

9525 Leesburg Pike

Vienna, Virginia 22182



From the Principal's Office

Calendar of Events

Well the month of GIVING is upon us!

We will direct our thoughts to SHARING, CARING, GIVING, and showing OUR THANKS!

- We will be collecting can goods for a local food bank and we will deliver in time for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Please look for THANKFUL, creative art projects and writings from our students.



November

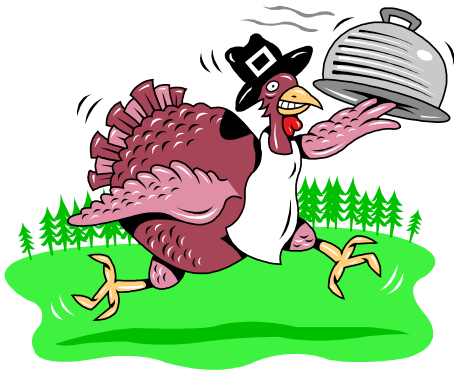
- 3rd FCPS 2 hour Early Release
- 4th Fall Festival Family Event and Open House 10am-1pm
- 5th Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 6th-7th Gap Camp-FCPS Closed
- 6th-17th Can Good Collection for the local Food Bank
- 7th Election Day
- 10th Veterans Day (observed)-
CBA CLOSED for Professional Development Day
- 17th Thanksgiving Feast
4:00 PM - *ALL are WELCOME*
- 22nd FCPS 2hr Early Dismissal
- 23rd CLOSED-Thanksgiving
- 24th CBA CLOSED

**Education Article:
How to Approach Tough
Topics of Conversation**

 **Parents and Teachers**

As we all prepare for the Thanksgiving Holiday, please take a moment to let your teacher know what days your child will be here during Thanksgiving week. This will help us staff accordingly and for teachers to plan to see their families.

November 20th-November 22nd



Thanksgiving Luncheon

We will host a Thanksgiving Feast on Friday, November 17th at 4:00 PM. The Feast will be provided by our PAC but donations are welcomed. Please see Ms. Ashlee in the Main Office for a signup sheet.

Food will be served in each classroom. We look forward to seeing everyone! Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 8th.



How to Approach Tough Topics of Conversation

While effective communication with your preschooler can already be difficult, tough topics can be even more challenging to maneuver. In a world ever-changing and with such constant influx of news from various media outlets, it is impossible to shield our children from some of life's complicated happenings. The preschool years are also the time when questions of 'why' can knock us off-balance and force us to take a careful approach to talking about tragedy, life, death, and faith.

War. Crime. Terrorism. Politics. Birth. Divorce. Death... These are the topics we all know we will face in conversation with our children at some point in time, and it is best to be prepared for these tricky subjects when, not if, they come up in conversation.

- When children ask about topics that may be unsettling at first, the initial reaction should always be to respond with a question. For example, "Where do you think babies come from?" Often children already have preconceived notions, and, by turning the tables, you can better gauge their knowledge already and the true aim of their question.
- You may also want to ask your child why they are wondering about that or how they heard. This often gets to the underlying emotion or confusion of the issue. For example, following a question about what happened in a car crash you drove by, you may ask "Why are you wondering about what happened to those cars?" Your child may respond with "Is our car going to get in a crash?" This then helps you pinpoint that the question is less about what happened to those cars and more about your child's own concern for his or her safety.
- Keep the answers simple. For most preschoolers, one simple sentence response to tough topic questions is enough. For example, in response to a question about a police officer pulling someone over, "Police are there to keep people safe." When we go on too long with too much detail, we may accidentally be layering in more anxiety provocation for our child.
- Ask more questions. Share with your child in simple terms how you feel and ask how they are feeling. For example, in response to questions about death, "I feel sad that Uncle Ben died because I will miss him. How do you feel?"
- Be prepared for the question to surface again. Your child will likely think about your response for some time and may ask you the same question again or continue the questioning later. Model the same pattern as noted above.

For as Dr. Seuss said so eloquently, "Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple."

Lauren Starnes, PhD- Director of Early Childhood Education

