

# FALLSTON CHILD CARE CENTER

## March 2020 Newsletter

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March at Fallston Child Care Center means St. Patrick's Day, the first day of spring, kite flying, and maybe some more snow...who knows? But, no matter what the weather, we will enjoy it! Fun is our bottom line! There are lots of special days to remember during the windy month of March. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. Take some time to read some of these beloved classics to your child and maybe cook up some real green eggs and ham! March 17<sup>th</sup> is Green Day---fix a totally green breakfast! March 19<sup>th</sup> is the first day of spring (yeah!). Force some bulbs now or simply buy a potted primrose. Just make sure you take the time to look at something blooming and beautiful to remind you of spring. Be sure to share the wonder with your child. Enjoy March!

### **PERSONAL**

**INFORMATION:** Please remember if there is any change in your family's information, such as address or phone number, we need it in your child's file. If you will be out of the office, we need a way to get in touch with you. We need to always be able to get in touch with a parent immediately in case of illness or injury. Additionally, when your child receives booster shots, they must be

documented in his or her file. The Maryland State Department of Education checks immunization records carefully. Many four-year-olds are now receiving their kindergarten shots. Please make a copy of the shot record for our records. Thanks for your cooperation.

### **PARKING LOT SAFETY:**

Did you know that more than 75 students, their parents, their siblings and grandparents use our parking lot every day? Additionally, eighteen school staff members and a dozen church staff members park daily. It is essential that we keep it as safe as possible.

Please never leave your vehicle running while you bring your child into school. Always pull into a clearly marked space. Never leave a sibling under the age of twelve alone in the vehicle. Also, always make sure your little ones are in the back seat and buckled before you pull away. If you have a babysitter, neighbor, or grandparent picking your child up, please provide them with the appropriate car seat or booster seat.

Remember, it only takes a second for an accident to occur. These gentle safety reminders may save a life!

## **LET'S TALK SCHEDULING:**

What a mild winter we have had! As of now, the Harford County school system has only used one snow day! That means that Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> is the current last day of public school.

The last day of our school year program will be Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Your child's last day will be the last day of the week that they are normally scheduled to attend that week, if they are not registered for camp.

Summer Camp 2020 is scheduled to begin Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please read all newsletters for any updates or changes that come our way.

## **REGISTRATION FORMS:**

All registration confirmations will be posted at cubbies this month. All spots were filled based on the order in which forms were turned in. We are very full this upcoming year!

Please make every effort to honor the spot you have selected. If you encounter a true unforeseen change in your child's daycare needs, let the office know immediately so that others have a chance at the spot. Please understand that we are now actively turning people away from the spot you have committed to back in January. Additionally, staffing and materials and many other plans are now in motion counting on the numbers that registered. Changes at this point are difficult to work around. Thank you for your understanding.

If, on your registration form, you indicated that you wanted to go week

to week this summer, now is the time to solidify the weeks that you want. A form will be at your cubby shortly. Please give this a great deal of thought. And, please, when you decide what weeks you want, note them on your calendar. Families not showing up for their registered week **WILL STILL BE CHARGED**. We have planned, bought supplies and snack, and staffed intending your child to be here. Planning daily activities and field trips for a camp this size is quite an undertaking. We cannot accommodate last minute changes. Thank you for your understanding.

## **STEAM CURRICULUM:**

This school year, Fallston Child Care Center has been incorporating this concept into our program. What is STEAM?

***“STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. These are the innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st century!”***

This concept is critical to shaping the minds of tomorrow into strong leaders and independent thinkers. You will notice that many of our

activities, field trips and speakers are now following this learning process.

Additionally, we incorporate a variety of other instructional devices in the classroom that facilitate this type of learning, such as light boards and manipulatives. These tools allow for exploration using math and engineering skills. The activity possibilities are endless, and the children really love getting time to work on them!

Keep your eyes open for more exciting activities coming your student's way. Full STEAM ahead!!

## **EASTER AND SPRING BREAK CLOSING**

**DATES:** For those of you wishing to plan ahead, Fallston Child Care Center will be CLOSED on Good Friday (4/10) and Easter Monday (4/13). There is no public school or childcare on these dates.

## **KEEPING INFORMED:**

There are lots of ways to keep up with all the exciting things happening at Fallston Child Care Center.

1. Please take all items home from your child's cubby at the end of each day. Read material and check receipts to make sure you are paid in full.
2. Check out [www.fallstonchildcare.org](http://www.fallstonchildcare.org). You can find upcoming activities and tuition due dates here. We also post any school closings or FCCC altered schedules on the home page.

3. Make sure you are getting the mass e-mails. This is how we disseminate information about weather, due dates, activities and important updates. If you are not on this list but wish to be, simply go to our website and sign up on the home page.
4. Follow us on face book. How often have you sat at your desk at work and wondered what was happening at your child's school? Well, it is just a click away! Check us out for awesome local activities for kids, recipes, parenting articles, up to the minute news and pictures about what is happening around the school today. This is a super way for grandparents to connect with what your child is up to as well! (If you would not like to see your child featured, simply send an email to [valeree.imperiale@fallstonumc.org](mailto:valeree.imperiale@fallstonumc.org) and we will make sure that privacy is respected). If you have been connecting with our face book feed, take a moment to leave us a review!
5. Read the newsletter.

**WELCOME, MISS LIA!** We have a new staff member at Team Fallston Child Care! Lia is currently a junior at Fallston High School, who recently completed her 90 Hour Certification in Early Childhood Education.

She is active in school clubs such as Best Buddies, which offers support to students with disabilities,

and Green Schools, which strives to lessen the negative environmental impact schools can have on their communities.

Upon graduation, Lia plans to attend Harford Community College, then Towson University to major in nursing.

Please take a moment to welcome her and introduce yourself. Lia, we are so glad you are here!

## **BEL AIR ATHLETIC CLUB**

**FIELD TRIP:** On Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, all of our 2 and 3 year old classes will travel by bus to Bel Air Athletic Club for a morning of exercise and fun!

We will spend time in the gym playing organized games with BAAC staff. Then, we will get free play time in their famous tree house. The children love this trip and we look forward to it every year!

Chaperones are welcome to attend but are not required, unless it is not your child's scheduled day.

Look for permission slips to be coming to your cubby soon. Please note that this trip will require TWO slips---one for us and one for BAAC.

## **MULTI-CULTURAL**

**SHOW:** Each March, we take our four year olds on a multi-cultural trip in an effort to begin to understand and appreciate varying cultures. On Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, the four year olds will travel by bus to Bel Air United Methodist Church to see a performance called "Character Counts: Lessons from World Cultures". This assembly helps students develop qualities of

character as well as skills to prevent bullying.

Look for permission slips with additional details coming to a cubby near you soon!

## **SHEETS AND SPARE**

**CLOTHES:** We need your help! We need all parents to double check that your child (excluding school age) has a clean sheet and a spare set of clothes in his or her cubby at all times. We are spending lots of time chasing these items down when needed. We have even purchased spares! But we need you to supply these items regularly. Thank you!

**MEALS:** Fallston Child Care Center serves children breakfast up until 8:00 am. If you would like your child to eat with us, simply pack something simple and nutritious. Good choices are cereal, fruit, bagels, hard-boiled eggs, etc... We will offer your child milk. Please arrive by at least 7:45 to give your child enough time to eat.

Please also be advised that the Maryland State Department of Education sends inspectors (without notice) to observe various aspects of our program---including mealtime. It is required that each and every child has a nutritious lunch. A nutritious lunch is defined as one protein source, one dairy source, one fruit or vegetable and one snack. Imagine how hard it is to get a three-year-old to eat his carrot sticks and yogurt when the child sitting next to him has a lunch consisting of potato chips, cookies, and a Tasty Cake! Let's all work together for the health of our little ones!

Regarding the nut policy---you are doing a marvelous job! Thank you! Thank you!

## **HERE COMES KINDERGARTEN...:**

Note to parents of students headed to kindergarten: As we begin graduation season, lots of information is going to be coming your way. Please be aware that since Youth's Benefit Elementary is our home school, that is the information that we track. If your child is preparing to enter another school, read all of the information, but realize that you may need to contact your own home school for specific details and dates that pertain to your child.

### The following information applies to all students who will enter Kindergarten in Fall 2020:

1. Kindergarten registration will take place on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Of our 17 graduates, 8 will attend YBES. If you are heading to YBES, you will be getting a packet soon. If your child is going to an elementary school other than YBES, please contact your home school directly for packets and procedures as they all do it a little differently.
2. Any current 4 year olds who have signed up for fall care with us as a Kindergartener, MUST reside in the Youth's Benefit district. If you are signed up for School Age Care in the Fall and YBES

in NOT your home school, please notify the office immediately.

3. On Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, all of our four-year-olds are invited to take a tour of YBES with us. We will begin by boarding a real school bus and learning bus safety rules. We will then continue to YBES where we will get a tour of the library, health suite, cafeteria, etc.... Finally, we will have the opportunity to participate in a real Kindergarten class in progress for a half an hour. More information will follow as the date nears. If YBES is not your school, you may still choose to attend, or you may want to use the day to visit your home school.
4. On Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, our 4 year olds will have a formal graduation ceremony! (Children will need to arrive by 6:30 to prepare). We will be ordering caps and gowns shortly. Again, more detailed information will follow, but we wanted this to be on your calendar now. Feel free to invite grandparents, godparents, friends, and neighbors! We have plenty of room!

## **YOUTH'S BENEFIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEET AND GREET FOR INCOMING**

**KINDERGARTENERS:** On Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 in the evening, YBES will be hosting a meet and greet for parents of incoming Kindergartens for the Fall of 2020. Flyers were distributed at cubbies last week to those who indicated their child would be attending that school. Further questions regarding the event may be directed to YBES at 410-638-4367. If your child is entering kindergarten at another elementary school in the Fall, you may want to contact them and see if they offer a similar event.

## **FROM OUR TEACHERS:**

### **Miss Kayla's Two Year**

**Old Class:** We sure did have an amazing month of February with Valentine's Day and our pizza party! We are kind of sorry to see it go!

But we are ready to welcome March. Our color of the month will be green, and the shape will be a diamond. I will be introducing the letters T, U, V, W, and X to your children. We will also begin a thematic unit all about using our manners. We will continue to learn about the weather.

We have been working really hard practicing to recognize our written names. Please help your child to practice this by labeling things at home like their spot at the table, their bedroom, etc...

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

### **Miss Maura's Two Year**

**Old Class:** Welcome to the

windy month! We certainly had a lot of fun last month. We had a fun valentine snack.

This month we will be learning about the color green and the shape of a diamond. The letters we will focus on are T, U, V, W, and X. Our units this month are manners and weather.

We are doing a great job recognizing our names. Now to start putting it all together! Keep up the good work.

### **Miss Rosie's Three Year**

**Old Class:** March already? I can't believe it! We will be introducing letters T, U, V, W, and X. We will be learning the color **green** and the shape of the month will be a **diamond**.

Please continue helping your child write his or her name at home. Be sure to use upper-case for the first letter and lower-case for the rest of the name.

We will also be working on manners and safety units this month. Will we have lion or lamb weather?

I know we are all looking forward to Spring on March 19<sup>th</sup>!

Happy Birthday to Mason (3/21)!

### **Miss Bekah's Three Year**

**Old Class:** Will March come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? Only time will tell! It matters not because we have a busy month ahead!

We will be introducing the letters T, U, V, and W. We will continue learning our numbers. The shape of the month is a diamond and the color is green.

Our focus this month is manners. There will be an ice cream party for those who earn 5 stickers by the end of the month for using their good manners. A chart will be posted in the room for you to see progress.

We will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We will be celebrating Spring on March 19<sup>th</sup> with a special snack and games. Whether Spring comes early or not, we look forward to a fun-filled month. Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Spring!

### **Miss Diane's Four Year**

**Old Class:** March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. Hopefully it will come in like a lamb! All of us are looking forward to spring weather and getting outside again.

This month our themes will be Weather and Literature. We will try to predict the weather with our own weather chart. We will also enjoy celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday by reading and many special activities!

Letters for this month will be T, U, V, W, and X.

I will be sending home a list of age appropriate developmental needs of your soon-to-be kindergartener. How many is your child able to do? Remember, kindergarten is right around the corner and we are doing our best to prepare everyone!

### **Miss Bobbi's and Miss Nina's Four Year Old**

**Class:** Wow! Where did the time go? We will be sooo busy this month! We continue with the alphabet....letters T, U, V, W, and X. Keep practicing those homework sheets together at home. We will

have a mini unit on weather. We will also enjoy lots of reading this month.

I would like to pass on a few things for families to review at home to help with the developmental needs of your soon-to-be-kindergartener:

1. Does your child know their full (first and last) name?
2. Home address?
3. Telephone Number? (Don't forget the area code).
4. Practice letter sounds!
5. Practice sight word flashcards.

Try helping them remember by making a rhyme or song. Sing in the car or while you are doing things around the house! Make it fun, not a chore! Also, try some activities that promote the use of fine motor skills. String some beads, do puzzles, work with play dough. Most importantly, make sure your child is using an accepted grasp when holding a writing utensil. Try wrapping masking tape at the grip area or purchase a pencil grip. Have fun learning! We are!

**Make sure your child is practicing how to manage his or her own buttons, snaps, and zippers on coats, pants, and skirts. They also need practice opening lunch and snack items. Independence is important too!**

Happy Spring to all! Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

Happy Birthday, Caleb (3/5) and Rayna (3/10).

### **Miss Charla's and Mr. Chris's School Age Class:**

Only 15 more weeks of school... unbelievable!

This year is just a flyin'! We will be working on spring-time crafts, as time allows in the mornings, as well as in the afternoons. Depending on the weather, we will start going to the playground.

If you are riding the bus in the mornings, please arrive early so we have every child accounted for and the transition can go smoothly.

In the afternoons, if we are not in the gym, we will be out on the back parking lot or at the Gaga pit.

For the month of March, the school age group will continue incorporating positive behavior. We are all uniting together to show that we are working on kindness, positive attitudes and teamwork. Great attitudes start young!

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Spring!

Happy Birthday Wishes go out to Liam on 3/5!

## Music "Notes" from Miss

**Jackie:** March music! We have now discussed *vibration*—how sounds are made, *rhythm*—the steady beat of the music, *melody*—the tune of the music, and *dynamics*, the loud and soft of the music.

Each month, we will investigate a new musical concept, sing some of our favorite songs and just have fun with music!

This month we will learn about the *Wind Instrument Family!* Have you ever felt a tube vibrate while you were blowing into it? Have you seen a trumpet or a flute or a clarinet or a tuba up close? Do you know what you need to make a real wind instrument—just some Home Depot tubing, a Dollar Store funnel and a

mouthpiece! Yes, we will be making a silly wind instrument with a very long tube and looking closely at several wind instruments...it will be lots of fun. We will also review our fundamentals. Music is a beautiful language. Don't toss that paper towel or toilet paper tube. Go ahead and be silly...it is a great toot-a-toot wind instrument. Make an instrument and let the whole family play in your orchestra. Remember, always keep a song in your heart.

## Spanish with Miss Val:

We are having so much fun with Spanish this year. We really have a group of fast learners this time around!

We have now learned our colors, numbers through 20, the alphabet, feeling words, and some random vocabulary! We also made and taste tested guacamole, to very mixed kid reviews. Some loved it and others did not. But that's okay—that's a lesson too. Everyone tried the new tastes, textures, and smells! We had quite a morning.

Ask your child about their Spanish lesson. I provide a "conversation starter" at your child's cubby each time we have a lesson. Ask them about the songs we sing, the games we play, the dances we do, and the stories we read. The reinforcement will help the day's lesson stick with your little one. I also suggest putting Spanish on the television occasionally. The more that they hear in their everyday life, the more they become immersed and will be better able to retain.

Most of all, show excitement for what your child learns!

