

# The Giving Nest Preschool & Kindergarten

## In North Plainfield

### February 2026 Newsletter



#### Mark your Calendars - Important Dates

January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> - Sending home plain white envelopes for a special Valentine surprise! - please return to school with your address and a stamp no later than February 6th (see page 2 for Valentine Card details)

January 30<sup>th</sup> - Calling New Families for 2026/2027 Registration.

February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Groundhog Day! - Will the ground hog see his shadow? We will find out and talk about it during Sing Time!

February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sending home paper 'Hearts' for our **Grateful Heart** Display (return by the end of the month-see below for details).

February 9<sup>th</sup> - In-House 2026/2027 Registration Packets go home! Be sure to check your child's folder.

February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> - Celebrating Valentine's Day in your child's class. Check your child's class calendar for the day. Remember to wear **RED** or **Pink** to celebrate the occasion.

February 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> - No School! President's Weekend!

February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> - The Ducklings will celebrate Gingerbread Day. Check your child's calendar for his/her date/time and be sure to return the response card!

February 20<sup>th</sup> - In-House Registration paperwork and 1<sup>st</sup> payment due!

February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Summer Camp registration begins! Look for the email to sign up, be sure to check your time.

February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> - Bluebirds 'Curds and Whey Café'-be sure to return the rsvp!

February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> - Sponge Painting Display in the hallway. Be sure to find your child's artwork!



**TAX TIME:** Important - Tax ID# : 02-0693989



**In-House Registration...** Registration Packets will be sent home the week of February 9th in your child's folder. Be sure to return all your paperwork no later than February 20th to secure your child's spot. Please email or call us with any questions.



#### Saying Thank You and 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!



**Grateful Hearts...** On February 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> your child will receive a paper 'Heart' in his/her folder from their teacher. This is a lesson reminding children to say, "Thank You" and what it means to be grateful. Have your child tell you about someone they are grateful for at the Giving Nest. Write down the name of the person on the heart and the reason they are being thanked. Please write your child's name on the other side of the heart so we know who it is from. It can be a classmate, teacher, someone's mom, aftercare helpers, office staff, etc. Your child will bring their heart to school and Mrs. Amy will read what is written on the hearts during Morning Sing and then place them on our walls in the hallway for all to share and read.



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**A Valentine Surprise!** The children will also be making special Valentine cards and mailing them home to their families. Parents: please affix a postage stamp on the white envelope we send home on January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The envelope will be provided for you, sent home in your child's folder. Please address the envelope to you and your family, with your child's help, affix the stamp and return it to school. The children love knowing that their Valentine's Day card will go to the post office, and then will be delivered to their home address, and they anxiously wait for its arrival!

### Duckling Gingerbread Day!



Run, run as fast as you can; You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man! Come prepared to have fun! The Giving Nest Duckling Class invites you to come for one hour of storytelling, singing, and crafting. The central theme of the party will be the story: "The Gingerbread Man." Check your child's class calendar to see what day his/her class is scheduled. And be sure to return the response card that is sent home in your child's folder so we know who will be attending. We invite one guest per student.



### Valentine's Day and Preschool Students --- 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 What's Up. It will explain what you need to do to make certain your child has everything he/she needs to make and send Valentine's to share with classmates. Please check your child's individual class calendars to see when his/her party is scheduled. Look for the email with a sign up if you would like to help make your child's class Valentine's party more festive.

### Valentine's love... Sharing Valentine's Day Cards with our classmates:



We **LOVE** celebrating Valentine's Day at the Giving Nest! On the day of your child's class party please send in Valentine's cards for all the children in the class.

Chickadees and Duckling parents should sign their child's name on the inside of the card and leave the outside envelope blank. This way your children can 'deliver' their own cards without having to read names on the outside.

**Bluebird and Cardinal children** should address envelopes with their classmates' names and sign their names on the inside of each card. These children have begun to recognize each other's names and will have fun delivering their Valentine's themselves. Of course, the teacher will assist any child that needs help.



## President's Day

We will meet a few of the Presidents of the United States and learn some interesting facts about the presidents! The children will learn a silly song about Bubble Gum that teaches money names: penny, nickel, dime, quarter, and dollar.



Reminder No School for President's Weekend on February 13<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup>!



## Bluebirds ' Curds and Whey Café

The Bluebirds will be learning the proper techniques for serving a meal; including taking drink orders, presenting the meal, using good manners, and presenting you with the cheque. We will invite two (2) family members per child to attend this event. Look for the invitation in your child's folder and be sure to return your response card by the required date. Throughout the lunch the children will entertain their guests by reciting many nursery rhymes that they have learned in school. Please check your child's class calendar for his/her day.

## February Weather and Healthy Habits...



- Weather and temperature permitting, the teachers will take the children outside, even if for a short walk.
- With this in mind, please dress your children for outside play every day (warm jacket, hat, mittens and a scarf).
- Make sure the extra clothes in the bottom of your child's backpack are changed for the winter season.
- Encourage healthy eating habits-drinking water and eating more vegetables (carrots, celery, cucumbers) and fresh fruits (strawberries, blueberries, grapes).
- Remember to brush teeth twice a day, in the morning and before bed.
  - Encourage 8-10 hours of sleep every night.



**SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION** ... Information about our summer camp programs that will be held in our Watchung and Warren locations will be coming out on February 17th. Registration is on a first come-first serve basis. Please look for detailed information regarding what time you can register your child(ren). Summer Camp sign-ups will begin on February 23<sup>rd</sup>!