

# FALLSTON CHILD CARE CENTER

## JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** What a wonderful time to reflect upon all our blessings. Family and friends are so important to all of us. It is also a time for moving forward. New beginnings always create a mixture of emotions. But, what a wonderful time of the year! Clean out, clean up, and begin refreshed. We at Fallston Child Care Center will be doing just that. January is our “get in shape” time of year. We will be enjoying our children, enjoying each other, and even enjoying those crazy, snow days!

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** It is so very nice to feel so appreciated! The staff of Fallston Child Care would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your very generous gifts, cards, and notes of appreciation this holiday season. To know that we are remembered really gives us a great feeling inside. We all thank each of you very much. After all the years of doing this, it never ceases to amaze us how many families keep in touch years and years after the kids have moved on, and that means the world to us. We especially love the Christmas cards from families that include pictures of their kids who are now in high school and college. So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for sharing your little ones with us!

**FCCC NOTEPADS:** We hope that all our FCCC families have

received their notepads from us! They have the most common notes parents send us. The purpose was to give you a quick and easy check off note to send on those crazy, hectic parenting mornings. We hope you find them helpful.

**ANGEL GIFTS:** Angel gifts are items of varying value on the church’s wish list. Anyone moved to make a contribution can choose to donate toward some or all of a wish that speaks to you.

Pastors Karin Walker and Danny Breidenbaugh have always been proponents of our school. They are always looking for ways to continue to extend this successful mission outreach of the church. Please remember that your family is always invited to participate in any of the FUMC events and activities, even if you are not a member. This year, as we considered a Christmas gift to show them our appreciation of their time and efforts, we decided to give an Angel Gift to Fallston United Methodist in their name. So, it was in their name that we made a donation to Camp Awesome. This is the Sunday School “camp like” activity series for church children over each summer. We are excited to contribute to this fabulous opportunity for youth in our community.

As families of Fallston Child Care Center, this donation was from you as well. Thank you for helping us to “pay it

forward". It certainly helps us keep in mind the true meaning of the season.

## **FROM THE DAYCARE BOARD:**

*Happy New Year!*

*I'm sure everyone enjoyed the Christmas holiday with your families. For me it was wonderful to have both my children and grandbabies under one roof when Santa arrived.*

*I'm going to embrace the New Year with faith and hope! May the New Year bring each of you much Health and Happiness!*

*Happy 2022!*

*Sincerely,*

*Marina Lattanzi  
Daycare Board Chairperson*

## **CUBBY REMINDERS:**

Please make sure that your child has a WINTER change of clothes---when we go outside your child would be rather chilly in shorts!

All preschoolers need a full set of spare clothes at all times. You never know when that paint or milk is going to spill. If your child needs to be changed and doesn't have spare clothes, we will need to call you to bring them to school.

Thank you for helping us with this housekeeping task!

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY:** Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Harford County Public Schools are closed for the day. Fallston Child Care Center will be open normal business hours for your convenience.

**REGISTRATION:** Registration forms for summer 2022 and the 2022/2023 school year will be out the first week of January. All students currently enrolled, get first pick for next year. Please consider your needs CAREFULLY before you return your form. All classes and staffing are assigned for next year using this information. We accommodate every need that we can, but last-minute changes are very hard to work around. If you no longer will be needing care, please note that on the form and turn it in so that we are sure that no one has been forgotten and no forms were lost. Please be aware that NO SPACES ARE GUARANTEED. We will try very, very hard to match our available spaces to your needs. When we have too many for a spot, it will come down to who turned their form in first. Please return immediately.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the registration procedure, do not hesitate to ask. When class lists have been completed, you will receive a confirmation form.

Remember: requests for placement are not confirmed until you receive a written confirmation form.

**ALL REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE DUE ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>!**

## **WEATHER-RELATED CHANGES:**

Have you had a chance to check out our Facebook page? It will provide you with up to the minute updates on all Fallston Child Care Center information.

In the event of inclement weather, please check the Facebook page for FCCC before leaving your house in the morning, to make sure that we are opening on time. We also send mass emails to keep you informed of important information. There are lots

and lots of ways to stay connected! You can also go to our website at [www.fallstonchildcare.org](http://www.fallstonchildcare.org) and check the "Schedule Alert" box in the upper left-hand corner.

Remember, please call or email your plans for the day as soon as you decide if you will attend. It is very helpful as we plan for food and staffing on these crazy mornings! The more advance information we have, the better!

Please remember while we are making our scheduling decisions for the day, lots of things must be considered. Heat and electricity must be checked. We must make sure our parking lot and sidewalks are safe for passage. We must be certain enough staff can make the trip to service the Center. And ongoing weather must be taken into consideration too. When further bad weather is forecasted, particularly during the rush hours, we must factor safety into those plans. Every effort will be made to remain open. Any exception would be made for the safety of your children and our staff.

Once you drop your child off, it is your responsibility to monitor the situation for changing conditions! If conditions deteriorate, you must be aware. We will give notice through emails, the website, and Facebook postings if we must close early, but you must keep an eye out so that you are aware. Late fees will apply. We all need to get home safely. Thank you!

**IMMUNIZATIONS:** As your four-year old approaches Kindergarten, your doctor will be administering their "five year old shots". This typically includes DTap, Polio, MMR, and Varicella. Whenever your child gets immunized, please request that the doctor jot it down on a script and then bring it to the office so that we can update your child's record. We are required to keep it up to date. If your child is approaching his fifth birthday

and we don't have the updated shots, you will be notified that you must take care of that and return it to us quickly. Since flu shots are optional, we do not need to record them. We only need the record of the Maryland state required immunizations.

At this point, COVID-19 vaccinations are not required. Therefore, we are not requiring copies for our records. However, if your child is fully vaccinated, and you wish to choose to share that record with us, your quarantining requirements may be lessened.

Thank you for staying on top of your child's shot records!

**LET'S TALK COVID:** As we find ourselves wrapping up our SECOND year of living with the pandemic restrictions, we want to thank you for your ongoing understanding. The regulations have been particularly impactful to the childcare industry. Let's take a moment to address our most frequently asked questions:

1. We are licensed through the Maryland State Department of Education's Office of Child Care. These guidelines are different from those of the public school. This is because students are in childcare up to 11 hours a day, centers have children under the age of five, and that centers may have mixed age groups.
2. School age students currently quarantine for 10 days, and preschool students are 14 days. We are aware that the CDC guidelines on quarantining have recently lessened. We anticipate that MSDE may update their protocol accordingly. We are awaiting notification.
3. Each new case or question from a parent is sent to one of two nurses at the Harford County Health Department for guidance

- or confirmation of protocol. We are not medical personnel and take the guidelines we are following very seriously as we know they are terribly impactful to our families. We always double check that we are accurately interpreting the most current guidelines.
4. Maintaining cohorts is no longer required by MSDE. However, we are continuing the practice to cut down on the number of quarantines your family could potentially experience. Please know that this costs us additional staff, longer hours, and increased payroll, but we are more than willing to take this precaution if it can help decrease the events that impact your childcare.
  5. Each students' date of return from a quarantine may differ due to their personal date of exposure. Additionally, a child who has tested positive only needs to quarantine 10 days, whereas those exposed must quarantine 14 days if they are preschoolers. Vaccination status also comes into play. We are happy to answer all your questions regarding your child and family. But please do not question other families about their own circumstances. Personal medical information is private, and we don't want anyone feeling that they are being singled out. We know that anyone who has a child who tests positive, hates to make that phone call and they certainly didn't do it on purpose. We are all in this together and we support all our families equally.
  6. We ask that if you have traveled over the holidays, you test before returning to FCCC.
  7. We closely follow the metrics and are very concerned about the overwhelming increase of Omicron cases. We urge you to stock up on home tests and very carefully weigh all decisions which can affect us as a group. If you suspect your child has been exposed, please keep them home. We know that this is temporarily inconvenient, but it is far preferable to having to shut down FCCC.
  8. Please regularly check your email and respond immediately if you get a quarantine notice. We are having trouble getting responses from parents.
  9. When there is a quarantine, tuition is still due for the first two weeks of an incident. If we reach a point where MSDE shuts childcare centers down again like they did in the beginning of the pandemic, and it goes longer than two weeks, than only half of tuition will be charged. Please know that staff is still at work every day (unless they are quarantining as well). While a cohort is quarantining, the staff is disinfecting the entire wing. This includes soaking every single toy in disinfectant, mopping, cleaning, disposing of things that can't be disinfected, etc... Staff also makes work packets, completes online content, and delivers porch drop offs. We must make sure there is a school for you to return to when your quarantine ends!
  10. There is no amount of frustration you have felt that we haven't felt first to an extensive degree. The pandemic has changed literally EVERYTHING that is required of us daily. We are still doing staff temperature and symptom checks daily. Our disinfecting is still greatly enhanced. Our

special activities, such as music, must be completed in cohorts. Our documentation and reporting have increased ten-fold. But, we love what we do and we love your kids. We thank each and every one of you for seeing us through this.

## **TUITION REMINDER:**

Tuition is due every other Monday throughout the entire year. The amount is always the same. The only exception to this is when a school age child attends for the entire day. Tuition due dates are posted in the newsletter and on the snack calendar. Reminders are mass emailed and are posted on Facebook. You can also find them on our website. At business close on Friday of a tuition due week, a \$20 late fee is added to all unpaid accounts. Tuition may not be carried over from one pay period to another.

Every single time you pay, you get a statement at your child's cubby. Please check it every time. It should always be zero if you have paid correctly. If it is not zero, please pay the balance or contact the office to see why there is a discrepancy. These receipts must be kept and turned in if you are participating in a flex spending program. Please do not throw them away and then when they are due, request that the office redo them.

We encourage electronic bill payment. Many families have made the switch. It is free for FCCC and free to you. If you need help setting up your account, just ask.

Remember, FCCC is no longer accepting cash.

**2021 TAX FORMS:** We will be preparing tax forms for parents of all students who are currently attending. Tax forms were given at the time of departure to any families who completed

their time with us this year. Those of you currently attending can expect them to be distributed during the first two weeks of January.

When these are completed, they will be handed to you. PLEASE PUT THEM IN A SAFE PLACE FOR TAX TIME.

## **FROM OUR TEACHERS...**

**MISS SARA'S TWO-YEAR-OLD CLASS:** Happy New Year, everyone! We had lots of fun in December, including our Christmas celebration! I'm excited to see what's to come this year!

Since we are getting back on track after the busy holidays, please take time to make sure you have all the needed supplies at your child's cubby. Two full changes of clothes and some warm winter gear for when we go outside, preferably a hat and gloves to keep here at school!

This month we will be introducing letters K, L, M, and N. Our color of the month will be changing to blue and white as well! We will also introduce the shape rectangle. We will be working on the theme "On the Go" as part of our Frog Street curriculum!

We will be celebrating some exciting birthdays this month as well. Harper's third birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Miss Lia's is on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

I'm excited to go into the new year with your child!

**MISS KAYLA'S TWO-YEAR-OLD CLASS:** Happy New Year! After a great December and a fantastic Christmas party, we will spend January recovering from a busy holiday season.

Please take a moment to assess the supplies I have stored for your child here. Please make sure that they have a full change of clothes

stored that are appropriate for the winter months. You may want to consider keeping a jacket, hat, and gloves here as well.

Our theme this month will be Winter and the colors we will learn about will be blue and white. We will be introducing the rectangle shape and focusing on letters K, L, M, and N. We will also be working towards recognizing our written names as well as the individual letters in them.

Our Frog Street theme will be "On the Go", which will familiarize us with different types of transportation. We sure will be busy this month!

I am pleased to report that my boy and girls are doing a super job in the toilet training department!

Happy 2022 to everyone!

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

Happy New Year! I hope that you have enjoyed the holidays with your families and friends. I want to say thank you for all the wonderful cards and thoughtful gifts!

This month we will continue with our cutting, counting, and writing our names. Please, when practicing at home, use upper and lowercase letters appropriately. (First letter of the name should be uppercase with the rest being lowercase). Letters this month are M, N, O and P. We will also explore space, magnets, and polar animals!

We will continue working with patterns, and we will learn to create sets.

Our Frog Street curriculum theme for the month is "Favorite Tales and Rhymes".

Please send your child in with gloves and hats, as we will be going outside to get some fresh air.

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

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and are ready for what the year will bring.

This month we will introduce letters M, N, O and P. We will continue studying numbers 1-10 as we complete our winter crafts as well as improving writing our first and last names.

Our Frog Street theme is "Favorite Tales and Rhymes. In science we will be discussing gravity as well as building houses to predict different structures' durability. Oh, what fun!

We will continue to make patterns and will introduce creating sets. Look out for some winter projects too!

Also, even though it is winter, we still go outside on a daily basis, so please make sure you send your child with a hats and mittens.

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

### **MISS DIANE'S FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASS:**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed holiday. I want to thank everyone for the special notes and for being so thoughtful. Our themes for this month will be Winter and Literature. We will enjoy many stories by different authors as well as learning the parts of a book. Please continue practicing the sounds of letters. We will be working on k, s, m, b, p, and z. This month we will continue work on our sight words. I will be providing you with a list so that you may practice with your child at home.

Our Frog Street themes for the month are "Real and Make Believe" and "Opposites".

Have a great January and hopefully, we will have some of that white stuff.

Happy Birthday to Hailey on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

Welcome to 2022!

Let's hope it is a bit smoother than last year. This is the start of your child's last few months of preschool. Can you believe that you will have a Kindergartener this time next year? Wow!!! We are doing our best to get ready for the change, but we are also still having fun and enjoying being little.

This month we will finish up our curriculum theme of "Compare and Contrast" by working on "Real and Make Believe" and then "Opposites". After that we will start a new theme called "Creative Me!"

Our classroom theme will be Winter. There will be lots of fun science to do and many creative projects to work on. We will go outside when possible, so please make sure hats and gloves/mittens are available as well as a WARM coat.

Happy New Year!

## **MR. CHRIS SCHOOL AGE**

**GROUP:** I hope you all had a great Christmas! as we enter the midst of flu season. Please make sure we are keeping good personal hygiene.

Due to the increased chance of the closure of HCPS, now would be an excellent time to get back into good computer habits. Making sure your student has a charged computer every day along with any school supplies that may be needed for a day of virtual learning.

Happy Birthday to Lucas (1/2) and to Reid (1/14)! Happy New Year!

## **MUSICAL "NOTES" FROM**

**MISS JACKIE:** January music! We have now discussed vibration, how sounds are made and rhythm, the steady beat or feeling of the music.

Each month we will investigate a new musical concept, sing some of our favorite songs and just have some fun with music! This month we will learn about melody...the tune of the music, the part you end up humming. The melody of a song can go quite high, like a bird and/or quite low, like thunder. We will listen to a happy melody, a sad melody and a creepy melody--all by simply changing the harmony. Music is a beautiful language. Enjoy a song with your child, have a sing-a-long and clap-a-long in your car! Feel the beat and always keep a song in your heart.

## **MISS VAL'S SPANISH**

**CLASS:** Wow! We are moving right along with our foreign language skills and having a great time doing it!

So far, we are able to count numbers 1-10! We have also learned colors and some vocabulary. We have also been investigating culture. Did any of your children teach you our holiday dance to "Feliz Navidad"? It was a little bit silly and a whole lot of fun!! We consider that a great day around here!

Next, we are going to begin the alphabet and parts of the body.

Each lesson incorporates one or more games that aim to reinforce your child's understanding. They have picked up so much in such a short time!

# **Happy New Year to all of our FCCC families!**

