring a jacket, since we will be going out most days. Mornings on the playground can get very chilly!

Remember to check our daily activity board on the outside hallway adjacent to the first door to our classroom.

Happy Birthday to Nathan on October 12<sup>th</sup>!

## **MISS BEKAH'S THREE YEAR OLD CLASS:**

October is here! 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.

Our curriculum has us discussing our Family, Friends, Pets, and Community. We will be introducing C, D, E, and F. We will continue practicing our names and will be starting to use scissors! We will review our shapes and colors.

I have some fall 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).

We will also work on putting on our own jackets in preparation for cooler weather. I love this time of year!

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Lucy and Ben to our class. We are glad you are here!

## **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, we learned about our bodies and our five senses. We also became acquainted with our classroom rules and routines.

Our October units are: My Family and Friends, Fire Safety, and Halloween Fun!

There are many activities planned for the month of October. We can't wait to have the fire truck visit our school! We will have a special snack on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and we will be making special shirts to wear on that day. Please watch for details at your child's cubby.

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 Fall to all!

## **MISS MAURA'S FOUR YEAR OLD CLASS:**

Welcome to a new school year. I am so excited to be working with the four year old program again this year! 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. During September, we worked hard to learn about our bodies and the five senses too.

Our curriculum theme for the month of October will be My Family and Friends. We will focus on family, relatives, pets and friends!

Fall is a great time of year for science. We will explore all the changes throughout the season. We will also work on gaining a better understanding of fire safety and its importance in our lives.

Yay for Halloween!! That is a fun holiday! I will let you know our Halloween plans as soon as I can.

We continue to work on writing our names. Most of us have the letters down, but we are working on using a proper pencil grip to get those letters nice and neat and in the proper order.

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 Becca on the 13th, Gavin on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and Luke on the 21st. I will send home Birthday notes with directions, if you would like your child to celebrate here at school.

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

## **MR. CHRIS' 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 that the bus has been arriving around 8:25 am and returns regularly at 4:00 pm. By the time we have snack and clean up, there is not much time for activities, but when time allows, we have been playing games or enjoying the outdoors whether it is in the playground or on the back parking lot.

Additionally, this year we have periodically added the opportunity for the students to complete some homework, since we are aware how many of you have soccer practice and a myriad of other activities each evening. Please keep in mind, you as the parent, need to look over that homework at night still. We cannot assume responsibility for incorrect work.

The students are currently working on a community service project. They are creating placemats for the church's annual dinner theater! We love projects that show how little people can make a big impact! If you plan to attend Fallston

United Methodist Church's dinner theater one of the first two weekends in October, take a moment to check out our artwork! They sure worked hard and are proud!

This month, we will be welcoming fall with lots of fun and engaging games, crafts and activities. We are talking about and preparing for the school early dismissal day of October 14<sup>th</sup> and the closing day of October 15<sup>th</sup>. We plan to do an Etiquette Day! We have some fun things planned!

Get ready to celebrate Halloween! We will have a yummy snack.

Happy Birthday to Casey on the 30<sup>th</sup>!

**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 sessions will be taught twice a month. Lessons will include stories, songs, games, taste-testing, and dancing!! 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. Reinforcement from home is helpful in aiding with information retention.

**HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN!**

