

# Westminster Family Connection



September 2023



Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year - Westminster's 52<sup>nd</sup> year! Although we enjoy summer, it's a joy to hear children in our halls again! I love greeting you all in the morning, even those who may be struggling in these early days. Your children are adjusting to so many new things and I have been impressed at how well and quickly they are doing just that!

## **Communication**

As you can see from the name of our newsletter, building a strong connection between our school and our families is very important to us. To that end, if you ever have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teacher. Please note teachers will not be able to respond to texts or phone calls during class time. If there has been a difficult drop off or you have concerns about how your child is doing during class time, please reach out to me. I am happy to check in on your child and update you. Now that our phone is back in order, I'm just a phone call away! (908)464-4880

## **What are we working on?**

In these early days of school, Teachers are focusing primarily on creating a comfortable, nurturing environment which will allow students to grow socially and become eager learners. It's hard to learn if you're worrying about how to make friends, where the bathroom is, or when will you go home. All of us are working towards easing these concerns or other concerns your child may have. Classes are singing songs together, playing together and learning classroom routines to foster a sense of community and comfort with their surroundings.

## **Playground**

Thanks to donations from last year's Art Show and Basket event, we will be getting some new playground equipment! A new caterpillar tunnel is due next week. The current one has been a favorite for years but is missing some feet (and the head) and is due for replacement! Thank you to those who were able to contribute towards this. In addition, we are hoping to purchase the Little Tykes Commercial

Treehouse Climber but are a little short of our goal of \$3, 882. If anyone is interested helping us reach our goal, any donation would be much appreciated.

### **Scholastic Books**

We love the scholastic book program. It not only offers a great variety of books for our students at a reasonable price for our parents but, it also offers bonus awards to Westminster. We use these to add books to our school library and get supplies for the school! Be sure to use code (DXTCN) when placing your order online.

Keep an eye on your child's backpack - flyers will be going home next week. The deadline for orders is Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **COVID-19 and Illness**

If your child will be absent for any reason, please call or email to let us know the reason for absence. Regarding Covid-19: the latest recommendation from the NJ Department of Health based on current levels is that a person with symptoms of COVID and/or a positive COVID test isolate at home for 5 days. "When returning to school or ECE (Early Care and Education) students and staff should be required to mask during days 6-10, or until they test negative using two antigen tests collected at least 48 hours apart starting on day 6."

We have some new grandmothers on our staff, and some students expecting new siblings soon - Congratulations! Especially with those in mind, we are doing our best to keep our spaces well-ventilated with open windows when possible and air purifiers, our surfaces clean and sanitized, and all hands clean!

### **Looking Ahead**

Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Back-to-School night 7:00pm - 7:30pm

Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> - School Closed for Yom Kippur

Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> - School Closed for Indigenous People's/Columbus Day

Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> - School Photos, Mrs. Machin's class

Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> - School Photos, Mrs. Ripps' and Mrs. Bocian's classes