

Westminster Family Connection



December 2023



There is undeniable excitement in the air as the weather gets chillier, the church is decorated with wreaths and trees, and glitter appears at the art tables! We wish you all the best for the holidays this month as you treasure the moments with family that remind us what being in this world is all about.

Westminster Staff

Many of the teachers and staff here have shared a connection with Westminster for years. Our children came here, our grandchildren came here, some of us started as "helpers in the hall" here. Whether we've been a part of Westminster for years or are new this year, we all share a passion for early childhood education, an understanding of the importance of a positive preschool experience, and of course compassion for our students. This shared bond brings us closer together, we truly are a Westminster Family committed to providing your child with the best experience. Thank you for choosing our school for your child's preschool experience.

Who does What? Terry Machin teaches our 2.5s. Susan Bocian teaches our 3s with the assistance of Andrea Oliver on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. Nancy Ripps is our 4's teacher with the assistance of Jaime Andrews Monday - Thursday. Donna Marsh (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) and Eileen Vass (Tuesday and Thursday) lead our 3s Lunch and Learn. Amy Tarabokia leads our 4's Enrichment program. Our wonderful helpers in the hall helping students wash their hands, keeping art supplies clean, surfaces sanitized and too much more to list here, are Eileen Vass (Monday through Friday mornings and Monday and Wednesday afternoons), Ruth Gombas (Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings), Andrea Welsh (Tuesday and Thursday afternoons) Katie McGurn (Wednesday and Thursday mornings) and Marilyn Klein (Friday afternoons) To learn more about our staff, please visit our website at www.westminsternurseryschool.org.

Westminster Swag!

Thank you to those who supported our fundraiser this year. We expect your orders to arrive the week of December 18th and are looking forward to getting them to you for the holidays!

Culture of Care

On behalf of our students and families and in support of those touched by cancer, Westminster Nursery School has made a donation to the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center in Morristown. This provides a multitude of cancer support services from counseling to music therapy, and pain management to name a few. A member of our staff personally recommended it.

Registration

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will begin in January. We will notify the current families first and you will have a two-week priority registration period.

* Please note there is currently availability in our 3's Tuesday and Thursday morning class. If you are interested in adding these days for the rest of this school year, please let the office know.

Flu shot

Documentation of your child's flu shot is required before your child may return to school after the winter break, January 2, 2024. A printout of your child's immunizations from the portal will suffice. If you have any questions, please call or email the office (908)464-4880.

Illnesses

We are seeing lots of runny noses and coughs - it's that time of year! We are reminding students to cough into their elbows and use tissues when touching/blowing their noses (and then wash/sanitize hands). Gentle reminder - please consider having your child rest up or see the pediatrician if his/her cough is disrupting sleep or persistent or if his/her nasal discharge is discolored or flowing uncontrollably.

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.

Operation Christmas Child - Christmas in November

Thank you to all of you who generously filled boxes sent overseas to surprise children in need on Christmas! We met our goal of delivering 100 boxes to the drop off center in Chatham. When we pulled up, they were so impressed at how many we had! It was great seeing many of you at our Christmas in November event, we filled more boxes, made headbands, ornaments, melted crayon figures, and wrote letters and drew pictures to include in the boxes. As one parent put it, "The lesson in giving back never gets old."

Snow Day and Delayed Opening Reminder

Westminster Nursery School follows Berkeley Heights Public Schools when it comes to closings and delayed openings due to inclement weather. Parents will receive 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 noon, with extended day in session noon to 2:30pm. Should you have questions regarding this policy, please contact the office.

Upcoming Dates of Note

December 1 - Final tuition payment was due

December 22 - School closed for the winter break

December 31 Flu vaccine documentation due

January 2 - School reopens

January 15 - School closed MLK Jr. Day

All best wishes for a holiday filled with peace and joy!