

# Chesterbrook Academy Gaithersburg

February 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

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Our students will learn about local and influential African Americans through books, learning experiences, and classroom discussions.

## Thematic Approach For February

Theme: Big Animals

## ♡ Valentine's Day ♡



### **Classroom Celebration**

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



### **Priority Re-Enrollment**

For all eligible families, our priority registration program for the 2023-2024 school year will kick off on Monday, February 6th and continue through Friday, March 17th. We will be sending reminders via our Links 2 Home communication tool to ensure you secure your child's spot for the coming school year and take advantage of the priority re-enrollment registration discount. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Join us for our next Virtual Parenting Workshop, "Setting Limits with Love", on February 7 at 4PM PST / 7PM EST**

Parenting expert, Rachel Sklar, will discuss how and when to set limits in a way that creates a positive

relationship with your child. Sign up at <https://conta.cc/3iQoeyl>.

## Family 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 1- Tuition Day

February 2 - Groundhog Day

February 14 - Valentine's Day celebrations

February 20 - School CLOSED for Professional Development Day/Presidents' Day

February 28 - End-of-month folders go home

## Exploring Valentine's Day at School and at Home

Valentine's Day is a favorite holiday among our students. They love exchanging cards and treats with their classmates and participating in all the themed activities we plan throughout the month.

Activities include learning about different types of flowers typically given for the holiday, how to care for them, and where they are grown. Students also learn about the postal service and practice their writing skills by making and mailing cards. We also integrate conversations and books about kindness, friendship, and family throughout our day.

Below are four activities to continue the learning and fun at home with your little one.

### Sink the Candy Heart Boat

For this fun sink vs. float experiment, you'll need a bucket or tray filled with water, candy conversation hearts, and lightweight plastic containers. Place the containers in the water and ask your child to guess how many candy conversation hearts will sink the container. Encourage your child to count as they fill the container one candy heart at a time. They may find that the container sinks faster depending on where the candy hearts are placed!

### Sponge Painting

Create colorful heart prints using sponges and paint. Cut heart shapes out of sponges and provide them to your child along with pink, white, and red paint. Ask them to pick up the sponge, dip it into the paint, and press it onto paper to create festive prints. This is a great project to foster creativity and to practice fine motor skills. Encourage older children to use the prints to create Valentine's Day cards for family or friends.

### Indoor Heart Hopscotch

Put your child's balance and gross motor skills to the test by playing a fun game of hopscotch. Gather markers, 10 pieces of construction paper, and painter's tape. Draw a large heart on each piece of paper, add a number from 1-10 inside each heart, and tape it to the floor to create a hopscotch board. You can make the game as easy or difficult as you'd like. Some ideas include asking your child to say the numbers aloud as they hop, jumping over specific numbers, or encouraging them to create their own game.

### Valentine's Day Books

Valentine's Day is a perfect time to reinforce themes of love, kindness, friendship, and acceptance through books. Some of our favorites include, *Llama Llama I Love You* by Anna Dewdney, *The Day It Rained Hearts* by Felicia Bond, *The Night Before Valentine's Day* by Natasha Wing, and *Little Blue Truck's Valentine* by Alice Schertle.







## Accessing Alma Parent Portal

1. Visit Chesterbrook Academy at Gaithersburg to access the Alma Portal:

**[Kentlands.ChesterbrookAcademy.com](https://Kentlands.ChesterbrookAcademy.com)**

2. Next go to the For Parents menu and select Account

3. Enter your username and password.

**\*\*Your username is:**

first name. last name. Example: John.Doe

- The welcome to Alma home page should be the next screen after logging in. You will receive a link to reset password. It may go to your spam/junk folder.



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