

Preschool Parent Newsletter

March 2026



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **PRESCHOOL** WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS DISTRICT 33

Upcoming Admin Coverage at PreK

Brenda Vishanoff, principal, and Leah Nelson, assistant principal, will be on Family Medical Leave in March. Please welcome our Interim Administrative Team:
Roberta Wallerstedt and Martha Maggiore

Please call the front office if you need administrative support.

Star Students



Oliver from Miss Mary's Class

Oliver is an amazing peer model in class. He loves to lead by example and be a healing had to peers during centers, whole group and small group. He shows how to be safe in school by being an example. He cares about his classmates feelings and will comfort them. He embraces all his peers and loves to welcome friends during play time. Oliver loves to as well help his teachers out and being a little assistant. Oliver is a great model of we work together, we are kind and we are safe!



Allison from Maestra Dalila's Class

Allison is a pillar of kindness in the classroom, consistently demonstrating the empathy and maturity needed to guide her peers toward positive choices."Allison is flourishing into a confident, proactive student who leads by example and brings a unique, witty energy to our classroom community." "Allison es un pilar de bondad en el salón de clases, demostrando constantemente la empatía y madurez necesarias para guiar a sus compañeros hacia decisiones positivas. Ella está floreciendo como una estudiante segura y proactiva que lidera con el ejemplo y aporta una energía única y ingeniosa a nuestra comunidad escolar."



Nia from Miss Amy's Class

Nia always follows our commitments to be safe, kind and work together. She is always kind and willing to helps teachers and classmates.



Victor from Maestra Karen's Class

Victor is our star student because he exemplifies our 3 standards of we are kind, we are safe, we work together. He is kind by sharing his toys, helping others to clean up, and giving turns to others even



Liam from Maestra Monica's Class

His dedication and willingness to help others, His positive attitude everyday, a great listener and always willing to help me out "quieres que te ayude maestra."



Kaylie from Maestra Iza's Class

Kaylie is my star student because her academic skills are advanced, and her learning is exceptional for her level.

when it is a favorite toy. He is safe because he follows the rules in the hallway and gross motor room. He uses his words to protest if another student bothers him. Victor works together with other students to build with legos and construct cities out of blocks. He works together at clean up time by helping others to pick up a mess. Victor is patient and listens to the teachers.

Upcoming Potty Training Webinar



A Webinar for
Parents and Guardians

“Our Trip to Successful Toilet Training”

Toilet training can sometimes be a difficult task of knowing when your child is ready, especially when your child has a disability.



Join us for this one-hour training where you'll learn strategies and ideas that will assist all children.

Know when and how to begin the process and learn helpful tips and tricks to try.
Many useful resources will be shared.

Wednesday, April 22, 2026
6:30pm -7:30pm on Zoom

Sponsored by STAR NET Regions II & VI and Region IV
Presented by Sheri Kraus, STAR NET Region IV
Early Childhood Special Education Family Professional Development Specialist



Register [HERE](#)
or scan this code:



All STAR NET workshops & webinars are free of charge. No Continuing Education credits will be given for this webinar. Funding assistance to attend in person training events is available to families of young children with IEPs. For more information visit Funding Opportunities on our website at <https://starnet2and6.org/>

"Nuestro viaje al entrenamiento exitoso del inodoro"

El entrenamiento para ir al baño puede ser a veces una tarea difícil para saber cuándo tu hijo está preparado, especialmente cuando tiene una discapacidad.



Únete a nosotros en esta formación de una hora donde aprenderás estrategias e ideas que ayudarán a todos los niños.

Aprende cuándo y cómo empezar el proceso y consejos útiles para apoyar a tu hijo. Se compartirán muchos recursos útiles.

Miércoles, 22 de abril de 2026

6:30pm-7:30pm en Zoom

Presentado en inglés con interpretación en español

Presentado por Sheri Kraus, STAR NET Región IV, Especialista en Desarrollo Profesional Familiar de Educación Especial para la Primera Infancia



Regístrate [AQUÍ](#) o escanea este código:



Todos los talleres y seminarios web DE STAR NET son gratuitos. No se darán créditos de Educación Continua para este webinar. La asistencia financiera para asistir a eventos de capacitación en persona está disponible para las familias de niños pequeños con IEP. Para obtener más información, visite Oportunidades de financiamiento en nuestro sitio web en <https://starnet2and6.org/>

Growing Minds & Springtime Discoveries

•

Theme of the Month: Growth, Weather, and Wonders of Spring

- Welcoming seasonal changes: talking about rain, sunshine, plants, and animals
- Learning how things grow – seeds, flowers, and even ourselves!
- Celebrating curiosity through nature-based learning and observation

•

Learning Focus

- **Literacy:** Spring-themed books, name writing practice, rhyming games
- **Math:** Counting raindrops, measuring plant growth, shape scavenger hunts
- **Science:** Planting seeds, exploring the water cycle, watching weather patterns

•

Books To Read This Month

- *"Planting a Rainbow"* by Lois Ehlert
- *"Waiting for Wings"* by Lois Ehlert
- *"Raindrop, Plop!"* by Wendy Cheyette Lewison
- *"In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb"* by Marion Dane Bauer

•

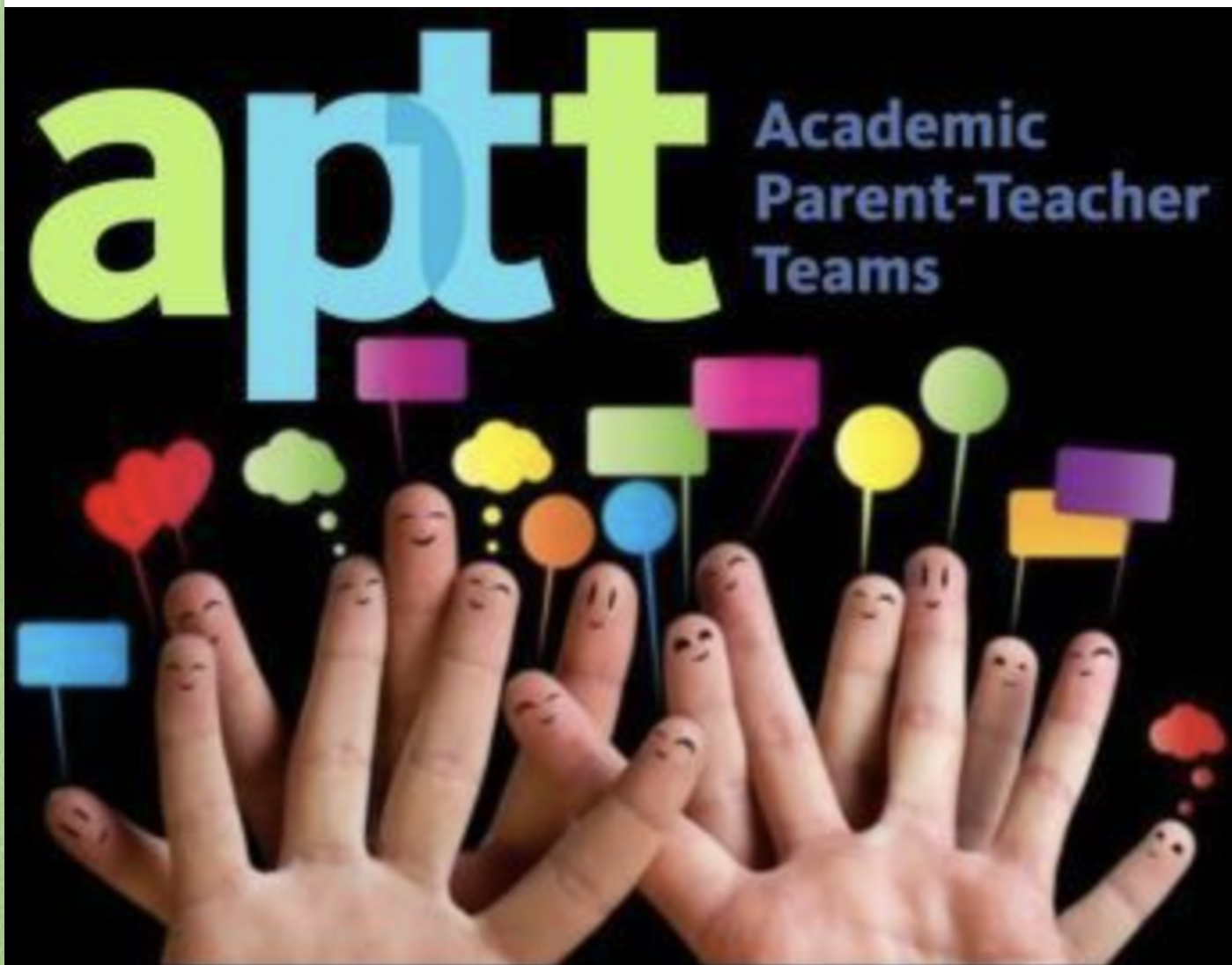
Social-Emotional Focus: Responsibility & Care

- Learning to care for living things (plants, classroom pets, each other)
- Taking turns, helping with class jobs, and being a "plant helper"
- Talking about how we grow – physically, emotionally, and in skills

•

At-Home Connection: Spring Fun Together

- Start a mini garden or grow beans in a cup
- Go on a “signs of spring” nature walk
- Read a spring story together and talk about your child’s favorite part



APTT is this Thursday March 5 from 5:30-7PM

This is a required parent event.

Your child's most recent growth data will be shared.

Parent workshops will help us work together to meet your child's goals!

**For students returning to PreK next year, please bring proof of income that is required by our
Preschool Grant. Click this [link](#) to see what works for income proof.**



APTT

Academic Parent Teacher Teams



When:
Thursday March 5th
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Where:
Pioneer Preschool
615 Kenwood Ave
West Chicago IL 60185

Discussing:

- We will discuss the importance of play, math, and reading.
- Learn about preschool assessment and data.
- Learn strategies to support students at home

Transportation:
Pick up will be at 5:00 PM at this locations

- Aspen Club House
- Timberlake Club House
- Main Park (Burr Ridge)
- New Life Bilingual Church on Ann St- also additional parking

Income:
 Parents, if your child is returning to Pioneer Preschool in the fall **PLEASE** bring a copy of your most recent prove of income for grant purposes.

Important:

- **ONLY ONE PARENT PER STUDENT**
(No siblings)
- Attendance is mandatory



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 33
PIONEER PRESCHOOL



APTT

Equipos Academicos de Padres y Maestros



Cuando:
Jueves 5 de marzo , a las
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Lugar:
Pioneer Preschool
615 Kenwood Ave
West Chicago IL 60185

Discutiremos:

- La importancia del juego, las matematicas, y la lectura.
- Hablaremos sobre la evaluacion recolectada en invierno.
- Aprender estrategias para apoyar a los estudiantes en la casa.

Transportacion:
Los autobuses estaran disponibles en los siguientes lugares a las 5:00 PM

- Aspen Club House
- Timberlake Club House
- Main Park (Burr Ridge)
- New Life Bilingual Church en Ann St- abra parqueadero adicional

Ingresos:
 Padres, si su hijo/a regresara a Pioneer Preschool en el otoño **FAVOR** de traer una copia de sus ingresos mas recientes, ya que el estado brinda ayuda basado en las necesidades de la comunidad.

Importante:

- **UN ADULTO ACOMPAÑANDO A SU ESTUDIANTE.**
(No hermanos/hermanas)
- Asistencia obligatoria



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 33
PIONEER PRESCHOOL



February Door Decorating - Please Vote for your Favorite Door

[Voting form](#) here

PreK classrooms decorated their doors! Please vote for your favorite one!



Mark Your Calendars!

Teachers will have time to conference with parents on Tuesday, March 17th from 1-8:00 PM. Please reach out to your child's teacher to reserve a spot.

Attendance Matters

A reminder that we have very important learning and testing taking place prior to our break. It is critical that students attend all learning days. To help keep students healthy during this time of year please remind students to wash their hands, and cover their mouths. If you have questions please contact our school nurse.

Healthy Enough for School! 🌞

We love seeing our students every day and know that regular attendance helps them learn and grow! Sometimes it can be tough to tell when to keep your child home, so here are a few times when it's perfectly fine for them to come to school:

- 🤧 They have a mild cold, like a runny nose or light cough.
- 👁️ They have eye drainage but no fever, eye pain, or red eyelids.

- 🤢 They have a mild stomachache.
- 🤨 They have a mild rash with no other symptoms.
- 📉 They've been fever-free overnight without using fever-reducing medicine.

Keeping kids in school when it's safe helps them stay connected, learn, and thrive! ❤️

Too Sick for School 🤔

We know it's not always easy to decide when to keep your child home. Here are a few times when rest and recovery at home are the best choice:

- 📉 They have a fever of 100.4°F or higher – keep them home until they're fever-free for 24 hours without medicine.
- 🤢 They've vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours.
- 🤨 They have a frequent, disruptive cough or trouble breathing.
- 🤨 They have a rash with fever or other symptoms.
- 👁️ They have red, painful, or crusty eyes along with eye drainage.
- 🤔 They're too tired or uncomfortable to participate in school activities.

A day or two of rest can make a big difference! Once your child is feeling better, we can't wait to welcome them back to school. ❤️

Illinois 5 Essentials Survey

Organizing Schools for Improvement

Please take the 5 Essentials Survey this month!

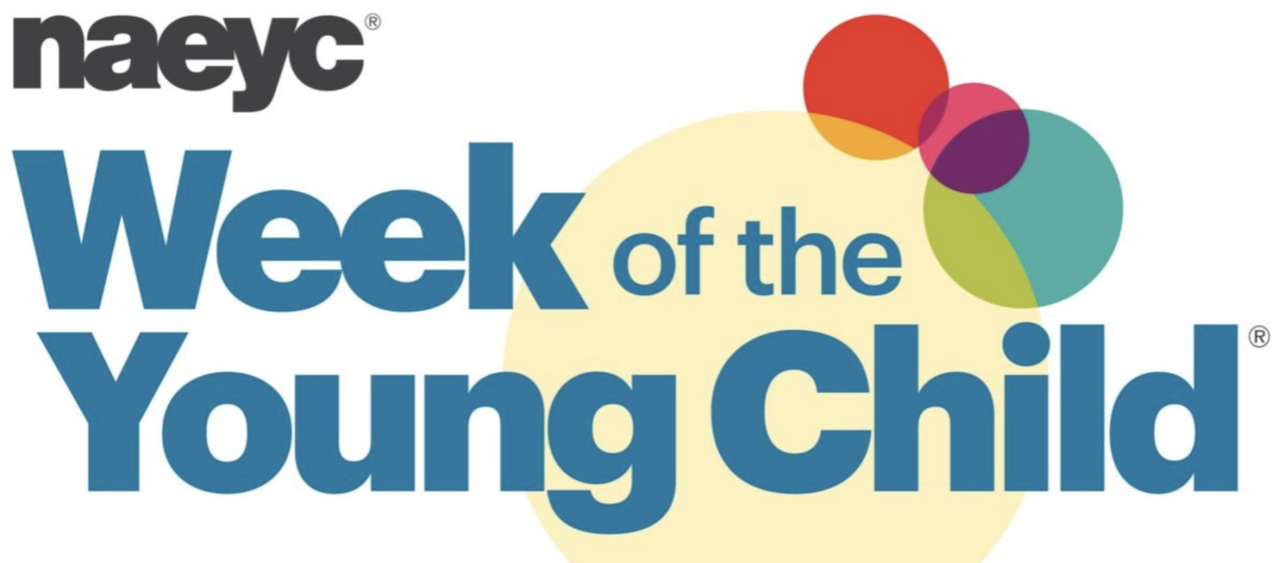
Survey is open from February through March 2026. Additional information regarding the survey [here](#).

Parents:

Here are the instructions to take this survey:

- Visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/> and look for Parent Survey on the right
- Select the necessary language to complete the survey. (English or Spanish).
- Enter email address
- Enter the county of your child's school (DuPage County)
- Enter the name of your child's school (Pioneer Preschool)
- Enter the number of children you have attending that school (please complete a separate survey for each school your child(ren) attend)
- Advance to survey questions and answer all applicable questions.
- Click Submit Survey.

This will provide us with valuable feedback that we will use to improve our school!



April 13- Music Monday

Students make their own musical instruments and play them during the week.

April 14- Tasty Tuesday -

Students work together to create a snack

April 15- Work Together Wednesday

Students work together on a class project

April 16- Artsy Thursday

Make & take project

April 17- Family Friday

Instrument parade, students will play their instrument for any parents that can come.

Half day am parade- 10:45

Self contained class parade- 1:30

Full day and Half day pm parade- 1:45



Smile Squad

The Smile Squad will be coming to Preschool on April 13th. This is offered to all Preschool Students who return the signed consent.

[English Consent Form](#)

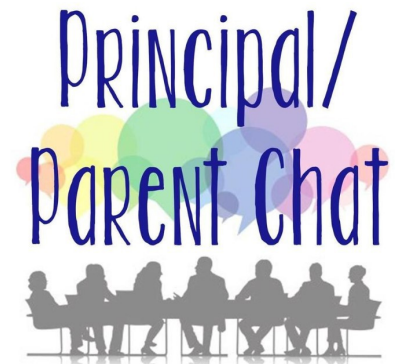
[Spanish Consent Form](#)



You are invited to a virtual "Chat with the Principal" this month!

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

- **Date:** Monday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM
- **Google Meets link:** [Link to Google Meets](#)
- We will provide program updates and also discuss **Parents + Teachers = Teamwork**



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

Healthy Sleep Patterns

Did you know that preschoolers need 10-12 hours of sleep each night? Without proper sleep, children struggle throughout the day and their learning is greatly impacted. [Here](#) is a helpful article on how to establish healthy sleep routines.



Exploring Changes Around Me!

Our Preschool staff and students have begun their next Unit of Study:

Exploring Changes Around Me

We had a wonderful February celebrating Valentine's Day, 100 days of school, and beautiful weather! This month we are working with students on "Exploring Changes Around Me". Many classrooms are conducting experiments with the five senses: touch, sight, smell, hear, and taste.

The students are learning how to ask questions, guess or predict what will happen, conduct an experiment, and share with their peers.



We hope everyone has a happy and healthy Spring Break!

Share photos of family celebrations with us!

We'd love to share photos of your family celebrations with our classes. Please send these electronically to your child's teacher anytime.



Reading with your child

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.

From the Library Book Nook

You may have heard that reading to your child is important, and we could not agree more. Reading to our young children helps them learn language skills. Your student(s) should be coming home with a bag of books from their classroom teacher, and also a library book in a "Pete the Cat" plastic bag.

Sitting together and reading these stories builds children's vocabulary and grammar. Dr. Laura Phillips, PsyD and the senior director of the Learning and Development Center at the Child Mind Institute, shares that "when kids are with caregivers or parents, they're exposed to the same language, the same vocabulary words, the same patterns of speaking, which is wonderful. But books allow them to hear new vocabulary and new ways of putting words together, which expands their ability to make sense of and use language."



And research has found that young children whose parents read to them DAILY have been exposed to at least 290,000 more words by the time they enter kindergarten than kids who are not read to regularly. This means that family has a very important role in helping young children learn the skills to read. And reading together is also a wonderful way to bond with your child, so enjoy this time together. They grow up so fast!

Important Dates!

No School on these days coming up!

Tuesday March 17- Parent teacher conferences

Monday through Friday, March 30 - April 3 - Spring Break

May 25- Memorial Day

May 29- Staff Professional Development Day



APTT Parent Conference Night

- Thursday March 5 from 5:30-7PM

Spring picture day

- Friday March 6

Parent Teacher Conferences

- Tuesday, March 17 from 1-8:00 PM (non-attendance day for students)
- 'No school for children

First Day Back from Spring Break

- Tuesday, April 6

Smile Squad at PreK

- Monday, April 13

Last day of PreK

- June 3

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

Attendance Matters



How Sick is Too Sick?

[Here](#) is a friendly reminder about the cold season and when it is appropriate to send your child to school. Additionally, **PLEASE CALL** the school attendance line for **EVERY DAY** that your child will be absent and leave the **REASON** for the absence. Thank you so much for your help with this!



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



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
PRESCHOOL

Questions? Contact the Preschool Admin Team

Brenda Vishanoff, Principal

vishanoffb@wego33.org

Leah Nelson, Assistant Principal

nelsonl@wego33.org



Brenda Vishanoff

Brenda is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters