



First Steps

Monthly Newsletter

February 2023

Pat Blakely, Editor

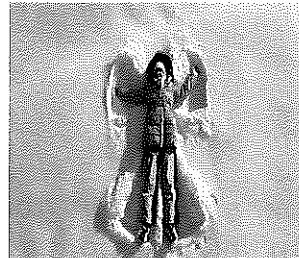
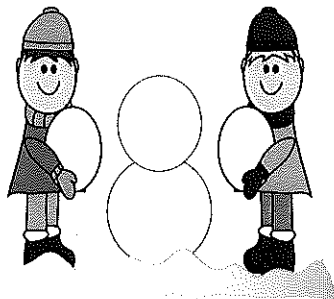
First Steps Early Childhood Education Center
233 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY 679-6301
firststepsearlyeducationcenter.com

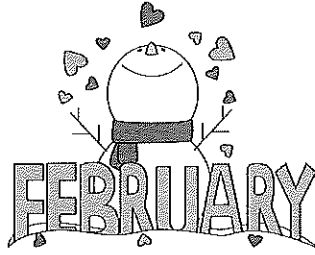
First Friends

*The children were asked,
"What is your favorite
thing to do in the snow?"*

Azaela: "Play with my Mom"
Ariela: "Make a snowman "
Adrian: "Throw Snowballs at Dad"
Callie: "Make Snow Angels"
Carmine: "Throw snowballs"
Charlie: "Throw snowballs"
Chloe: "Throw snowballs"
Dylan: "Throw snowballs"
Elijah: "Play"
Leo: "Make a snowman"
Lily H: "Eat it"
Miles: "Make a snowman"
Zahra: "Play"

Avery: "Make snowmans"
Gary : "Play in the snow with Max "
Levi : "Make snowmans "
Max: "Just throw snowballs"
Islay: "Shovel the snow"
Scarlett: "Make Snow Angels"
Walker "Put Suit on"
Helena: "Make Snow Angels"
Novalee: "Make a snowman"
Lily F: "Snowballs"
Nora: " Make a snowman"





Baby...it's cold outside. We all appreciate it when your children come dressed to play outside. It makes it so much better when children are not wet or cold. We have been practicing getting all our outside gear on by ourselves. You can help your child succeed by sending in outside clothes that are easy to get on, and practice at home. Don't forget we go out every day unless it is below 20 degrees.

The greatest gift parents can give their children is LOVE, which comes in many different forms. I hope you find meaning in the following poem. We all wish you and your children a Happy Valentine's Day!



If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I'd finger-paint more, and point the finger less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with
my eyes.

I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.

I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.

I would run through more fields and gaze at

More stars. Diane Loomans

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.

Reminder: If your child will be going to Onteora Schools next year, it is time to sign up. You can find the information on the school website.

Miss Michelle's UPK News



Happy February! It's hard to believe that we are getting ready to celebrate Valentine's Day and to see if we will

have six more weeks of winter or an early spring. Even though spring may be right around the corner (wishful thinking!), we are still in full winter mode and enjoying all winter has to offer both in and out of the classroom (with hope for some more snow!).

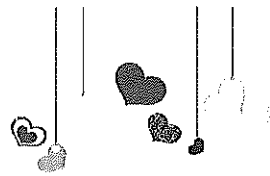
We look forward to learning about Groundhog's Day and to see if we will

have an early spring or six more weeks of winter. We have some



great activities planned to help learn more about the groundhog and the traditions that February 2nd brings. Will the groundhog see his shadow?

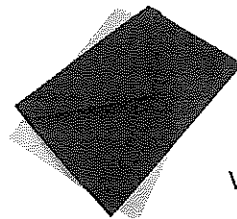
February also brings Valentine's Day! We have spent so much time in our classroom learning about being kind, using gentle words with one another and doing our best to make others feel good. We will continue to



Valentine's Day

practice this as we celebrate Valentine's Day and learn about the special people in each child's life. It has

been so special watching friendships form in the classroom and celebrating these friendships!



This month, we will learn about postal workers and their very important job in our community. We

will have the opportunity to practice some of their job duties right in our own classroom this month!

This month, we will also be celebrating a huge milestone in our classroom as we approach the



100th Day of School! We celebrate in a special way by dressing up as 100 year-olds! Please look for more information going home very soon!

All our best,

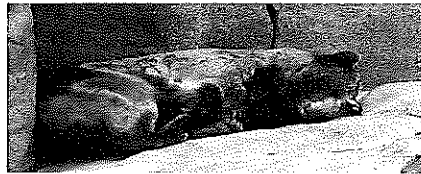
Miss Michelle, Miss Brandi & Miss Amanda

MISS APRIL'S UPK NEWSLETTER

Hello Parents!

Well February is here, and spring must be right around the corner. For now, we will still be braving the weather and going outside so please make sure to send all your child's snow gear with them labeled with their name. Snow pants, gloves, hats, jackets, and boots. I look forward to another busy and exciting month of February!

We will be continuing our unit on hibernation and adaptation. The bear who has been visiting our classroom and has moved into his house that we made for him to sleep in throughout the winter! We will continue to discuss how long he will be sleeping for.



This month we will be picking up on our fine motor and pre-writing skills. For example, up until now the kids have been practicing their scissor skills on things like play dough or just plain sheets of paper. Now all students will be focusing on cutting out their own crafts! We will also be continuing with our usual letter of the week practice and our journaling! Students will also be continuing to work on their sight words.

We will be celebrating friendship and love this month in our classroom as Valentine's Day fast approaches. We will also be discussing Groundhog Day as well as Presidents' Day. We will be practicing our writing by making cards for residents in a nursing home! Making them cards and pictures!

Our community helper of the month is a postal worker! We are excited to learn about and send letter to friends and family throughout the month!

Thank you so much for sharing your children with us and I look forward to another exciting month!

-Miss April


PRE-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Happy February Families!!

We will start our month with a celebration of Groundhogs Day! We can't wait to see if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow and find out if we will have an early Spring!

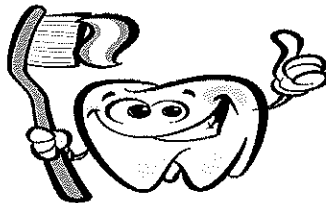


We will also be celebrating St. Valentine's Day! We will be making paper Valentines and Miss April will take them to a retirement community for all the residents to enjoy!

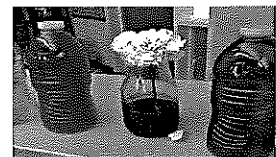
We will also have a little party in our classroom, just to show each other how much we love them! 



February is Dental Awareness Month! We will be learning why it is so important to keep our teeth clean!

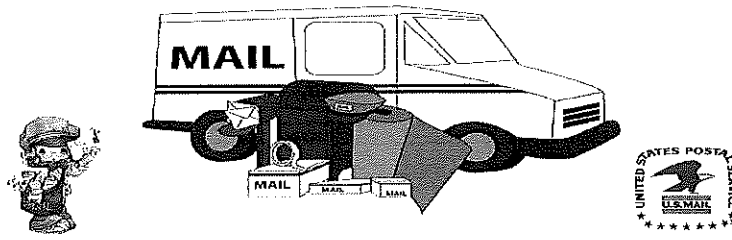


We will be also doing a few science experiments together, one using white carnations in different colored water to see what changes we see! Another will be an ice and oil density experiment!



Thank you for all you do!
Heather and Kathy

WORKERS OF THE MONTH POST OFFICE



Extra Easy Hummus (allrecipes.com)

Original Recipe By:Donalyn (some small changes by Dana)

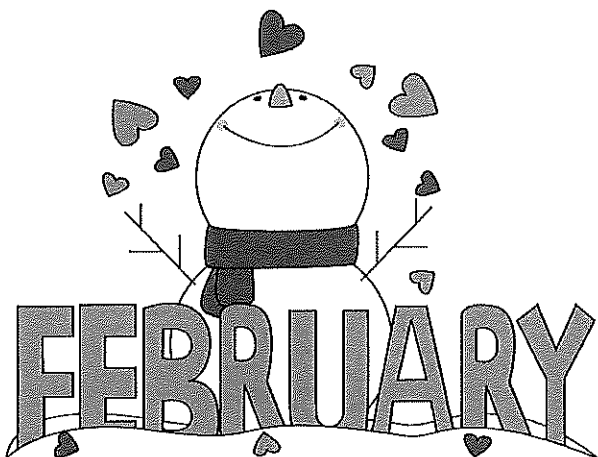
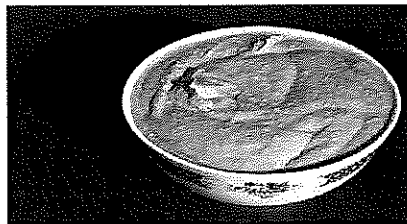
"Tahini-free hummus that only takes minutes, and is a favorite with my kids."

Ingredients:

1 (15 ounce) can garbanzo beans, drained, liquid reserved
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon olive oil
juice from 1/2 lemon

Directions:

In a blender or food processor combine garbanzo beans, garlic, cumin, salt, olive oil, and lemon juice. Blend on low speed, gradually adding reserved bean liquid, until desired consistency is achieved.



February Dates to Remember:

2nd- Groundhog Day
14th-Valentine's Card Exchange
15th- March Tuition Due
20th - All Closed (Presidents' Day)
Black History Month