

Preschool Press

EASTMINSTER PRESCHOOL • eastminsterkids.org • 616-247-0433 • January/February 2022

Welcome back for our second semester! We hope you all had a wonderful relaxing Christmas celebration with your friends and family, even though things may have been a bit different this year. We're so glad we have been able to be open again, and especially to have your little ones back. As we begin our winter season, we are hoping we're able to have a few Winter Fun Nights, as well as celebrating Valentine's Day together. Of course, we'll have lots of winter fun here at Eastminster!

Scholastic Book Orders

If you've ordered books recently, you know that supply chain issues have really hit Scholastic hard. Due to the length of time we've been waiting for our orders, we have decided not to do a book order in January or February. We are hoping to do one in March if things improve. Thank you so much for your patience with this!

Upcoming Winter Fun Nights

6:30-7:30 (ish) pm

We hope you've already marked your calendar for our upcoming Winter Fun Nights. We are excited to have some fun winter activities set up here at Eastminster Preschool! We ask that one loving adult in your child's life accompany your child to this event. We must ask that siblings not be included, as this is a special one-on-one time for you and your child. Please plan on having all attendees masked. Thanks!

Here are the dates for your child's class:

AM 4's Monday, Jan 24

PM 4/5's Tuesday, Jan 25

MW 3's Monday, Jan 31

T/Th 3's Tuesday, Feb. 1

In Person Open House

This year we are planning our usual in-person open house for families wishing to check out our preschool on Tuesday, Jan. 18 from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. Please spread the word—we so appreciate your recommendations! Masks will be Required.

Curriculum Items

Themes (3's)

1/3-1/20 Transportation

1/24-2/3 Winter

2/7-2/15 Valentines/Friends

2/16-3/3 Zoo Animals

Themes (4/5's)

1/3-1/20 Space

1/24-1/27 Winter

1/31-2/10 AM-Mammals, PM-Bears

2/14-2/17 Valentines/Friends

2/22-3/10 Fine Arts

Dramatic Play (3's)

1/3-1/20 Train/Ticket Booth

1/24-2/11 Snow/Hot Chocolate Shop

2/14-3/4 Zoo

Dramatic Play (4/5's)

1/3-1/21 Space Station

1/24-2/17 Bear Cave

Snow Day Information

Snow season is now upon us! You will always find closing information on both channels 8 and 13 and an all-school email will be sent. If you are ever uncertain whether school is cancelled, watch for "Eastminster Preschool" to be listed on channels 8 and 13, or check each of these station's school-closing apps. When school is closed, no one is available to take your phone call and preschool is locked. Of course, feel free to call/text your child's teacher as well if you need clarification.

Other Upcoming Dates

White Day (3's) 2/2 & 2/3

V-Day M/W 3's & AM & PM 4/5's 2/14

V-Day T/Th 3's 2/15

Brown Day (3's) 3/2 & 3/3

Mid-Winter Break 2/21 (no Monday classes)

Conferences 3/14-3/16 (no school on 3/14 & 3/15)

2022-23 Enrollment

Our brochure for the 2022-23 school year is coming home today. As a current family, you may enroll at this time (this includes siblings.) Open enrollment will start at our Open House on Jan. 18. You can either fill out the enrollment form on the brochure and send it back in, or you can enroll from our website: eastminsterkids.org. We are offering the same classes we did this year:

3's classes:

Monday/Wednesday, 8:30—11:15

Tuesday/Thursday, 8:30—11:15

4's classes:

Mon-Thurs, 8:30—11:15 (can choose to come M, T, Th if 3 mornings are desired)

*Mon-Thurs, 12:15—3:15

Young 5's:

*Mon-Thurs, 12:15—3:15

*these two may be combined based on enrollment

Valentine's Day Info

We want to let you know how we celebrate Valentine's Day here at preschool. Children will exchange Valentines *with their small group only*. Addressing Valentines to specific children is not preferred because it slows down our delivery process. Simply have your child write his/her name to sign each Valentine. Also, because of student allergies/food preferences, we prefer no candy to be given with Valentines. (Reminder: if your child attends more than one class session, please look at the numbers needed for each small group he/she is in.)

MW 3's (Feb 14)

Mrs. Marsh: 6 Valentines (+ teacher)

Mrs. Wieggers: 7 Valentines (+ teacher)

AM 4's (Feb 14)

Mrs. Rybarsyk (Fellows): 6 Valentines (+ teacher)

Mrs. Mercer: 7 Valentines (+ teacher)

Mrs. Waalkes: 7 Valentines (+ teacher)

T/Th 3's (Feb 15)

Mrs. Wieggers: 6 Valentines (+ teacher)

Mrs. Collins: 5 Valentines (+ teacher)

Mrs. Krosschell: 6 Valentines (+teacher)

PM 4/5's (Feb 14)

Mrs. Karel: 7 Valentines (+ teacher)

Mrs. Vandenberg: 7 Valentines (+ teacher)

Label Clothing

Please help us keep track of clothing by labeling your child's winter clothes. Sometimes children have the exact same gloves or don't recognize their snow pants so a name on a tag inside is so appreciated! Just a reminder: the PM 4/5's class goes outside at the beginning of their session unless the feels like temperature on the weather channel app is 14 or less at 11:45 am. If your child attends lunch bunch after a morning class, they also will be going outside unless the feels like temperature is 14 or less. Thanks so much for your help with this!

OUR CLASSROOM PET

Buttercup is our classroom guinea pig. She is in need of some loving homes to go to. She comes with a cage, bedding, and food—you add the love and fun! She is available to take home on weekends, and also for our school vacations. **We will be sending you a sign up genius through email for signing up to host her. Please note, the dates that will be listed will be by Thursdays since that is our last class day in the week, but if your child doesn't come on Thursdays, she can certainly go home on Wednesday.** Hopefully this will simplify the process.

Thanks also to all of the families who have cared for Buttercup so far!



Carpool Numbers

Just a friendly reminder to please use your carpool numbers when picking up your children. Especially with the larger classes, teachers really need to see the numbers from the car window so they can bring your child out to you (and not someone else's child!) Sometimes if the number is stuck to the window, teachers can't see it because of glare, so maybe lift it up so they can see it--this would help speed up the pick-up process for us. Also, if you have an alternative person pick up your child, please remember to let us know, and give them a carpool number as well. (Even writing the number with a sharpie onto a paper would work!) Thanks for your help with this!



Parent-Child Interaction Ideas

As you are playing with and interacting with your child, here are some open-ended questions to prompt discussions and further exploration of materials, books, puzzles, blocks, etc. These are the same questions we use here at preschool!

Tell me about...

Why do you think...?

What happened when...?

What else can you do with...?

What would happen if...?

How might you use...?

I wonder if...?

Try a few out and see what happens!

