

Preschool Parent Newsletter

December 2025

Preschool Program Audit – Parent Information

Dear Families,

We want to let you know that our preschool will be participating in an upcoming program audit. This is a routine review that helps ensure our school continues to provide a safe, supportive, and high-quality learning environment for all children.

What is the audit for?

The audit looks at many parts of our program, including:

- Classroom learning environments
- Health and safety practices
- Curriculum and lesson planning
- Staff qualifications and training
- Family communication and involvement

When will it happen?

The audit is scheduled for December 2nd-17th

What does this mean for your child?

There will be no changes to your child's daily routine. Classrooms will operate as usual. Auditors may briefly observe activities, look at materials, or review documentation, but they do not interact directly with children.

What do families need to do?

No action is required from parents at this time. If we need any additional forms or updates, we will let you know in advance.

Why is this important?

These reviews help us:

- Maintain high program standards
- Identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Ensure we are meeting all licensing and quality requirements

- Continue providing the best possible early learning experience

Thank you for your support and partnership. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.



Millie the Therapy Dog

We're thrilled to introduce Millie, our certified therapy dog who's spreading smiles, calm energy, and a love for learning across West Chicago Elementary School District 33!

Millie helps students build confidence, focus, and social-emotional skills - all while bringing a little extra joy to the school day.

As part of Millie's Mission, an extension of our All In for Literacy initiative, students get to write real-world stories and ads to help local shelter pets find forever homes. It's a creative way to strengthen literacy while building empathy and community pride.

Millie will visit schools throughout the year in libraries, classrooms, and other shared spaces. Every visit is carefully planned to make sure all students and staff feel safe, comfortable, and included.

Millie's participation follows all guidelines established under the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-22.23) and District 33 policies for student safety, health, and animal-assisted activities. She is fully trained, vaccinated, and supervised by her certified handler at all times.

If your child would prefer not to participate in activities involving Millie, please contact your school principal. An alternate activity will be provided during those times.

We can't wait for you to see how Millie's gentle paws are making a big impact in D33!

November Star Students



Aislinn from Maestra Karen's Class

Aislinn follows the rules of safety in line, in the park, and in the gross motor room. She is kind to other students, and always puts her work away so other students can enjoy it. She has grown in her social skills this past week. She used to play alone all of the time, but lately she has been working together with other students to build with magnet tiles, serve food in the kitchen and do hair and make up in the peluqueria. Aislinn demonstrates that with work and practice all student can be kind, be safe, and work together.



Natalia from Maestra Iza's Class

I chose this student as our star student because she is kind, caring, and always includes everyone- especially classmates with disabilities, this student make our classroom a warm and inclusive place for everyone.



Fiona from Miss Mary's Class

She is a natural born leader and is a great example for our peers in class! She helps all of her friends out without being told to do so! She is a kind



Gia from Maestra Monica's Class

Gia is a shining example of kindness and positivity in our classroom. She's always ready to lend a hand, greets everyone with a smile and approaches tasks with enthusiasm. Her



Aurora from Miss Sarah's Class

Always following class expectations, and participating in group times.

peer in class and loves to play with everyone!

willingness to help others, combined with her bright mind and cheerful attitude makes her a true star student.



Marci from Miss Katie's Class

Marci is always happy when at school. She is a great friend to everyone and will invite friends to play with her and comfort peers who are sad. She makes safe choices in the class such as keeping hands to herself and picking up toys that are on the ground so that nobody trips on them. Marci works together amazingly with teachers and other students to check her daily schedule and completing daily routines and activities.

Luna from Maestra Dalila's Class

Luna displays the three pyramid expectations through her kind heart. Luna is always kind to her friends and adults that she comes in contact with. Luna encourages her peers to make safe choices and she tries to model these expectations with her peers. Luna works well with her peers and helps her peers when she notices they need help. Luna is caring and role model to her peers.

Unit Two in PreK

We are learning to be problem solvers as well as being emotionally and physically healthy!

Your children are learning how to maintain a solution-oriented mindset when faced with a problem. They are also learning the importance of practicing healthy habits and what activities keep their body healthy.

We are thrilled to see the growth our students are making when faced with a problem and taking the vital steps needed to find a solution. We have been practicing how to face these challenges with a positive mindset and working together to find a solution.

We encourage you to ask your child how they are working together to be effective problem solvers. Provided below is our anchor chart that each teacher is using to support the children in maintaining a solution-oriented mindset.

1	2	3	4	5
 <p>Step 1: What is my problem?</p>	 <p>Step 2: Think of a solution.</p>	 <p>Step 3: Would it be...</p>  <p>How would everyone feel?</p> 	 <p>Step 4: Give it a try.</p>	 <p>Step 5: Did it work?</p> <p>If yes,  let's celebrate with a Kagan Cheer.</p> <p>If not,  let's try again and repeat steps: 2-4.</p>

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.

Celebrating Traditions and Winter Wonders

Theme of the Month: Winter Holidays & Celebrations Around the World

- Learning about different holiday traditions (e.g., Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice)
- Fostering respect and curiosity about cultural diversity
- Simple classroom celebrations or projects tied to seasonal themes

Learning Focus

- **Language & Literacy:** Winter stories, winter vocabulary, writing letters or cards
- **Math:** Counting ornaments, measuring ingredients in cooking activities
- **Art & Fine Motor:** Decorating, crafting snowflakes, wrapping pretend gifts

Books to Read This Month

- *"The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats*
- *"Llama Llama Holiday Drama" by Anna Dewdney*
- *"My First Kwanzaa" by Karen Katz*

Social-Emotional Focus: Giving, Sharing, and Joy

- Talking about the joy of giving and kindness during the holidays
- Practicing sharing and patience during group activities
- Ideas for simple acts of kindness at home and school

At-Home Connection: Family Traditions & Memories

- Encourage families to share a favorite holiday tradition or recipe
- Build a snowman (real or paper!)
- Cozy up with winter storytime as a family ritual

Attendance Matters

As we approach the end of the year, it's important to stay focused and keep up your attendance. Attending school every day helps you stay connected, learn important lessons, and finish the first half of the year strong. Remember, every day counts, and your attendance helps you succeed! Keep showing up, and let's finish December with energy and excitement!

Join our "Chat with the Principal" Monday December 1

Please join our online Chat with the Principal on Monday, December 1, at 7:00 pm. Here is the Google Meets link:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/qwt-mkso-isg>

Or dial: (US) +1 413-338-0389 PIN: 687 834 106#

Gingerbread Houses

Many classes will be making gingerbread houses the week of December 15-19.

Some teachers will invite parents to help with this event. Your teacher will communicate with you if they are doing this.

Please do not bring siblings so that you are able to be hands-on and help children build a gingerbread house.

Visitors will need to bring a government-issued ID and present it upon entry into the building.

Gifts for all Preschool Students!



Toys for Tots - D33 Preschool Students
This event is open to all students enrolled in the D33 preschool program. Every child receives a gift.

Date: December 17th from 3:30-6PM and 18th from 9-11AM

Location: Pioneer Preschool



Toys for Tots - D33 Estudiantes de preescolar

Este evento está abierto a todos los estudiantes matriculados en el programa preescolar del D33. Cada estudiante recibe un regalo.

Si asiste a este evento, traiga una identificación oficial.

Fecha: 17 de diciembre from 3:30-6PM y 18 de diciembre from 9-11AM

Ubicación: Pioneer Preschool

Parent Teacher Conferences-- Thank you!

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Thank you to everyone who attended conferences. **Program-wide, 94% of our families attended their child's conference on November 19 and 20.** We are working towards 100% participation and will continue to reach out to you if we did not meet with you before Thanksgiving Break. Thank you for meeting with us to discuss your child's progress at school. Your input and insight into your child's development is so important to us!

At-Home Discussions

We hope you find [this resource](#) helpful on how to have discussions with your child about their school experience.

Reading with your child

Please read with your student every day.

We send ARC 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

We have created an activity board for you to access and complete with your students on snow days. [Here](#) is the link to the PreK activity board. Please also consider using an art bin, books, blocks, or other toys for your child.

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!

No School on these days coming up!

- Winter Break Dec 23- Jan 5
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day- Monday, Jan 20
- Parent Teacher Conferences- Tuesday, March 17

Fall Make Up Picture Day

- January 27

Parent-Child Days- Parents come to school with their children from 9-11:30 AM or 12:30-3 PM (transportation from apartment complexes will be provided)

- January 29

APTT Parent Conference Nights- 5:30-7 PM

- March 5

Parent Teacher Conferences- 1-8 PM

- March 17

December Spirit Week



Semana del Espíritu - 15-19 de diciembre

¡Únase a nosotros para celebrar la Semana del Espíritu de diciembre!

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

Preschool Hours

AM 8:40 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.

PM 12:10 p.m.- 2:40 p.m.

Full Day Preschool Hours: 8:40 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Extended Day 8:40-1:40



Activities in West Chicago

Frosty Fest

- **When:** Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM
- **Where:** Downtown West Chicago
- **What's Happening:** A beloved annual winter celebration featuring the **Tree Lighting Ceremony**, ice sculpting, horse-drawn trolley rides, festive window decorating, hot chocolate, photo opportunities with reindeer, elves, Frosty characters, electric trains, and more

North Pole Adventure (Holiday Train Ride)

- **When:** December 14 & 15, at 1:15 PM and 5:15 PM
- **Where:** West Chicago Metra Train Station, 508 W. Main St.
- **What's Happening:** A magical train ride to the "North Pole" featuring music, stories, snacks, and a special visit from Santa, who checks lists and delivers gifts to each child

A "Grinchmas" Gathering Breakfast

- **When:** Saturday, December 21, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
- **Where:** ARC Center, West Chicago
- **What's Happening:** Enjoy a festive breakfast alongside holiday crafts, with appearances by **Santa and the Grinch**—perfect for young fans of the season! Registration required, and younger children (under 1) are free

Sonny Acres Farm (*West Chicago*)

- **Events Include:** Holiday market, "Photos with Santa," and the **Big & Bright Trail of Lights**, featuring festive lights, seasonal decor, and activities on select weekends in December

Aurora's Festival of Lights (*Aurora*)

- **When:** Nightly from November 29 to December 25
- **What's Happening:** A **free drive-through holiday light display** that stretches for a mile—sing along with closed-circuit radio tunes for a cozy family experience

Oswego Christmas Walk (*Oswego*)

- **When:** Friday, December 5, from 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM
- **What's Happening:** A festive evening with tree lighting, live choir performances, reindeer sightings, ice sculpting, and children's activities—all in an enchanting small-town setting



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
PRESCHOOL

Questions? Contact the Preschool Admin Team

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Brenda Vishanoff

Brenda is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters