



February 2023 Newsletter

FRIENDSHIP MONTH!

Only 28 days but lots going on!!!



We are halfway through winter. We can't wait for warmer weather and longer days outside to play.

Groundhog Day Fun Facts: Groundhogs are famous for predicting Spring. Groundhog Day is on **February 2nd**. According to legend, if the groundhog comes out of his burrow on February 2nd and does not see his shadow then, Spring will come early. If the groundhog sees a shadow, then it goes back into its burrow and Winter will last 6 more weeks. What will **Punxsutawney Phil** predict? Think Spring!!



Our Bright Beginnings Valentine's Day Party will be on Tuesday February 14th.

If your child would like to send in Valentine's for his/her classmates, please do not write student's name on the Valentine's. Our Valentine's exchange will be much easier for the students to hand out if names are not written. Thank you for your understanding. Please make sure there are enough Valentine's for the entire class.

Sincerely, Bright Beginnings Staff

Happy Valentine's Day!!

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



Dates to Remember



- Feb 1st – Candy Art Project
- Feb 2nd – Groundhog Day
- Feb 6th – Service Dog Day
- Feb 7th – Tooth Fairy Day
- Feb 14th – Valentine's Day Friendship Party
- Feb 15th – EMT & Ambulance Presentations
- Feb 16th – Dental Visit 10am
- Feb 17th & 20th – Stroud Schools Closed
- Feb 20th – Presidents Day
- Feb 21st – Mail Carrier Day

February Birthdays



- Feb 12th – Ms. Dasia
- Feb 13th – Logan K
- Feb 16th – Delaney L
- Feb 17th – Evan VP, AJ S, Myasia L.
- Feb 20th – Michael C
- Feb 24th – Riley V
- Feb 27th – Valentina & Ms. Rose

CLASSROOM NEWS!!!

Infant Room News:

January came and went in the blink of an eye! We had many milestones reached here in the infant classroom recently.

Addy and Athena both celebrated their 1st birthday, one of them at the end of December and the other in mid-January. Violet figured out how to crawl and moved straight to standing. Bryce has settled in seamlessly, and our new friends Colin and Grace have been a joy!

We are ready to continue our growth with Ms. Peggy, who has joined us from the Waddler 2 classroom. The children all love her kind and gentle demeanor 😊

- Ms. Stacey & Ms. Peggy



Waddler Room 1 News:

Hello Waddler Parents! The month of January sure was busy! We matched mittens, pretended to be ice skaters, and walked and roared like polar bears.

Some skills we are working on to prepare for the toddler room is to clean up the toys, follow directions, and safety rules as we walk to the playground.

Have a great month!

- Ms. Laura & Ms. Emily



WELCOME OUR NEW STUDENTS & STAFF!!!

We would like to welcome the new students that started this past month. Let's please welcome Grace and Colin to our Infant Room, Charlotte to the Waddler Room and John to Preschool! We also welcome Ms. Devin our new preschool assistant teacher!

We are very happy to have you join our Bright Beginnings family!



FEB WEEKLY THEMES

Week 1: Inspire the Heart with Art

Week 2: Dental Awareness



Week 3: First Responders

Week 4: Infrastructure



Week 5: Travel



SCHOLASTIC BOOKS ORDERS!!!

We will be doing our monthly Scholastic Book orders again!

This is a great way to get some children's books for your child's collection and help us earn free books for the school! Orders are due the 15th of the month and shipped right to the school for easy pick up. You can order using the order forms or online.



CLASSROOM NEWS CONTINUED!!!

Waddler Room 2 News:

Waddler 2 was full of NEW, as we began January 2023. We started the NEW Year with a NEW teacher. Most of my students moved into a NEW classroom. We also welcomed a NEW friend Charlotte.

Saige has been a nice friend to everyone showing all the girls the play center and all the toys in the Waddler 2 classroom.

To begin the month we introduced the theme, Healthy Me and all got to know each other while learning about Healthy food by making Colorful Plate Sticker Collages. During Winter Fun week Saige and Scarlett really enjoyed panting with ice during winter fun week, while Charlotte and Eliana had a blast with new scented gel crayons.

Sensory and Tactile experiences were a big focus as we learned about arctic animals and hibernation and migration. All the girls enjoyed feeling the different textures as I introduced the touch and feel book *Never Touch a Polar Bear*. I am looking forward to adding more touch and feel books to our classroom reading center. They also like to revisit the Snowman Sticky Wall which is contact paper hung on the door and the children used ripped tissue paper to stick on the contact paper. Very fun activity!

We are looking forward to celebrating our friendships as we have our Valentine's Day party on the 14th!

- Ms. Carrie



Toddler Room News:

Wow some crazy weather we have been having here in the Poconos. Please remember to dress your child for going outside when the weather allows.

Let's welcome Madison and Asher to the Toddler classroom. They are adjusting well.

Our friends are working on keeping our shoes on in the classroom, playing nicely in our learning center, using nice hands with our friends and as always having fun while learning.



Ms. Amanda & Ms. Karlyn

Preschool Room News:

Our Pre-School students are reviewing up for more fun filled activities this winter. One of the winter activities the students enjoyed was making snowball prints during project time. They also loved learning about the arctic and the animals that live there. The students have been working on their cutting and pasting skills.

We would like to welcome Ms. Devin to our classroom, she is enjoying getting to know all our friends and their parents and she can't wait to see what new skills the children will learn next. We would also like to welcome John to our classroom. He is so happy to be coming to school and is making new friends.

- Ms. Jamian & Ms. Devin

REFERRAL PLAN

Invite family or friends to visit our center. When they enroll with us you earn \$50 in cash or a \$50 credit towards your next invoice.



CLASSROOM NEWS CONTINUED!!!

Pre-K Blurb

Our Pre-K class had a wonderful January. We started the year off by expanding upon our writing skills. Along with writing our names and letters, we also started practicing writing numbers. We have introduced rhyming words to the class and in doing so have noticed it has helped tremendously with their listening and comprehension skills, especially during story time.

Now that we have reached the second half of the year, Ms. Lisa and I would like to encourage parents and caregivers to have their child practice writing their names, lacing activities, or hands on at home projects with their rising Kindergarteners to help them strengthen their fine motor skills. We will also be introducing Fun Work if any Pre-K families would be interested. This could look like drawing pictures, writing their name, engaging in an art & craft at home. (There will be more information to follow on Fun Work).

We also have been working on math activities like counting, charting, and measuring. Additionally, in the upcoming weeks we will be working on recognizing our emotions and problem solving when we are upset with our friends. Finally, we would like to remind parents to bring appropriate winter attire as we go outside every day, weather permitting. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let us know! Thank You.

- Ms. Melissa & Ms. Lisa



School Age News:

Hello, hello, hello! Welcome to February! Last month we discussed making healthy choices and even made a bucket list of all the things the children would love to do in the wintertime. It was awesome to see what the children were interested in. They also made winter banners for the classroom board, and I must say... WOW!!! What artists they are!!!

Now, as we roll into the second month of the new year, we will be updating and going over the classroom rules to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding how we should act in the classroom. As we focus on this, I am asking that all guardians continue encouraging and promoting proper behavior at home as we want to keep the classroom as pleasant and joyous as possible.

- Ms. Crystal



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KEYSTONE STARS
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING



STAR 4 Center

5 Benefits of Parental Love

The good news is that authentic parental love is a skill that we can learn. It starts with understanding the clear benefits our children receive when they live in a home where “love” is truly spelled “T-I-M-E”:

1. Spiritual Growth

Love is a physical need for children. When our kids receive and learn to give love, they won't be as thirsty for love from people outside the family. The authentic love of parents helps children develop an identity as a beloved child of God, one who has the capacity and responsibility to share that love with others.

2. Brain Growth

Research from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, has demonstrated that a mother's love helps her child's brain grow—as much as twice the rate as that of a neglected child. Preschoolers who received parental love and nurturing from their moms were found to have more growth in the hippocampus, the part of the brain involved in learning, memory, and response to stress. This early growth can have a significant effect on their development later in childhood. “It's vital that kids receive support and nurturing during those early years,” said lead author Dr. Joan Luby.

3. Self-Confidence

The children I have counseled over the years tend to become more self-confident when they feel a genuine and unconditional love from their parents. These children learn to enjoy the moments and experiences of life instead of being worried about what their future holds. Being hyper-focused on the future can create a paralyzing stress. But family environments where parental love is frequently demonstrated—where family members authentically enjoy doing life together—prepare children to boldly face all the questions the future may bring.

4. Strength to Face Adversity

Kids from loving homes tend to better learn to be adaptable. The love of parents gives kids the roots needed to develop resilience and perspective for facing life's difficulties. Kids are better able to learn perseverance, self-control, and patience when they receive authentic, encouraging and supportive words from their parents.

5. A Sense of Security and an Ability to Handle Boundaries

True parental love means helping children appreciate limits and boundaries. And this pays off in our kids' lives. Kids don't *like* boundaries—they actually *love* them. They enforce them on the playground, they feel safe and secure when they have them, and they feel loved when they remember these moments with parents. Yes, a child's emotions do get in the way of his liking his parents' boundaries. His often-selfish desire for immediate gratification prevents him from seeing clearly. But even if they won't admit it, children thrive in a home with loving, clearly defined boundaries.

**Read to your children, it's
the best investment you will
make in their education.**



A LOOK BACK AT JANUARY EVENTS



YOUR FEEDBACK

We appreciate the wonderful feedback we have received so far! Thank you so much! Please support us by sharing that great feedback with others by giving us a 5-star review on our [website](#) or on our [Facebook](#) page. Thank you for your help and for being a part of our Bright Beginnings family!