

Westminster Family Connection



December 2024



The holidays are approaching and there is no denying it feels like winter has arrived. We've even had snow! Wishing you and your families all the best in the new year as 2024 draws to a close!

Westminster Staff and Who Does What?

Here at Westminster, we all share a passion for early childhood education, compassion for our students, and a commitment to providing your child with the best possible positive preschool experience. Some parents have asked me Who Does What? Please read below to find out - I think you'll see how several of the staff wear more than one hat! Please ask if you have any questions!

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

Parents Night Out

What a phenomenally successful and FUN event! It seems impossible to fully express how grateful we are to all who supported the event and to (in alphabetical order) Sami Chung, Katie Evans, Natalie Ganz, Melissa Hare, and Catherine Pontoriero for coming up with the idea and running with it! It was an enormous success, raising \$2,500 for WNS equipment and programs. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Scholastic's Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive

Wow! Your generosity is overwhelming. Our goal of collecting 50 pajamas for this great program was exceeded! We collected **79 pajamas!** Scholastic is donating a new book for

each pair of new pajamas - what a difference you have made in the bedtimes of so many children. As the Pajama Program puts it "Good Nights are Good Days." I love this Program which has chapters in every state supporting local children and families in need. On their behalf, THANK YOU!!

Westminster School Spirit

Thank you to those who supported our fundraiser this year! Westminster School spirit is alive and well!!! We expect your orders to arrive before December 19th and are looking forward to getting them to you for the holidays!

Registration

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will begin in January. I will notify current families first and you will have a two-week priority registration period. We recognize conferences are at the end of January, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's placement next year, please speak with your child's teacher.

Flu shot

If your child has not turned 5 by December 31st, documentation of your child's flu shot is required before your child may return to school after the winter break, January 2, 2025. A printout of your child's immunizations from the portal will suffice. If you are filing an exemption, it must be in the office by December 31st. If you have any questions, please call, or email the office (908)464-4880.

Testimonials

We are looking to update our website with parent testimonials. If you feel positively towards Westminster, please share! A positive google review, or testimonial submitted to the office to be included on the website is greatly appreciated. :)

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 6 - Final tuition payment was due
December 20 - School **closed** for the winter break
December 31 - Flu vaccine documentation, or exemption, due
January 2 - School reopens
January 20 - School **closed** MLK Jr. Day
January 28 - 2.5 Pajama Day
January 29 - 3s & 4s Pajama Day
January 30 - Conferences, NO morning classes
January 31 - Conferences, NO morning classes

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