

FALLSTON CHILD CARE CENTER

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

NOVEMBER – the time for thankfulness and caring. At Fallston Child Care Center, we are ready to celebrate Thanksgiving! Did you know that a wild turkey can fly up to 50 mph? They also have exceptional eyesight and hearing. On a clear day, a turkey's gobble can be heard up to a mile away! Holidays are a great time for learning as well as celebrating!

COVID PROTOCOL

REMINDERS: You are doing such an amazing job for us during this difficult time, and we want you to know that we appreciate you! There are a few reminders we would like to share:

- Every person who enters the school wings or gym, needs to sign in with the temperature and symptom check at the cart by the front door---parents too. Some of you are still not entering your information. It is important that we have it in the event we must start contact tracing with the Health Department.
- Please remember, parents are not permitted to enter the classroom. You must drop your child off from the hallway so that you remain more than 6 feet away from the other children. You may hand your child's lunch

to them or to the teacher.

- Only the parent may enter to drop off and pick up. They may bring a younger sibling who is too little to remain in the vehicle or in the lobby alone. But, please do not bring older siblings or multiple people.
- Everyone must mask in the school wings and in the gym during school hours. Please do not enter without your mask or do not enter with the mask not fully on.
- Please bring your own mask in when you enter the building. We do provide back-ups on the cart for you if you forget yours. However, we are going through so many of them, it is beginning to become cost prohibitive. Please only take one in the event you have forgotten yours. Several of you have asked if we need any donations. We will continue to operate within our budget, but if you feel moved to donate, adult and kid masks are great choices!

SCHOOL CLOSING DAYS: If the closing of either Harford or Baltimore County Public Schools will impact your child's upcoming attendance at any time, please let us know. Lots of

advance planning goes into things such as snack preparation and advance headcounts are extremely helpful.

MASS EMAILS: If you are not receiving the mass emails from Fallston Child Care Center, you will want to sign up today. When we get to bad weather, this is how you will be notified if they close public school, if we close our school, or if we have a delayed opening. Simply go to www.fallstonchildcare.org and sign up on the home page or send a request email to valeree.imperiale@fallstonumc.org and it will be done for you. We suggest both parents and any other caregivers such as grandparents and nannies get on the list as well. If we close early, you want to make sure all your connections are notified. Additionally, if we ever had an emergency, for example, having to relocate to the library for a gas leak, this is how you would be notified. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON THE LIST AND THAT YOU CHECK EMAILS REGULARLY.** You would not want to show up one day and wonder where everybody went!!!

It is also important to read the material that comes home each day at afternoon pick up. Permission slips and forms come home to you in this manner.

FACEBOOK: You can follow us on Facebook @fallstonchildcare. Lots of updates are available here as well as crafts, recipes, parenting articles, community notices, and pictures of FCCC activities. Follow us today!

STAYING HEALTHY: Here comes flu season! It's that lovely time of year where the coughs and sneezes echo throughout! Of course, this year is

quite unique. We must be cautious of every single sniffle.

At the Center, we are working very hard to stay ahead of the problem. Cots are bleached daily and scrubbed weekly. Staff members wear gloves whenever preparing or serving your child snack. Tables are disinfected after every meal. Regular disinfecting is taking place on light switches, door knobs, telephones, etc...Our Center has switched to using Basic G—a disinfectant that is effective against Human coronavirus, Staphylococcus aureus, Salmonella, Streptococcus pyogenes, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV-1, Influenza A, RSV, Rotavirus, Rubella virus, SARS, and H1N1, among others.

Here is what you can do to help:

1. Make sure all of your contact information is up to date and that there is always a way we can reach a parent. Sometimes we have the best luck with e-mail addresses. If you wish to add this to your contact information, simply send a request to

valeree.imperiale@fallstonumc.org.

2. Make a back-up plan now in the event that your child must be picked up from school and you are in the middle of a meeting or simply too far away. Perhaps there is a neighbor or a grandparent who is usually home and would be willing to help. Remember, if your child is sick, they must be picked up within the hour.

3. Once you think your child is ill or becoming ill, please do not medicate them and send them to school! They still carry the germs and can spread them to others.

4. If you keep your child home, please call us by 9:00 so that we have an idea of our numbers for the day.

5. If your child has had a contagious illness (such as a rash or pink eye), they need a doctor's note to return to school.

6. Children who have been absent three or more days due to an illness of any kind also need a doctor's note to return to school.

This is mandated by the Maryland State Department of Education.

7. If your child is sent home from school due to illness, they may not return the next day.

While these guidelines may seem stringent, they are quite necessary in the daycare environment. Nearly seventy little ones and sixteen staff members spend lots of time here. We all want and need to stay as healthy as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

DIFFICULT

CONVERSATION: While we are asking you to be completely transparent with us, we want to extend to you the same courtesy. Even with all the precautions that we are taking...and there are more than can even be listed here...at some point it was very likely to not be enough.

Our staff is also taking temperature daily before entering the building. We are spraying Lysol and disinfecting surfaces. We are keeping our three cohorts separate, and are highly encouraging masks. We are being cautious about allowing any symptomatic child to enter. But we have a long winter ahead.

We are currently experiencing a closure of our upstairs cohort. A parent has informed us that their child experienced symptoms and received a positive rapid test. At the time of this newsletter, they were still awaiting the

PCR results. The nurse at the Harford County Health Department walked through the entire scenario with us and deemed it necessary to close the upstairs cohort. The guidance calls for 14 days quarantine for preschoolers and 10 days for school age children and adults. We will be in touch if there are any additional developments.

We have been very fortunate so far to have been reopened and operating continuously for sixteen months and only having had two other instances of partial quarantines.

We know. We dread it too. We want things healthy and clean and everyone thriving as much as you do. But it happens. Maybe more than once. So please begin to think of your contingency plan now. (By the way, when your licensed childcare facility is shut down due to COVID, you are not allowed to seek licensed childcare elsewhere due to the threat of spreading it.) So now is the time to check into your company's COVID policy if you need to take some days off. Or ask a grandparent or aunt, who doesn't work, if they would be able to help out. While it won't be easy, it will be easier if you have thought the hard part through in advance.

Our promise to you is that we will be forthcoming with facts, while protecting privacy. Remember, you would hope for anonymity if it was your child. And we also promise you to have things back up and running as quickly as we can safely do so.

Please, let's all do our part to keep germs at home whenever possible!
Thank you!

TUITION: Please remember that tuition is due on the first day that you attend of a tuition week. Dates are

listed on your newsletter calendar. We also send out a mass email reminder and post a reminder on Facebook. Balances may not be carried from pay period to pay period. Please be aware that late fees will be applied.

During our initial COVID twelve-week closure, we were one of the few childcare centers who didn't collect one penny from our families, but still paid all of our employees. We are proud to have been able to do that, but as we reopened, we recognized that this was going to reoccur, and it would not be feasible to continue without income. Therefore, current contracts state that the first two weeks of a quarantine incident is paid in full by everyone. If that incident should go longer than those 14 days, than families would be responsible for half of their tuition to hold their spot.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES:

November is here, and the temperatures are dropping! Please take a minute to change the clothes in your child's cubby to long sleeves and pants. As always, please leave us a fresh set of socks and underwear as well. Also, please make sure your child has a coat or jacket daily, as we always try to get outside!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Fallston Child Care will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday as follows:

Thursday, November 25th
Friday, November 26th

For those of you planning ahead (you are our favorite people), our holiday closings are as follows:

Friday, December 24th

Monday, December 27th
Friday, December 31st

FROM YOUR DAYCARE BOARD:

Let's Be Thankful.

I'm sure you and your children enjoyed Trick or Treating on Halloween. I remember my husband, Ed, making balloon animals, (yes balloon animals!) for all our Trick or Treaters. I would take our two children Trick or Treating and when we returned home, it was time to sort and trade the candy. This is why I am always thankful.... I have wonderful and happy memories to always hold on to.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I love preparing dinner with my children and grandbabies all chirping around me. Sitting down to dinner and hearing what everyone is thankful for this year and wondering who will get the wishbone. I still follow a tradition that my husband and I started many, many years ago. We would always think about who was there to support us throughout the year and then visit with them to give thanks with a token of our appreciation. Even the smallest gesture from someone needs to be recognized.

Enjoy Thanksgiving and all the memories that appear that day. They will be the memories that you will be thankful for in the years ahead.

Happy Thanksgiving,

*Marina Lattanzi
Daycare Board Chairperson*

FROM THE TEACHERS:

MISS KAYLA'S TWO-YEAR-OLD CLASS:

Time sure does fly by when you're having fun! I cannot believe that it is November already!

In our classroom, we spent the month of October learning all about fire safety and letters C and D. We made delicious snacks and had fantastic Halloween celebrations!

In November, we will be introducing the color brown, the shape square, and letters E, F, and G. We will discuss the topics of harvest, being grateful, and Thanksgiving. We will also be exploring the Frog Street curriculum theme of Farm Animals.

We have been making great progress with spelling and recognizing our first names. Please continue to work on this skill with your child at home!

I wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving!

MISS SARA'S TWO YEAR OLD CLASS:

We had so much fun this past month! In October we learned letters C and D. We also learned the colors orange and black, and the shape triangle. We explored fire trucks, cooked lots of fun snacks, and enjoyed our Halloween celebration activities!

I can't believe its November already! In November, we will be introducing letters E, F and G. We will also take a week to learn and celebrate Thanksgiving and to talk about being grateful. We will introduce the color brown, and the shape square. As part of Frog Street curriculum, we will be learning about farm animals this month.

This month we will also be celebrating Layna's third birthday on the 27th! YAY!

Happy Thanksgiving!

MISS ROSIE'S THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASS:

I can't believe it is November already! We have been busy in October with Fall, Fire Safety, weather, and dinosaurs, in addition to our Frog Street Curriculum themes. We have also practiced walking in a line, speaking kindly, taking turns, and using table manners.

As we welcome November, we will meet letters G, H, and I. We will explore Native American culture, read some Tall Tales, and count our blessings, as we learn about the first Thanksgiving. We will organize items for counting, and identify and extend simple patterns. We will discover how animals prepare for winter, including migration and hibernation. We will continue to practice our pencil grip, cutting skills, and name writing. Frog Street activities will involve story retelling, rhyming, classification by multiple attributes, and an introduction to simple machines.

Have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving!

MISS BEKAH'S THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASS:

November is here! We have been enjoying this nice weather, watching the leaves change colors, and creating some fall art projects. We delight in taking walks around the school when we are unable to play on the playground.

Just as a reminder, please bring in a jacket or a heavy sweater for your child since we will go out even though it is cooler. Also, please label everything!

This month we will be focusing on letters G, H, and I. We will continue with our cutting skills and writing our names.

And, of course, we will be discussing Thanksgiving.

Our Frog Street curriculum themes

will find us revisiting color, shape, and size. We will be working on sorting by multiple attributes. We will also engage in a STEM activity this month with simple machines.

Birthday wishes go out to Hayden on 11/7 and Charlie 11/14!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

MISS DIANE'S FOUR-YEAR OLD-CLASS:

November already? Time sure does fly by! October was a busy month filled with pumpkins, scarecrows, and fire safety.

November is sure to be a busy month also. Themes for this month will be Harvest and Thanksgiving. Our Frog Street curriculum will be Safe, Healthy, and Helpful Me. We will continue to practice writing our names in upper and lowercase letters, as well as the letters of the alphabet. We have been practicing the sounds of each letter also. Please continue to reinforce these skills at home.

Happy Birthday to Will on 11/4 and Jackson on 11/15!

Happy Thanksgiving!

MISS MAURA'S FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASS:

It really feels like Fall now. I am loving the crisp, cool air. What is your favorite thing about this season? We will be learning about all the different things that happen during this time of year. We will discover which animals migrate and which ones hibernate. We will study leaves and trees to see how they prepare for the cold winter months. We will take a look back in time and see how life used to be in early America and how they spent their Fall. Thanksgiving is a good time to think about all the good things we have in our lives and be

happy for them.

Our Frog Street curriculum unit is Safe, Healthy, Helpful Me! We will study the following themes: Community Workers, How to be Kind and Helpful, Eating Healthy and Being Active.

We are still working on writing our names. We will continue to work on our handwriting and working on using the correct pencil grip.

In November, our focus skill will be cutting. There are quite a few skilled cutters in our group. Time to challenge them with more difficult moves.

Now is the time to send in a complete new set of cool weather change of clothes (shirt, pants, underwear and socks). I don't think anyone will be completely comfortable going outside in shorts and a t shirt if they need to change because of a milk spill. Please make sure the new outfit is not only weather appropriate, but it is also size appropriate. When you send in a new outfit, I will send home the old one.

I know this year has been a difficult one, but please take some time to talk about the good things in your life with your child. They need to hear and see how wonderful life can be and how to look for the bright side. Make this year's Thanksgiving an even more special time than it usually is. Enjoy!!

MR. CHRIS'S SCHOOL AGE GROUP:

Last month we made several Halloween projects! We have really enjoyed the outdoors as much as we can before Daylight Savings Time begins.

In November, we will continue working on sportsmanship among our peers while having fun at the same time! We will be also be working on cooperative art projects to focus on

teamwork.

The following dates are early dismissal public school days in November. I will be receiving my students off the bus at 12:50 on these days.

- Friday, November 5th
- Thursday, November 11th
- Wednesday, November 24th

The following is a public school closing day. I will be available for my students all day.

- Friday, November 12th

And, of course, Fallston Child Care Center is closed on Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th for Thanksgiving.

We will be talking about what we are “thankful for” and showing gratitude for what we do have, as we talk about the very First Thanksgiving.

Birthday wishes go to Zachary on the 22nd! Zachary has the distinction of being the oldest student at Fallston Child Care Center! He has been with us for 7 continuous years!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

“NOTES” FROM MISS JACKIE’S MUSIC CLASS:

November music! We have now discussed *vibration* - how sounds are made, and *rhythm* – the feel of the music, the steady beat. Each month we will investigate a new musical concept, sing some of our favorite songs and just have fun with music!

Last month we learned about *rhythm*...the feeling of the music. Counting to 4 – 1, 2, 3, 4, is a very big concept! Now, clap the rhythm. You can clap the tempo/rhythm fast, like a rabbit or slowly like a turtle. Counting

and clapping to music helps brain development and opens the mind to math and science. Imagine what singing “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” could accomplish!

During November we will review our fundamentals and sing some great fall songs.

Music is a beautiful language. Enjoy a song with your child, have a sing-a-long and/or clap-a-long in your car! Feel the beat and always keep a song in your heart.

MISS VAL’S SPANISH

CLASS: We are having so much fun learning about the Spanish language and culture. So far, we have learned about different foods, music, and clothing. We have also learned some vocabulary and numbers. We play lots of games like Limbo and Spanish Four Corners.

There are so many ways to learn! You will find a brief note from me at your child’s cubby each time we have a lesson so that you will know what they have been up to, and you can discuss it with them at home.

I am passionate about bringing foreign language to preschool. The younger they learn it, the better! They absorb like sponges while the language center of the brain is still forming. The children are so excited to come to Spanish class. But my favorite is when they pass by my office and speak to me in Spanish. Not only are they learning the words, but also using them appropriately.

Consider using Spanish items at home with them. Watch a DVD in the Spanish mode or try a children’s Spanish website. The more that it integrates into their world, the less it will seem foreign!

