

# Preschool Parent Newsletter

April 2026



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **PRESCHOOL**

**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS DISTRICT 33**

### Happenings in April at Pioneer PreK

- We will be conducting PreK WIDA screeners for all English Language Learners.
- We will celebrate Week of the Young Child April 13-17- see below for schedule and parade information.
- We will participate in the District Wellness Walk on April 24 at 9AM.
- We will be thinking about how we can make a difference in our community and doing a project to support this answer.

★Week of the Young Child★

## Celebrate Week of the Young Child with us!

April 13-17, 2025

### 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\*

\* We will notify you by 10AM and 1PM if we cancel this due to weather. If we cancel due to weather, the teacher will take a photo of the class and send it to you instead.



## Star Students



Osiris is a star student who enjoys playing with everyone and is always looking for opportunities to build positive relationships with his peers. His kindness and caring nature make him welcoming to both students and adults in the classroom. He is very observant and is often one of the first to notice when someone needs help, stepping in to support others in a safe and thoughtful way. It is truly a pleasure to have Osiris as part of the classroom.



Iraia has made so much progress since her first day in January. She has fully embraced our school values of being safe, being kind, and working together. It has been a pleasure watching her confidence grow, and she truly shines as a role model for her classmates! We are so proud of her!



Abel has been in our preschool program for 2 years. From the day he started he has been a kind friend, an active listener, and excited to learn. Abel is always willing to lend a hand to help a friend. He is friends with just about everyone in the building and knows how to make everyone feel special. Great job Abel, I am so proud of you! I can't wait to see what kindergarten has in store for you.



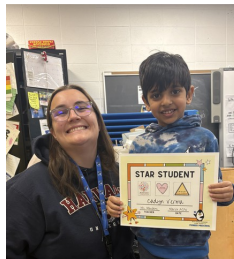
Orianthi is a great problem solver and a kind friend who lights up the room with her infectious laugh.



Isela is our Star Student because she has shown great kindness and empathy. With patience and care, she has helped a new student feel welcome, comforting her when she is sad and helping her learn our classroom routines. Isela is a wonderful example of kindness and friendship.



Leo is kind, caring, appreciative, and nice to everyone. He always has a positive attitude and is quick to help out. Leo follows the rules and expectations every day and gently reminds his friends to do the same. He loves to learn and has grown so much since he started with us in November!



Cadyn has a love for school and for learning that is out of this world. He comes in everyday with a smile, ready to start learning and having fun with friends. He is an exceptional listener and an amazing friend to everyone, especially friends with differences in abilities. Cadyn is a natural leader and we love having him in class!

## Potty Training Webinar

## “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



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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/>

# Attendance Matters!

Welcome back! We're thrilled to have you back at school and hope you had an enjoyable Spring Break. As we dive into the rest of the school year, we want to emphasize the importance of regular attendance. Our goal is to maintain a daily attendance rate of 95% or higher, as every day counts in helping our school community thrive. Your presence truly makes a difference—let's work together to achieve this goal!

## Exploring Nature & Caring for Our World

### Theme of the Month: Nature, Earth Day & New Life

- Exploring plants, insects, weather, and the changing environment
- Celebrating Earth Day (April 22) by learning how to care for our planet
- Talking about things that grow: flowers, animals, and even ourselves!

### Learning Focus

- **Science:** Life cycles (plants, butterflies, frogs), recycling, nature walks
- **Literacy:** Spring poems, nature books, environmental vocabulary (e.g., recycle, grow, earth)
- **Math:** Sorting natural items (leaves, rocks), counting petals, measuring plants

### Books To Read This Month

- *"The Tiny Seed" by Eric Carle*
- *"Earth Day, Every Day" by Lisa Bullard*
- *"From Caterpillar to Butterfly" by Deborah Heiligman*
- *"10 Things I Can Do to Help My World" by Melanie Walsh*

### Social-Emotional Focus: Responsibility & Respect for Nature

- Learning to care for the environment (e.g., throwing away trash, reusing materials)
- Classroom jobs like watering plants and turning off lights
- Practicing teamwork and responsibility during group activities

### At-Home Connection: Earth-Friendly Family Fun

- Start a small garden or plant seeds together
- Make a craft using recycled items
- Take a walk and collect "nature treasures" like leaves or rocks
- Sort recyclables together and talk about how to care for the Earth

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## Chat with the Principal

Please log on to Google Meets to speak with our principal team.

- **Date:** Monday, April 13 at 7:00 PM

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/kwb-onxe-yqr

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



## Snow Pants

If your child has outgrown their snow pants and you would like to donate them to PreK, feel free to send them to school! We look forward to passing them on to other preschoolers in need.



## Share Your Family Celebrations!

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



## I Can Make a Difference in My Community!

This month we will begin our new unit, "I Can Make A Difference in My Community." We will continue to use the scientific method as we investigate through the lens of being an active citizen in our community. Your child will be introduced to one of the following topics: Caring for Animals, Gardening, Insects, Community Helpers and/or Trees. All these topics focus on our students being responsible and showing care for their environment. We look forward to seeing the action steps our students will take to help the living things in their community.



## 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.

## Check out Healthy West Chicago, West Chicago Park District and West Chicago Library events this winter!

<https://www.healthywestchicago.org/educational-resources>

<https://www.we-goparks.org/special-events>

<https://wcpld.info/services/youth/early-literacy/>

## Important Dates!

### Upcoming Non-Attendance Days for Students

- Monday, May 15 (School Improvement Day)
- Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day)
- Friday, May 29 (Professional Development Day)

### First Day Back from Spring Break

- Monday, April 6

### Last Day of School

- Wednesday, 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

## 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



Attendance Matters



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](mailto:wegobirthto3@wego33.org) or on Facebook: @d33birthtothree



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
**PRESCHOOL**

## Questions? Contact the Preschool Admin Team

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Leah Nelson, Assistant Principal  
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### Brenda Vishanoff

Brenda is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

