**CHESTERBROOK ACADEMY GAITHERSBURG**

**February 2022 Newsletter**

**A Note from Our Principal**

The year is off to a great start and we’re enjoying spending the winter season with you and your children. If you’ve not already done so, please send in an extra set of weather appropriate clothes for your child. We want everyone to be able to participate in the fun outdoor activities we have planned. As always, it is an honor to work with and watch your children grow.  Thank you for choosing our preschool for your family.

Sincerely,

Narema Deonarine

 **Black History Month**February is Black History Month. It is a time to honor the culture, accomplishments, and important contributions of African Americans. We’ll be celebrating in the classroom by reading books, making arts and crafts, and continuing our discussion on acceptance and belonging.

**Class Valentine’s Day Celebrations**

We will be celebrating Valentine’s Day on Monday, February 14th. Children are invited to bring in valentines to share with their classmates. We will have a special Valentine’s Day snack and participate in Valentine-themed activities throughout the day.

**Priority Re-Enrollment**

As a reminder, priority re-enrollment for next school year is ending soon. Please let us know if you have any questions.

* 75% off registration fee if registered and paid by 2/19/22
* 50% off registration fee if registered and paid by 3/4/22
* 25% off registration fee if registered and paid by 3/18/22

 **Parent Referral Bonus**

Do you know a colleague who has recently had a baby, a friend in need of care who just relocated to the area, or a family member who is seeking a new preschool for their child? When you refer a friend and they enroll, you’re eligible for a **free week of tuition**.  Ask us for details!

**Important Dates**

February 14th – Valentine’s Day Celebrations
February 21st – CLOSED for Presidents’ Day
February 28th – End of Month Folders go home

**4 Easy Hands-On Valentine’s Day Activities for Your Preschooler**

Holidays are great opportunities to make new traditions and memories with your family. This month, we’ve compiled four of our favorite Valentine’s Day themed activities perfect for children of all ages.

1. **Valentine’s Day Sensory Bin**

Grab a bin and fill it with items found around your home or at your local craft or grocery store. Some ideas include pink sand, candy conversation hearts, plastic spoons, small toy shovels, rice, feathers, beads, and shredded paper. Your child will have a blast scooping, digging, pouring, and sorting the objects.

1. **Play Dough Fun**

Open-ended toys like play dough help children explore and create without the pressure of doing things the right or wrong way. Lay out a tray for your child and give them play dough, heart shaped cookie cutters, a small rolling pin, and items to press into the dough, such as toothpicks, beads, or dry pasta shells.

1. **Cards for Loved Ones**

Traditional paper valentines are not only festive but are also a precious keepsake for loved ones. Provide your child with paper, crayons, paint, markers, stickers, and other supplies, and let their creativity run wild! Encourage older children to use uppercase and lowercase letters. Show enthusiasm in any effort, as this is how they learn that words are powerful and have meaning.

1. **Friendship Bracelets**

A great way to focus on friendship and love this month is to make friendship bracelets. Making jewelry fosters creativity, while also practicing pattern recognition, concentration, and fine motor skills. Give your child red, white, and pink beads and yarn or pipe cleaners. When you child is finished making the bracelet, ask them to count the total number of beads used. You can extend the activity by also accompanying the bracelet with a homemade card, as mentioned abo