

# Back to School!

Kirsten's Day Care  
Annandale, VA

Fall, 2014

## Mrs. K's Newsletter

### Welcome Back!

This summer, we had lots of fun, exploring the neighborhood playgrounds. We also did a few activities in the "[Growing up Wild](#)" curriculum. There was no set curriculum, so we did whatever sparked the children's interest, whether that be going on a nature walk or relaxing with a book.



### What's New for This Year?

We will continue with many of the previous programs, such as [Fireflies and Buttercups curriculum](#), [Al's Pals](#), 1, 2, 3, Read, and the Portage Program. I have also added the [www.more.starfall.com](http://www.more.starfall.com)

Ms. L and Ms. Yesi both just completed 14 hours each for Al's Pals training. They are required to have 16 hours of training a year.

The 1,2,3 Read program is a fun program that creates a month-long lesson on just one book. It includes the Velcro board to use manipulatives while reading, food preparation to go along with the book, as well as social and emotional lessons too.

### New Children!

Please welcome Laim, with his big blue eyes, He will be here full-time.



*Jumping in puddles is fun!!!*

James and Ian, two adorable brothers, will also be here full-time.



Olivia, who has delighted us on a couple playdates, will start full-time next month.



Emmett's sweet baby sister Hannah will be joining us with him part-time.



We have to say good-bye to Eliana and Ethan. Ethan is going to be a Kindergartner this year!!!

Bennett will be joining his brother Graham at the JCC closer to their home.

We will miss them all very much!!!

## Several Reminders

We have many new families this year, so there is a lot of information for new families and reminders for everyone else.

**Closings:** [FCPS Employee Calendar](#)

Upcoming Holidays are listed below:

- September 1: Labor Day
- October 13: Columbus Day
- November 26: 2-hr. early closing
- November 27-28: Thanksgiving

A gentle reminder to all full-time families that I get three paid days off (pro-rated for part-time families). I have never taken all three and always do my best to give you as much warning as possible if it occurs.

I follow the teacher's calendar, so I am open for teacher workdays, strategic planning, etc.

**Contact information:** Please be sure that you have my cell phone: 703-851-2919 and home phone: 703-323-6788 plugged into your phones. I don't always get reception and sometimes I just don't hear it. Texting is usually best if you need me right away, but otherwise, email is better. Please do not text me between 10pm-5:45am. My phone is my alarm, so texts wake me up...email is better during that time.

**Food policy:** Please do not bring your own food for children unless we have discussed it. It makes it more time-consuming to serve, other children may want what your child has, and we have some children with food allergies.

Breakfast is at 7:00am. If you will not be here by then, please be sure to feed your child before arriving.

**Late pick-ups:** Please be sure to be here by



4:00pm. If you will be late, please call me as soon as possible as I or my assistants may have plans immediately following day care. There is a minimum \$15 late fee if you are over 15 minutes late or late twice in one month. I haven't had to be strict about this in the past, but unfortunately, I must this year.



**Payment policy:** Fees are due the first Monday of the month, unless otherwise discussed. I will invoice you the week prior to the due date. You may either pay by check or credit card (still in the process of activating this).

**My temporary absences:** I have a few children who need to be walked to school. I also have appointments for myself or my girls. If this happens, I will never leave if I would be over my numbers or feel like it is too much for the other person(s) to handle. I will do my best to let you know when I will be away. One of us will walk Monika to school daily around 8:00am. A neighbor will walk her home, but we may have to on some days. Noelle and Aaron are in the 4-year-old program at St. Matthews, and we will walk them there and back Tuesdays-Fridays.

**Landscaping:** Please do not allow your children to climb on landscaped rocks or play with the yard decorations. The borders are secure enough to keep mulch/rocks in, but may not be steady enough to use as a balance beam. My children, and others, have also damaged yard decorations and other landscaping.

**Labeling:** Please remember to label all items that you bring here, including your change of clothes, so it doesn't get mixed up with someone else's items. If you're interested,

**Name Bubbles** (stickers) are great...they will stay on a bottle through a year of daily dishwashing!

**Laundry room:** Please do not let children play in the laundry room.

**\*\*\*Important\*\*\***

The Fairfax County Board of Zoning, as requested by my neighbor, requires that parents may NOT park in the driveway before 8am. Additionally, the gate should be left open until 8am so it's not constantly slamming. My neighbor's bedroom faces the side of our house and the lights and car doors disrupt their sleep. Keeping things quiet at such an early hour will be greatly appreciated by them, as well as myself to keep my community happy to have a business in a residentially zoned neighborhood.



## Fun Activities

I will continue to have people come in to read or do other activities with the children. Mondays will be Baked Goods Monday, so children will either make a baked afternoon snack or I will already have one ready for them. Wednesdays will be Wacky Wednesday, so we will do something crazy for lunch, like

breakfast for lunch or have a special day, like pajama day.

Let your children do as much as they can on their own. The pride and joy that they have in putting on their own coat, shoes, or other items



Practicing at becoming expert eaters!



A favorite activity for all: racing around the path!

is enormous. It builds confidence and, although it may take your time upfront, it saves you time later.

I'm looking forward to a fun and rewarding year for everyone!



Watch out!!! All the babies are now walking!