



# LANK Letter

Marilyn O'Neill, Director · Patty Marsh, Assistant Director

December 2011 and January 2012

## Upcoming Events

### December

(Tuesday) 12/6 p.m. staff meeting, no p.m. session – lunch bunch & kindergarten dismissal at 12:25 p.m.

(Wednesday) 12/7 Winter Holidays Celebration – Parent/Student Programs Committee

(Thursday) 12/8 Open House for prospective students, 9:45 a.m. & 1:45 p.m.

(Tuesday) 12/13 Holiday Sing-along for 5-day programs, 10:45 a.m. & 2:45 p.m.

(Wednesday) 12/14 Winter Sing-along for 3/4 day programs, 10:45 a.m. & 2:45 p.m.

(Monday) 12/19 through (Monday) 1/2/12, Winter Break – NO SCHOOL

### January

(Tuesday) 1/3/12 Welcome Back to School

(Thursday) 1/12 Kindergarten Readiness Seminar– presented by the FCPS Kindergarten Staff and the LANK Parent Programs Committee 7:30 p.m.

## Directors' Desk

No matter how you celebrate the holidays, this is a season to cherish. Making memories with your preschooler is something that you will hold in your heart forever. Every tradition treasures family, hope, light, and giving in beautiful ways and it is a joy to pass these along to your children. Some of our most delightful moments are watching your children labor over their very special gifts to you. As young as they are, they already know the joy of giving something of yourself to someone you love. For these few weeks, we know that routine and schedules work best in a world that is suddenly ribbon-wrapped. For the very young, predictability and structure help keep all the excitement manageable. At LANK, we celebrate simply, with special emphasis on family, giving, and tradition. We wish you all the special joys of this beautiful season and thank you so for being a part of our LANK family.

## Let It Snow, Snow, Snow!

With this newsletter comes a copy of our snow policy as it relates to schedule changes. Please keep this somewhere handy so that it will be available on those “iffy” days. Though we will post closings on our website ASAP, count on local radio and TV stations or the FCPS website for the most up-dated information. Read our snow policy carefully. 2-hour delays are frequent in Fairfax County and rather than cancel the morning program, LANK elects to have both a.m. and p.m. sessions, each of which is shortened by one hour. Please pay special attention to the hours of your child's program when a 2-hour delay is scheduled. Any Monday p.m. session closings are made independently by LANK. If this affects your child's program, please make special note of LANK's policy as it relates to these changes.





### Kindergarten at LANK

If you are considering a private kindergarten for your child, please join us on January 17 at 10 a.m. This informational morning includes presentations by the kindergarten teachers and directors, as well as a panel of former and current kindergarten parents. You will receive detailed information about the curriculum, enrichment offerings, our philosophy, and all pertinent enrollment information. Additionally, there is ample opportunity to ask any questions that you may have and a brief video is shown that provides highlights of the kindergarten year at LANK.

This highly individualized full day program provides a strong foundation for the elementary years to follow and we proudly look forward to sharing it with you. Please call the office with questions or to register for this session.

### Open Houses

Unbelievably, it is almost enrollment time at LANK. December brings our first Open Houses for prospective students, followed by many more in January along with information sessions for rising kindergarteners. If you are a current LANK family, you will receive your enrollment packet in mid-January.

Though our Open Houses are advertised in local papers as well as on our website, it is always true that most of our guests come because of you. You are our best ambassadors and we are grateful for your support and recommendations to friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Know that during this busy time your children remain our top priority and we do everything possible to assure that their school experience is undisturbed. Visitors are asked to pre-register and are closely chaperoned throughout their tour. It is your children that make our program shine and we treasure their energy and spirit.



### Gifts to Give

They want your children!! Everywhere you look is another beautiful, shimmery toy, especially designed to delight and enchant. What do child experts recommend that actually makes sense to give to the preschool set? We bet you already know this, but it bears repeating—no toy or gadget that gives your child still more screen time is recommended. We know that they love them, but a little dose of Angry Birds goes a long way.

What is suggested is any kind of toy that piques your child's imagination and causes him to think in new and exploratory ways. Old stand-bys such as blocks, games, dolls and dollhouses, trucks, kitchens, workshops with tools—they are standbys because they are the toys with legs. Month after month children return to these toys because every experience with them is different—guided by your child's imagination, ingenuity, and creativity. Who could ask for anything more!



### Counting Those Scoops!

Our ice cream cone is adding scoops thanks to the generosity of LANK families. All donations are 100% tax deductible and many employers offer a matching gifts program. Please consider LANK in your year-end giving; as always we appreciate your support and consideration. Our sincere best wishes for a wonderful holiday season rich with friends, family, and joyful memories.

# Happy Holidays!