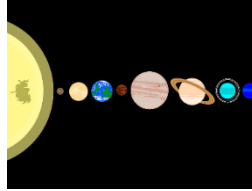


# Westminster Family Connection



**January 2024**



Happy 2024!

A wonderful way to mark the new year is by learning something new! Each January teachers and students alike seek to learn more about what is out there up in our sky. The younger students focus on the day and night skies, while older students are introduced to the solar system, what the planets are made of, and planet exploration.

## **Inflatable Planetarium!**

It's true! There is such a thing as an inflatable planetarium, and one is coming to Westminster Wednesday January 17<sup>th</sup>! We are so excited for our 3's and 4's classes to experience the beauty of our solar system right in our own "big room"!

## **Exploring the Skies Further**

For 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](http://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](http://www.asterism.org). 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!

## **2024-2025 Registration!**

It's that time already! Time to register for next year! Registration for the upcoming school year opens to current families Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and opens to the public on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our application and tuition information can be found on our website [www.westminsternurseryschool.org](http://www.westminsternurseryschool.org).

## **Conferences**

Morning classes are closed Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> for parent teacher conferences. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you regarding the schedule. If you need childcare during your conference, staff will be available to watch your child in the playroom. Please note that 3's Lunch and Learn

and 4's Enrichment classes are open as usual. You may bring your child with his/her packed lunch at 11:30am on those days.

### **Pajamas and Pancakes!**

January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> are all about Pajama and Pancakes! Mrs. Bocian's and Mrs. Ripps's classes will wear pajamas to school on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Machin's class will wear pajamas on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Students love the pancakes and the chance to show their favorite pajamas to their friends - however, don't worry if your child is hesitant or refuses - pajamas are encouraged, not required! They also get a kick out of seeing the staff wearing pajamas! Parents - feel free to wear pjs at drop off!

### **Google/Yelp**

Many of you had such nice things to say about Westminster in your holiday cards - thank you! Please consider writing a Google and or Yelp review, we would really appreciate it!

### **Snow Day and Delayed Opening Reminder**

January may bring some winter weather! 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 a 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 12:00pm to 2:30pm.

### **Extended Day and Early Drop Off**

There are openings in our Tuesday and Thursday Lunch and Learn with Mrs. Vass and limited availability in Friday's Lunch and Learn program with Mrs. Marsh. 4's Enrichment with Mrs. Tarabokia has limited availability on Thursdays. Your child is welcome to join us for \$35 each day, simply email or call the office in advance to make sure a spot is available. Early drop off is available daily at 8:30am for \$6, there is no need for advance notice.

### **Upcoming Dates of Note**

Monday January 15 - School closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday January 24 - Morning classes closed for Conferences; *extended day open 11:30am*

Thursday January 25 - Morning classes closed for Conferences; *extended day open 11:30am*

Monday January 29 - Pajama Day for Mrs. Bocian's and Mrs. Ripps's classes

Tuesday January 30 - Pajama Day for Mrs. Machin's class