

Westminster Family Connection



January 2026



The Solar System!

This month the entire school will learn about the solar system. What do we see in the sky during the day? What is in the sky at night? Why do we call it the solar system? What are stars made of? What are the planets made of? What do astronauts do? There is so much to learn!! Fortunately, there are many ways to make all the information relevant - terrific books, art projects, movement activities, songs, discussions, and experiments! At the end of the month, on January 28th, we are lucky to have the Inflatable Planetarium come to us! *Special thanks to those who planned and participated in the Parents Night Out fundraiser for making this program possible*

Registration starts on January 12th!

January 12th begins the one-week priority registration for current students and their siblings. Please note that current students and their siblings do not pay the registration fee. Registration comes before our conferences, so if you have any questions about your child's placement next year, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Registration for the public will open **January 20th**. Please let your friends know that our 2026-2027 application and tuition information can be found on our website at www.westminsternurseryschool.org.

Pajamas and Pancakes

Did anyone enjoy a pajama day and pancake day(or two) over the winter break? January seems like the perfect time to recreate that at school! We're looking forward to our pajama and pancake days next week! Mrs. Machin's class will wear pajamas and eat pancakes together on Thursday January 15th. The 3's and 4's will have their turn Friday January 16th! Many students love pancakes and the chance to show their favorite pajamas to their friends, but please know pajamas are encouraged, not required! Staff however will all be wearing pajamas!

Conferences

Parent Teacher conferences are Thursday January 29th and Friday January 30th. There are *no morning classes* on those days. Your child's teacher will reach out to you regarding the schedule. If you need childcare during your conference, staff will be available to watch your child in the playroom.

Afternoon programs are open as usual. If your child is enrolled in 3's Lunch and Learn or 4's Enrichment, you may bring your child with his/her packed lunch at 11:30am on those days.

Google Reviews

Many of you had such wonderful things to say about Westminster in your holiday cards - thank you! Please consider writing a Google review, we would really appreciate it - especially now when registration is starting up for next year!

Snow Day and Delayed Opening Reminder

January and February may bring snow and ice!! Please be sure to check your email - Westminster Nursery School follows Berkeley Heights Public Schools when it comes to closings and delayed openings due to inclement weather. I will send an e-mail between 5:30 am and 6:00 am in the event of closing or delayed opening. If there is a delayed opening, classes will be in session from 10:00am until 12:00pm with extended day in session from 12:00pm to 2:30pm.

Beyond the Classroom

If your child is looking for even more information on space, the Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium has programs designed for preschoolers as well as older children - check out their website www.raritanval.edu/planetarium to see what they offer. Additionally, the William Sperry Observatory in Cranford is open to the public and free on Fridays 7:30pm - 10:30pm, www.asterism.org. This website (under "resources") has interesting information about Lucy the Asteroid Space Probe and uses playdough to help understand Lucy's mission! The public library has many books about space and the solar system for kids; your child is welcome to bring some in to share with the class! Download the Night Sky App in your phone and see where the planets, constellations and even the International Space Station are in our sky each night!

Upcoming Dates of Note

Monday January 19th - School closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday January 15th - Pajama Day and pancakes - Mrs. Machin's class

Friday January 16th - Pajama Day and pancakes - Mrs. Bocian's, Mrs. McGurn's, and Mrs. Ripps' classes

Thursday January 29th - Morning classes **closed** for Conferences; *extended day open 11:30am*

Friday January 30th - Morning classes **closed** for Conferences; *extended day open 11:30am*