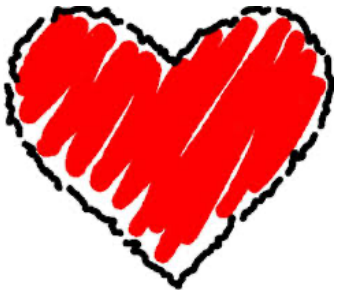
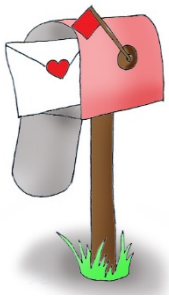


The Giving Nest Preschool February Newsletter

Valentine's Day and The Giving Nest – Perfect Together



Parties, Treats, Valentine cards and Valentine games abound at the Giving Nest in February. Please take a few minutes and read your child's *February "Tweet".* It will explain what you need to do to make certain your child has everything he/she needs to make and send Valentines home to your family and Valentines to share with classmates. It also tells you the date of your child's party.

Your child will be bringing a red or pink heart home in the backpack. This month there will be a large banner with three hearts displayed on the stage. Throughout the month we would like each student to tell their parents about someone at the Giving Nest who they would like to thank. **Parents, please help us out with this exercise and write down the name of the person (classmate, teacher, office staff, someone's mom, aftercare helpers etc) and the reason they are being thanked. Your child will have the opportunity to come on stage and we will read what is written on the heart and hang it on the banner during Sing.**

Manner of the Month – Saying Thank You & Feeling Grateful

This month, we hope, with your help, to encourage our students to consciously think about being grateful and going out of their way to say thank you to teachers, family members and friends. Along with reminding the children to say thank you in obvious situations we will discuss what it means to be a genuinely grateful person and to have a grateful heart. We will encourage the children to look around and notice the small, everyday things people do for them and then suggest they say thank you for these things. Examples would be when mommy washes your clothes or daddy reads you a story or grandma buckles you in the car seat or a classmate helps you with a puzzle piece or a teacher helps you find your gloves.

We love learning about our Presidents

In honor of "Honest" Abraham Lincoln and George Washington's birthdays we will talk about the importance of telling the truth during Sing Time. The children will learn that the truth is best, even if it means you might be in trouble. George Washington is our model for this lesson. Mrs. Hannon will play the part of young George on his tenth birthday receiving a new axe for a present. In the skit, his dad tells him not to use the axe until he returns home. Georgie gives into temptation and takes the axe outside. In his excitement he cuts down one of his dad's cherry trees. Georgie becomes upset knowing his Dad will be very angry.

The Giving Nest children help Georgie decide what to do. Usually their solutions vary from telling Georgie to try to tape the tree together, to suggesting little Georgie just keep it a secret! After much discussion however, the children eventually decide the best thing is to tell the truth and accept the punishment.

Later in the month Mrs. Hannon will take this lesson further and invite a few children to come up on the stage and help out with role-playing. In the skit one child builds a castle with blocks and two other children come over and knock the blocks over. Mrs. Hannon walks over and asks " Oh dear, who knocked down the blocks?" The children say "not us" then Mrs. Hannon explains why this is not the right thing to do. The children agree and the scene is re-enacted but this time the children admit to knocking down the blocks. Mrs. Hannon says that it was wrong to knock down the blocks but it very good they told the truth. They must now clean the blocks up and apologize. The children comply. They are commended for accepting the consequences and told how wonderful it was that they told the truth.

The scene is re-enacted again and this time Mrs. Hannon instructs the children to remain silent after they knock down the blocks. After the blocks crash to the floor, Mrs. Hannon walks over and asks, "Who knocked down these blocks?" The girls say nothing and Mrs. Hannon directs an important question to all the children at *Sing*. "Is it a lie if you don't say anything when you know the truth?"

It is very exciting to listen to the children's thoughts on this. They generally end up agreeing that yes, it is lying if you don't say anything and you know the truth. And it is important to tell the truth even if it means you may get in trouble. To end this lesson Mrs. Hannon will do a puppet show using a modern day version of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" to explain the possible consequences of lying.