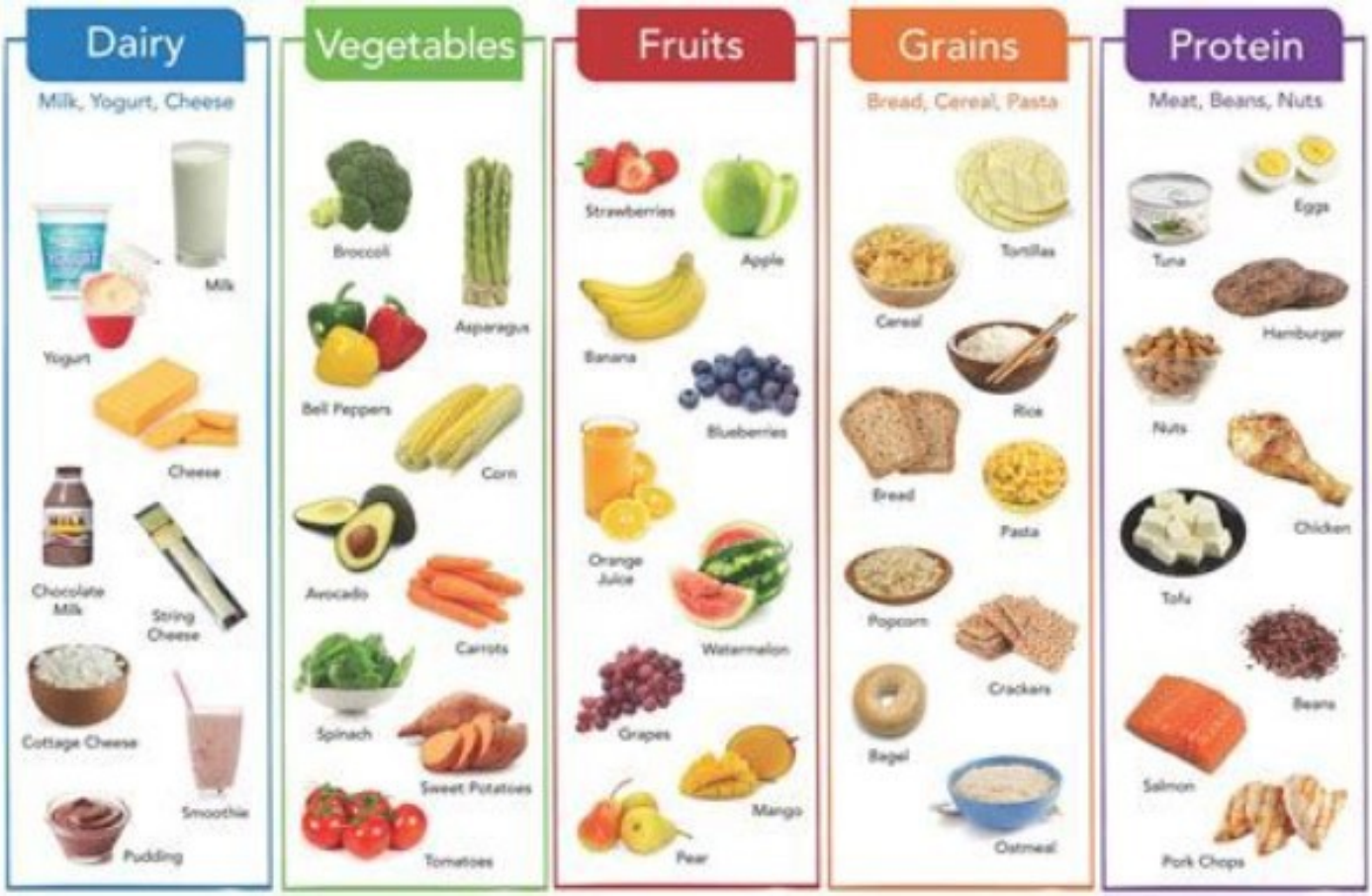
Preschool Parent Newsletter

January 2026

New Beginnings & Winter Explorations

- **Theme of the Month: Fresh Starts & Winter Wonders**
  - Emphasizing routines, setting classroom goals, and revisiting expectations after the break
  - Exploring winter through sensory activities, weather discussions, and seasonal play
  - Encouraging children to talk about their winter break experiences
- **Learning Focus**
  - **Literacy**: “All About Me” books, name recognition, storytelling
  - **Math**: Counting snowflakes, sorting winter clothing items, measuring footprints
  - **Science**: Observing ice, snow (real or pretend), and talking about how animals stay warm in winter
- **Books We’re Reading This Month**
  - *“The Mitten” by Jan Brett*
  - *“Snowmen at Night” by Caralyn Buehner*
  - *“Over and Under the Snow” by Kate Messner*
- **Social-Emotional Focus: Independence & Responsibility**
  - Rebuilding self-help skills (putting on winter gear, cleaning up)
  - Encouraging confidence in trying new tasks
  - Talking about setting simple “goals” or “wishes” for the new year
- **At-Home Connection: Starting Fresh Together**
  - Create a “New Year goal” with your child (e.g., try a new food, learn to zip coat)
  - Practice putting on winter clothes independently
  - Go on a winter nature walk and talk about what you see



Nutrition and Health

We are talking about healthy foods at school. Please send your child to school with healthy foods, only, and take the time to discuss nutritious meal choices at home. Thank you for your partnership in this!

Wellness Tips

🌴 **Healthy Habits**

- **Snack Smart**: Offer fruits, veggies, and whole grains. Keep sugary treats occasional.
- **Hydration Reminder**: Kids need water throughout the day—send a labeled reusable water bottle.

🛏 **Rest & Routine**

- **Sleep Counts**: Preschoolers need 10–13 hours of sleep each night. Consistent bedtimes help regulate emotions and energy.
- **Morning Calm**: Build in 10 extra minutes each morning for a peaceful start to the day

🧼 **Clean & Care**

- **Handwashing Matters**: Reinforce washing hands before meals and after using the bathroom to prevent colds and bugs.
- **Teach Tissues**: Help your child practice sneezing or coughing into their elbow and using tissues independently.

🏃 **Move & Play**

- **Outside Every Day**: 20–30 minutes of outdoor play supports mood, sleep, and focus.
- **Dance Breaks**: A quick dance party after school can shake off stress and boost joy.

💗 **Emotional Wellness**

- **Name the Feeling**: Help your child label their emotions ("You're feeling frustrated because..."). This builds emotional intelligence.
- **Quiet Moments**: Create a calm-down space at home with a soft pillow or favorite book for when your child feels overwhelmed.

December Star Students

Daphne from Maestra Joanna's Class

Daphne is this month's Star Student because she demonstrates kindness, determination, and joyful enthusiasm every single day. In just a few short weeks, she has shown tremendous growth, blossoming into an independent, strong-willed girl who approaches each day with confidence. Her caring nature shines through in everything she does, and her bright smile brings warmth to our classroom. Daphne's cheerful spirit and steady growth make her a joy to have in class, and we couldn't be more proud of all she has achieved.

Leonel from Maestra Talia's Class

Leonel is our Star Student because he has a vivid imagination and creates thoughtful, well-structured projects in the Art Center. He also demonstrates strong language skills and shows great ability with both letters and numbers.

Jacob from Maestra Alicia's Class

Jacob is kind to everyone, always follows the rules, and is consistently happy and excited about school and learning.

Noah from Maestra Gisel's Class

Noah is my star student of the month because he stands out each day for his positive attitude and his excitement to

Leonardo from Miss Taylor's Class

Leo has been working extremely hard and has made great progress throughout the first half of the school year.

Jacob pays good attention, participates well, and has many friends. His kind heart and outgoing personality make him a safe and welcoming peer for new students or classmates who are upset or sad. I love having Jacob in my class!

learn. He consistently follows directions and follows our classroom rules and routines with responsibility. Noah is kind, respectful and is always willing to help his classmates. Noah is truly a leader—his attitude and behavior sets a wonderful example for all his classmates. We are so proud of him!

Although Leo is one of our youngest students he is always participating in circle time, read aloud, and small groups, he is constantly making new friends, and he is consistently making GO choices. Leo is kind to everyone and is always making everyone around him smile and laugh. Great job, Leo, I am super proud of you!

Jenia from Miss Maclaine's Class

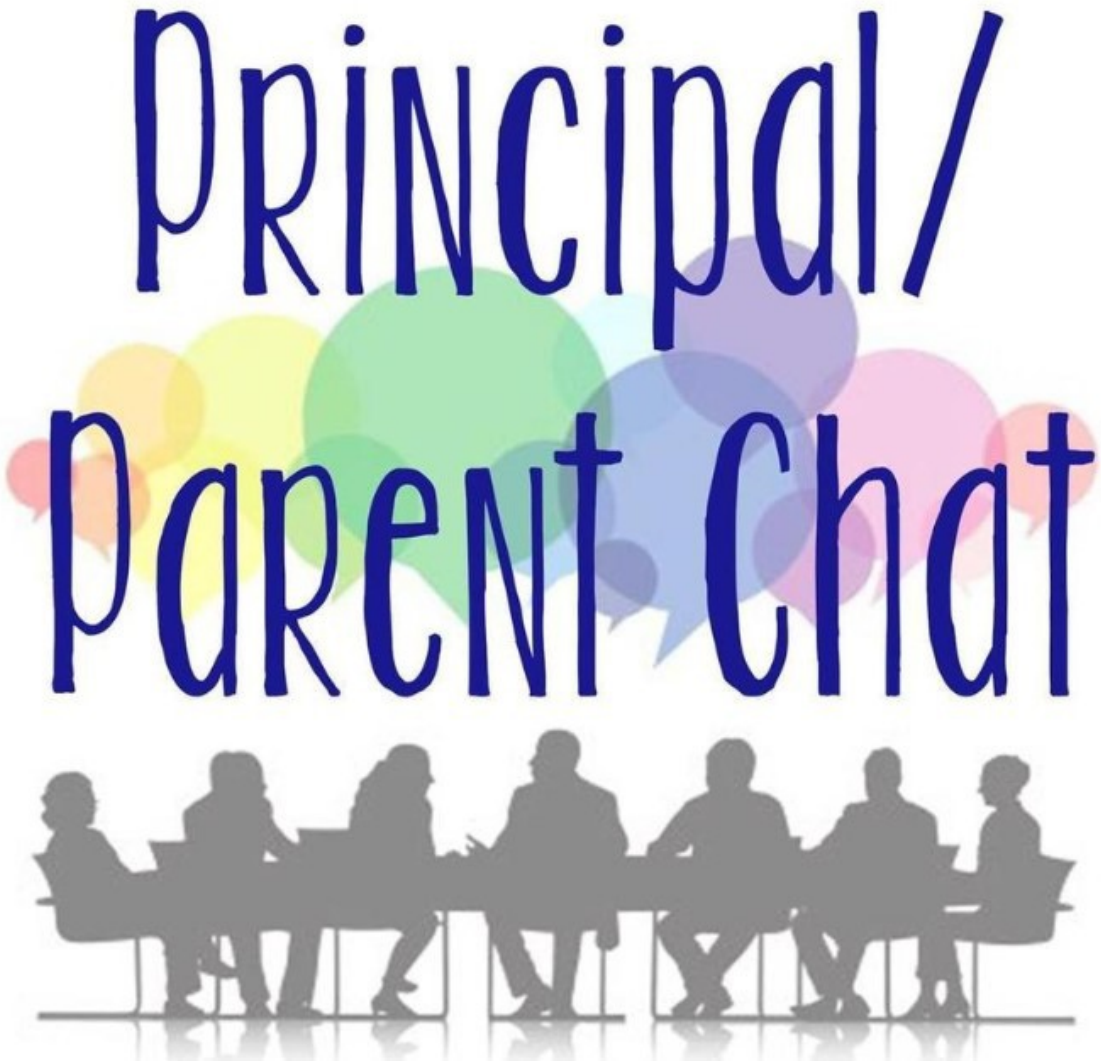
Jenia is such a kind, empathetic and loving kid. She comes into school everyday ready to learn with everybody and works very hard to make go choices. Jenia plays with everybody in class and makes friends wherever she goes. She has the best manners and always gives out compliments to teachers and students. We love having her in class!

Scarlett from Maestra Desiree's Class

Scarlett is creative, kind, and responsible. She is a role model to her peers and an eager learner.

Attendance Matters!

Happy New Year, students! January is a fresh start, and it's the perfect time to focus on your goals and stay committed to school. Every day you attend helps you stay on track, learn new things, and be ready for the challenges ahead. Let’s make this month count—show up, participate, and start the year strong! We’re excited to see you in class!



You are invited to a virtual "Chat with the Principal" on January 12th at 7:00 PM

Please log on to Google Meets for a time to talk with members of our Principal team.

Topic this month: New routines you are trying at home in the new year!

- January 12th @ 7 PM- We will be sharing updates and asking for your thoughts on an area of our program.
- The chat will be at this link meet.google.com/nix-bfvv-rpt

We look forward to seeing many of you there!
Spanish translation will be provided.

Reading with your child

We send classroom and library books home in the backpack for you to use. We also encourage you to join the West Chicago library for additional books in your home.

As you read to your child, ask them questions about the pictures and stories and celebrate together all they are learning! Here are some comprehension questions for you to ask.

Preparing for Possible Snow Days

In the event of a snow day or closure, we have created an activity board for you to access and complete with your child. Here is the link to the PreK activity board. Please also consider using an art bin, books, blocks, or other toys for your child.

These are also great activities to do during extended breaks from school!

Birth to 3 Program in West Chicago

If you have a child ages 0-2 or know of families with children this age, check out our Birth to 3 services right here in West Chicago D33!
Call for more information today: 630-473-0778. You can also reach us via email at: wegobirthto3@wego33.org or on Facebook: @d33birthtothree

Important Dates!

Chat with the Principal

- Monday, January 12 @ 7:00 pm- meet.google.com/nix-bfvv-rpt

No School on these days coming up!

- Martin Luther King Jr Day- Jan 19
- No School- Feb 12-13
- President's Day - Feb 16
- County Wide Institute Day - Feb 27

Parent-Child Day- Parents come to school with their children from 9-11:30 or 12:30-3

- January 29

School contact information for attendance

If your child will be absent, please call the Attendance Line to report symptoms **for every day that they are absent**, AND also call the bus company.

Please make sure that all emergency contacts are always updated.

- Pioneer Preschool Attendance Line: 630-293-6040 ext.6300
- Illinois Central School Bus 630-584-1658 EXT 1

PreK School Hours

Preschool Hours:
AM 1/2 Day 8:40 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.
PM 1/2 Day 12:10 p.m.- 2:40 p.m.
Extended Day: 8:40 a.m.-1:40 p.m.
Full Day: 8:40 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Activities in West Chicago

Candyland Carnival

- **When:** Saturday, February 1, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
- **Where:** ARC Center, 201 W. National St., West Chicago
- **Details:** Step into a magical land of sugary treats and fun-filled activities for the entire family. Stroll through Lollipop Lane, test your skills at the Gumdrop Games, and meet beloved characters.
- **Fees:** $12 for residents and $15 for non-residents if registered by January 15; after January 15, $15 for residents and $18 for non-residents.

Lil Explorers - Winter

- **When:** Friday, January 24, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM
- **Where:** Red Oak Nature Center, North Aurora, IL
- **Details:** Explore the wonders of winter with your child through fun hands-on activities, nature-inspired crafts, engaging stories, and self-guided playtime. Weather permitting, venture outdoors to observe and investigate the seasonal changes in the forest.

Questions? Contact the Preschool Admin Team

Brenda Vishanoff, Principal
vishanoffb@wego33.org

Leah Nelson, Assistant Principal

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
PRESCHOOL

nelsonl@wego33.org

Brenda Vishanoff
Brenda is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters