



Leelanau Children's Center Fall Newsletter - November 2018

CHILDREN MATTER. Because children matter, the Leelanau Children's Center provides high quality early childhood educational programs and advocates for children, parents, and families.

Welcome to the season of cooler weather and shorter days. The trees appear as visions of orange, red, and yellow outside our windows next to the turquoise blue of the water. It's a magical time of year, and we've been busy working to capture the awe and wonder of this time of change!

What's Happening in the Classroom



This fall both the preschoolers and the toddlers have been spending time getting to know each other and their teachers. The preschoolers are using a "Feature Child" board, where they focus on one child in the classroom each week. The toddlers have been using Mr. Potato to look at facial features, eyes, ears, noses, and mouths, noticing similarities and differences. Both classrooms have been taking adventures around town to explore and experience Fall, smelling the wood smoke, feeling the crisp air, and hearing leaves crunch.

Northport



Preschoolers have been noticing the season change and using lots of descriptive words in their weather reports, such as blustery, chilly, wiggly, and enormous (puddles). They have been discovering that materials, in addition to our natural surroundings, can change their shape, color, texture, or even move and react in exciting ways. Toddlers have been exercising both fine and gross motor skills: coloring, sensory explorations, and running, running, running!

Leland

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 11/3 at 10 AM to 2 PM • LCC Northport • Northport Building & Grounds Workbee

Monday, 11/12 to Monday, 11/26 • Equal Exchange Fundraiser. Catalogs will be handed out. See more on pg. 2

Thursday, 11/22 and Friday, 11/23 • LCC Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, 12/2 at 4 PM • An Evening with Joshua Davis at the Old Art Building, Leland

Wednesday, December 19, 2018 through Tuesday, January 1, 2019 • LCC Closed for Winter Break



Volunteer Spotlight: Sarah Mills, Kenna McDonald, Carolyn Telgard, Mike Kruk, Dan and Meg Worth, & Becky Ross

All of our board members and parents go above and beyond to help out the LCC mission, that CHILDREN MATTER. We wanted to give a special shout-out to Sarah Mills, Kenna McDonald, Carolyn Telgard, Dan and Meg Worth, Becky Ross, and Mike Kruk for their volunteer efforts at Leelanau UnCaged in Northport and at the Fall Family Fun event at The Old Art Building in Leland. Two events on the same weekend is a LOT and both were super successful. THANK YOU Sarah, Kenna, Carolyn, Dan and Meg, Becky, and Mike! And thank you to all our families who came out and participated!



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A Thriving Food Program at LCC

Nutritious food is a central component of our program, as growing bodies and brains require great nutrition to fuel optimal development. Research states that early years are critical to brain development and have a life-long impact on how a child thinks, learns, and grows. At LCC, children participate hands-on in the food program by tending to produce in our gardens, visiting local farmers markets to learn about what grows seasonally in our community, and helping to prepare meals from scratch with real ingredients. We eat family style in our classrooms and teachers have lively conversations with children supporting social connections, sparking curiosity about what's on the table, and encouraging kids to try new foods.

Our bountiful region produces a wide variety of food products, and we choose to buy locally whenever possible. For the last three years, LCC has worked hard to integrate more local offerings into our local food program. This not only provides the freshest, most nutrient dense foods for children, but benefits local growers, and by extension the local economy. Last year LCC again made progress increasing local food products used, with a focus on the majority of the menu being Michigan-based offerings.

Thanks to grants from the **Carls Foundation, Stony Point Foundation, Genunie Leelanau, and the MI Farm to School grant**, we were able to deliver this important food program to children without additional costs passed on to our families.

LCC Leland

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Leland, MI 49654
(231) 256-7841, ext. 1

LCC Northport

164 S. High St.
Northport, MI 49670
(231) 308-5144, ext. 2



www.leelanauchildrencenter.org

Fall is the Time for Change

Fall greetings to all. The leaves turning their beautiful colors remind us that change is nature's way. And LCC is undergoing changes as well. Many of you are aware that our Executive Director, Sarah Jane Johnson, has left LCC to bring her wonderful Early Childhood knowledge, experience, wisdom, and passion to the Suttons Bay pre-school program. She spread word around the county about the importance of quality Early Childhood care and education, found and obtained grant money, fostered an approach to economic sustainability in addition to her daily work at the Northport and Leland centers. Thank you, Sarah Jane, from all of us! Weren't we lucky to have her?

Now the LCC Board is addressing the challenges of finding the right Executive Director for our future and for maintaining our organization during our time without an Executive Director. Thank you to our LCC administration team - Molly Grosvenor and Heather Bardenhagen, our Leland and Northport program directors; Lauren Connor, our finance director; and Megan Ernst, our outreach and administrative assistant - who are all taking on extra tasks to make this transition as smooth as possible for all our families.

- **Pat Seiler, LCC Board Chair**

Equal Exchange Fundraiser



On Monday, November 12, we're beginning our 2018 Equal Exchange Fund-raiser. Equal Exchange offers organic, fair-trade coffees, tea, and chocolates. 40% of the purchases you make through their catalog goes right to the Leelanau Children's Center. Last year, we made \$2,197.46 and this year, we could raise more with your help! Catalogs will be passed out on November 12 and we will be taking orders until Monday, November 26. Any questions, please contact your Program Directors (Molly at Leland, and Heather in Northport).



Leelanau Children's Center 2017/2018 Annual Report

Thank for your continual giving and dedication to the Leelanau Children's Center. Every year , LCC receives gifts from all our constituents - current parents, alumni, parents of alumni, current and former grandparents, current and former staff, and friends. You all matter. Through annual giving, you set LCC on a course to succeed in our work. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you who support LCC. Your impact is seen every day and has a lasting impression on countless Leelanau County children and families.

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