

# Westminster Family Connection



October 2025



Our classes have been busy exploring Autumn - looking for acorns and leaves, tasting and painting apples, collaging leaves, and fingerpainting with fall colors. Above are "Finger Painted Fall Trees" by our Tuesday/Thursday 4's Enrichment class!

## Halloween

Because we have found that costumes can make navigating our stairs and the bathroom difficult, we do not have our students wear costumes to school for Halloween. We celebrate Halloween with artwork, stories, songs, and fingerplays. A big hit each year has been a special display in our upper hallway of everyone's costume! Please bring a picture of your child in costume so we can put it up. The students love seeing themselves and their friends in costumes, finding matching costumes, and talking about trick-or-treating!

## Picture Days - October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

We are looking forward to having Bill Marvin from Positive Image Photography back with us this year taking individual, sibling, and class pictures. He will be photographing Mrs. Machin's class on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Mrs. Bocian's, Mrs. Ripps's, and Mrs. McGurn's classes on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Weather permitting, pictures are taken outside on our patio amidst the fall foliage. Mr. Bill has a wonderful way of capturing smiles from the students resulting in priceless pictures year after year. He will send out a link after the pictures are taken so you can log on and view the pictures and order directly. You may also contact him for re-takes if you'd like, or additional pictures of your family.

## Early Drop Off and Extended Day Availability

Early meeting? Are you unable to be in two places at one time? We offer early drop-off every morning at 8:30am (or any time before 8:50) for \$8, which you may pay at the door, or pay when invoiced. There is no need to reserve a spot - just ring the doorbell! We also have availability in our 4's Enrichment program (11:30 - 2:30) Monday through Thursday. The cost is \$40/day which can be invoiced or paid at the door. If you would like to enroll your child for the year, there is small savings.

**Flu Vaccine**

The State of New Jersey *mandates* that all children 6-59 months receive a flu vaccine by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please submit documentation of your child's vaccination as soon as it is received. Students without flu vaccine documentation are not allowed back after winter break until documentation is received. Doctors often recommend receiving the flu vaccination in October as flu activity in our area usually begins in October.

**Change of Clothes**

The clothes you brought in September for your child to change into (if needed) may not be warm enough now! Please bring pants and long-sleeved shirts to replace those T-shirts and shorts. We play outside as often as possible - we want your child to be comfortable!

**Conferences**

Our Parent/Teacher conferences are in January. We do this to give your child time to adjust to his/her new classroom and classmates and our teachers time to observe and get to know your child. If you have any questions or concerns about your child currently, please reach out to your child's teacher.

**Parents Night Out - Baskets Raffle**

Invitations for the Parents Night November 15<sup>th</sup> went out earlier this week! This was so much fun last year - a wonderful chance for our families to get to know one another and raise funds for our school at the same time! Many of our staff attended and had a great time! If you would like to put together a basket for the raffle, please contact Sami Chung, Melissa Hare, or Jessica Swanson.

**Looking Ahead**

Monday October 13<sup>th</sup> - School Closed for Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day

Monday October 20<sup>th</sup> - School Closed for Diwali

Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup> - School Photos 2.5s

Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> - School Photos 3's and 4's

Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup> - School Closed Election Day

Thursday, Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> - School Closed Teacher's Convention

Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> - Parents Night Out Fundraiser!

Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday November 28<sup>th</sup> - School Closed for Thanksgiving Recess!