

# Chesterbrook Academy Wayne

*January 2023 Newsletter*

**Happy New Year!**

## **Welcome, 2023!**

We are thrilled to ring in the new year with our wonderful Chesterbrook families! We know 2023 will bring us new memories, new friends, and new learning experiences to share with everyone in this amazing learning community. Hooray!



## **❄ Classroom Happenings ❄**

### **Infants, Young Todds & Todds:**

- Happy 2023!!!  
Here's to the new year, to another year of fun, new adventures, and learning!!!
- With some new friends joining us and old friends moving up, the first month will be a mixed bag of emotions for all. But we are looking forward to welcoming the new year with a new spark, energy and enthusiasm. Our kids will create some beautiful fireworks art, and also indulge in many fun activities to mark the onset of 2023!!!
- Our little friends will get to know about one of the most charming tales of all time which also happens to be everyone's favourite winter book "Gingerbread baby". They will also create and

decorate their special gingerbread baby!!!

- I Have a Dream!!!

Our little learners will commemorate Sir Martin Luther King Jr. through a plethora of thoughtfully designed activities. They will pay tribute to and honour the legacy of one of the greatest leaders in history through beautiful art and craft activities.

- Winter wonderland!

Let it snow!!! And When it does, we put on our mittens and make snowmen ❄️❄️❄️

The coming days will be filled with all things winter ❄️❄️❄️. From mittens to the snowman, we are going to have a blast!!! Stay tuned!!!

### Beginner 1:

- Our Beginner friends are back from celebrating a wonderful Holiday season with their family and friends and are excited to welcome the New Year!
- HURRAY 2023 is upon us and we are looking forward to some fun learning experiences this month.
- Our theme for Week 1 is " It's Snowing " . We will learn all the fun things we do outdoors when it snows and create Snow themed art. We will learn the rhyme "Five Little Snowflakes" and read the book "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Keats.
- Week 2 Winter is the perfect time to explore the world of Arctic Animals. This week we will learn about Penguins and their habitat. We will read the book " How do Penguins Play?"
- Week 3 On MLK day it is a great time to introduce our beginners to learn about Dr Martin Luther King Jr and will read the story The Story of Martin Luther King Jr by Johnny Ray Moore. We will talk about simple concepts of beauty in diversity, being inclusive and being nice to each other.
- In Week 4 - Continuing to support a strong understanding of Diversity and Culture we will learn about Chinese New Year and the customs. We will make paper lanterns in our art project. We will read the book Peppa's Chinese New Year.
- Wishing you and your families a Warm, Happy and Healthy New Year!

### Beginner 2:

- January 1st- Class Expectations! We will be going over all class rules this week as a refresher (sticky backs, bubbles, etc). We have new friends in B2 so this will help everyone know our class rules
- January 8th- Feeling Blue. We will be going over emotions and feelings. We will be reading a ton of books as well as doing feeling crafts.
- January 16th- Dinosaurs!! We will be learning about different Dinos, as well as singing different songs about Dinosaurs
- January 23th- Weather. We will be learning about different weather forecasts (rain, snow, sunny) and will talk about this with our daily weather person
- January 30th- Groundhog day! Students will learn about the PA based holiday! We will learn about groundhogs and make a groundhog craft :-)

### Intermediates:

- ~Happy New Year~2023~

This month we will talk about the New Years and our goals as a classroom for 2023

- The books we will be reading this month will have to do with different zoo animals. We will focus on getting to know many arctic animals including polar bears, owls, and foxes. We will be doing experiments with ice, we will explore the concept of sink and float.

- Next, we will read "Miss Moo Goes to the Zoo" where we compare zoo animals to farms animals and explore why they live where they do.
- Our next book will concentrate on black & white animals as we discover the different patterns of a panda bear, cow, and zebra.
- Another poem has our class mixing black & white paint to make grey elephants!
- Please remember our morning snack is served by 9:00AM & we start circle time at 9:30AM - when children arrive to school late, it impacts our learning time!
- Please be sure to update the clothing you have in your child's cubby to the correct size and season
- Weather permitting, we will be going outside two times per day ~ please have a weather-appropriate jacket, hat, and gloves for your child!
- Lastly, we would love to have zoo pictures from your own trips to the zoo to display in our classroom!

#### **Pre-K & Pre-K 2:**

- This month we will be exploring a bunch of winter themes! First we are discussing polar animals like polar bears, penguins, seals, arctic foxes, and more! We learned about how they stay warm, their eating habits, and how they survive in such cold temperatures!
- Next, put your hands together because it's winter sports theme! We will explore different winter sports and even re-enact some!
- Next, we take it back to the core of winter weather as we discuss why it snows, what temperature things freeze at, and general winter weather patterns. To go along with this we will also learn about clouds this month. We will examine the different types of clouds, make our own clouds, and look outside and identify the clouds we see!
- Last but not least, we have personal interview week! This week is all about the kids - learning their favorite things, their interests, favorite part of school, and more!

## **❄ Winter Weather Activity Guide ❄**

*Does the cold weather have you stumped when it comes to planning activities with your young learner? There are ❄ snow ❄ many fun ways to make the most of chilly winter weather - check out our guides below for inspiration!*

### **At-Home Activities:**

#### **Evergreen Exploration 🌲**

During autumn, we watched leaves fall off of many trees. But, not all trees have leaves to lose! Evergreen trees (such as pine, spruce, hemlock, and more) offer students a variety of opportunities to connect with nature during the winter months! Bundle up for a nature walk and try out the following activities:

- Search the ground for pinecones and look up in the evergreen trees for pinecones that haven't fallen yet.
- Search for animal homes in deciduous trees.
- Lie down under the evergreens and look up through the branches. Talk about what you see and how evergreens provide shelter from the elements.
- Look for whorls of branches on the conifers. Estimate the age of the tree by counting the whorls.

### **Below-Zero Bubble Blast!**

Bubbles don't need to be a summer-only activity! When the temperature is just right, playing with bubble solution in winter can allow students to explore some pretty \*cool\* science! If the weather dips below freezing temperatures, put on your warmest winter gear and try these bubble experiments:

- Have your students blow some bubbles and watch as they crystalize before their eyes.
- If you have a blacktop outside, blow the bubbles there and see them roll around on the ground instead of popping. Have the students touch the bubbles and note how they feel. Eventually, the bubble solution itself will freeze and you have your students watch as the crystals slowly appear across the liquid's surface. This is a great way to talk about the science of freezing and liquids.
- Then, run inside and get warm!

*P.S. - If you try these activities, be sure to let the bubble solution chill in the refrigerator for a bit first. These activities work best when the bubbles are cold!*

### **Pinecone Bird Feeder**

Learn more about the species that stick around during the winter months from the comfort of indoors by making a pinecone birdfeeder!

- Start by tying a string around a pinecone (maybe one that you found during your evergreen exploration!). Then, mix peanut butter with cornmeal, and oats.
- Use a spoon, or your fingers, to spread the mixture onto the pinecones.
- Finally, pour some birdseed onto a plate and roll the peanut butter covered pinecones in the seed until they are completely covered.
- Hang the pinecone birdfeeders in a tree and watch the birds (and squirrels!) as they visit.

Have your learner watch from the window and take note of which winter critters come to visit. Compare the list of winter animals to those you may see in the warmer months!

*Activity Guide adapted from Project Learning Tree (plt.org)*

### **Local Explorations:**

- Please Touch Museum
- Franklin Institute
- American Helicopter Museum
- Philadelphia/Elmwood Park Zoo
- Longwood Gardens
- Sky Zone
- Limerick/Devon Bowling alley
- Are you a member of Easttown Library? Check out their Museum passes!
  - <https://www.easttownlibrary.org/museum-passes>

*Recommendations provided & parent-approved by Ms. Sarah!*

**❄ Upcoming Events ❄**

# ♥ Kids Heart Challenge ♥

## When

*Monday, Jan. 23rd 2023 at 7am to  
Thursday, Feb. 16th 2023 at 6pm*

## Where

*Our School*

## More information

### Dear Parents & Guardians,

It's time for the **American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge!** When your student joins your school's KHC team, they will learn how to keep their hearts and brains healthy, get moving with fun activities, meet kids with special hearts and raise funds for the health of all hearts. Plus, they'll feel good for doing good!

### Sign Up TODAY!

1. Download our **Kids Heart Challenge App** or visit [heart.org/KHC](https://heart.org/KHC) to register
2. Help your student choose a daily health challenge: **MOVE MORE** or **BE KIND**
3. Set a fundraising goal with your student and send emails to invite friends and family to support it!

### Your Impact:

Funds raised support initiatives including:

- Scientific research & accelerating science
- Improving quality of medical care
- Improving nutrition security

By participating, your student can also earn a number of thank-you gifts & prizes! Scan the QR code below for more information!



## Pajama Day!

When

*Friday, Jan. 6th 2023 at 7am-6pm*

Where

*Our School*

More information

Today is National Cozy-Up Day! To celebrate, we are holding a pajama day at our school! Cozy up in your cuddliest jammies and get ready to feel snuggly!

## Make Your Dream Come True Day

When

*Friday, Jan. 13th 2023 at 7am-6pm*

Where

*Our School*

More information

Today is National Make Your Dream Come True Day - dress up as whoever you want to be! An astronaut, royalty, a firefighter, anything in your wildest dreams!

## ❁ Reminders & Announcements ❁

### Welcome BACK, Ms. Alexis!

We are thrilled to announce that our very own Ms. Alexis will be returning from her maternity leave on **January 13th**. We are so excited to have her back, and we know the students are as well! Please help us in giving her a warm welcome upon her return!

### Welcome, Ms. Jenn B!

In January, we look forward to welcoming our **new Infant classroom teacher**, Ms. Jenn B! Ms. Jenn has over 7 years of experience in early childhood education, and is very excited to meet all of her new students & families on **January 16th**! When she is not teaching, Ms. Jenn enjoys crocheting and working on her Etsy shop! Her favorite children's book is "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" and she has two cats with her fiance, named Sanchez and Scout!

Please be sure to stop by and give her a warm welcome to our school community!

## January Teacher Appreciation

Our Teacher Appreciation day for our wonderful teachers this month will take place on **Wednesday, January 18th!** If you would like to participate, please utilize the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48AAAB2FA6FBC34-january>

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

On Monday, January 16th 2023, we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on the impact of his life's work. Diversity, equity, and inclusion have always been and always will continue to be important within our community. Here at Chesterbrook Academy, we have many activities planned to celebrate our diversity & specifically celebrate Martin Luther King Jr's life. We'll be reading books, making arts & crafts, and discussing the importance of supporting and loving one another!

## Tuition Policy Reminders

With the new year upon us, please take note of the following tuition policies, as per our Tuition Agreement:

- **Vacation Credit Policy:**

Vacation Credit for tuition is only valid for a Monday-Friday planned absence. Utilization of your vacation credit **requires 2 week advanced written notice** in order for the credit to be approved. **Vacation credits renew on July 1st of each year.**

- **Early Withdrawal/Change of Schedule:**

**Withdrawal** from the School during the School Year requires at **least four weeks' advance written notice**. If Parents desire to enroll student again after withdrawal, space is not guaranteed. Changes to a Student's attendance schedule during the School Year is dependent on availability and requires at least **four week's advance written notice to reduce the schedule** and **two week's advance notice to increase the schedule**. Parents' tuition obligations continue through the notice period.

- **Holidays/In-Service Days:**

Tuition is continuous throughout the School Year (taking into account the days the School is closed). No credit will be given for holidays, professional in-service days, school closures, or Students' absences or illnesses.

- **Tuition Due/Late Charges:**

Tuition and fee payments are due no later than Mondays by end of day. A late payment fee of \$25 is assessed at noon on Tuesday. Returned checks/ACH are assessed a \$25 service charge. *There is a late pick-up fee of \$1 per minute after the scheduled pick up time (**this applies to our Modified Hours of Operation as well**).*

It's never too early to start thinking about ☀️ summer ☀️ - at least, not for us!

Are you planning on taking a break this summer (such as a vacation or hiatus), and do you intend on having your child return to school with us in the fall? Please notify us via email regarding your summer plans as soon as you can!

## New Links 2 Learning

Our new Links 2 Learning curriculum is officially rolling out! You will see updated parent boards, centers, end-of-month folders, and lesson plans! We are thrilled to begin implementing this new curriculum to its fullest impact, and to share it with all of our students & their families!

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please feel free to reach out!

## Allergy & Medication Updates

During the month of January, we will be doing an audit of all emergency medications kept at-school for children. If your child has any medication stored at school (such as epi-pens, inhalers, etc.) for allergies or other medical conditions, we will be asking you to **sign updated paperwork** to ensure that we can continue to hold & utilize these medications as directed, and we will be **asking for new medications should the current ones be expiring**.

**Please remember - we require all medications kept at-school to be provided unopened, in its original box with a prescription label (if applicable).**

Thank you!

## Winter Cubby Refresh

The winter season is here. Please be sure to dress your child accordingly, including hats & mittens. **Also, be sure that your child has extra clothes available in their cubby that is suitable for winter weather.** This is a great time to check sizes, too!

## Soccer Shots Winter Sessions:

Our winter session of Soccer Shots (ages 2 and up) will run from **January 9th to February 27th!** Use the following link to sign up:

[https://chestercounty-newcastlecounty.soccershots.com/pd/4178/chesterbrook-academy-wayne-mondays-mini-c?rid=232&zip=19087&st\\_t=1071&st\\_ti=1429&returncom=productlist&source=search](https://chestercounty-newcastlecounty.soccershots.com/pd/4178/chesterbrook-academy-wayne-mondays-mini-c?rid=232&zip=19087&st_t=1071&st_ti=1429&returncom=productlist&source=search)

**Love Our School? Leave a Review!**



In today's connected world, many families turn to online reviews to learn more about the reputation of schools. Just a reminder that you can find our school on Facebook, Google, Yelp, and other online directories. If you love the community we have here, please consider spreading the word online!




## Chesterbrook Academy Wayne


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