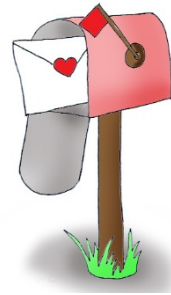


## *The Giving Nest Preschool February Newsletter*

### ***Valentine's Day and The Giving Nest – Perfect Together***

Parties, Treats, Valentine cards and Valentine games abound at the Giving Nest in February. Please take a few minutes and read your child's *February "Tweet"*. It will explain what you need to do to make certain your child has everything he/she needs to make and send Valentines home to your family and Valentines to share with classmates. It also tells you the date of your child's party.



**Your child will be bringing a red or pink heart home in the backpack.** This month there will be large hearts displayed on the stage. Throughout the month we would like the students to tell their parents about someone at the Giving Nest who they would like to thank. **Parents, please help us out with this exercise and write down the name of the person (classmate, teacher, office staff, someone's mom, aftercare helpers etc) and the reason they are being thanked.** Your child will have the opportunity to come on stage and we will read what is written on the heart and hang it on the banner during Sing.

### **Manner of the Month – Saying Thank You & Feeling**

#### **Grateful**

This month, we hope, with your help, to encourage our students to consciously think about being grateful and going out of their way to say thank you to teachers, family members and friends. Along with reminding the children to say thank you in obvious situations we will discuss what it means to be a genuinely grateful person and to have a grateful heart. We will encourage the children to look around and notice the small, everyday things people do for them and then suggest they say thank you for these things. Examples would be when mommy washes your clothes, daddy reads you a story, grandma buckles you in the car seat, classmate helps you with a puzzle piece or a teacher helps you find your gloves.

## *We love learning about our Presidents*



In honor of “Honest” Abraham Lincoln and George Washington’s birthdays we will talk about the importance of telling the truth during Sing Time. The children will learn that the truth is best, even if it means you might be in trouble. George Washington is our model for this lesson. Mrs. Tara will play the part of young George on his tenth birthday receiving a new axe for a present. In the skit, his dad tells him not to use the axe until he returns home. George gives into temptation and takes the axe outside. In his excitement he cuts down one of his dad’s cherry trees. George becomes upset knowing his Dad will be very angry.

The Giving Nest children help George decide what to do. Usually, their solutions vary from telling George to try to tape the tree together, to suggesting little George just keep it a secret! After much discussion however, the children eventually decide the best thing is to tell the truth and accept the punishment.

Later in the month, the Directors will take this lesson further and invite a few children to come up on the stage and help out with role-playing. In the skit one child builds a castle with blocks and two other children come over and knock the blocks over. We will ask “Oh dear, who knocked down the blocks?” The children say “not us” then we will explain why this is not the right thing to do. The children agree and the scene is re-enacted but this time the children admit to knocking down the blocks. We let them know that it was wrong to knock down the blocks but it very good they told the truth. They must now clean the blocks up and apologize. The children comply. They are commended for accepting the consequences and told how wonderful it was that they told the truth.

The scene is reenacted again, and this time we will instruct the children to remain silent after they knock down the blocks. After the blocks crash to the floor, we will ask, “Who knocked down these blocks?” The girls say nothing. We then will direct an important question to all the children at *Sing*. “Is it a lie if you don’t say anything when you know the truth?”

It is very exciting to listen to the children’s thoughts on this. They generally end up agreeing that it is wrong if you don’t say anything, and you know the truth. Also, that it is important to tell the truth even if it means you may get in trouble. To end this lesson we will do a puppet show using a modern-day version of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” to explain the possible consequences of lying.