



# FEBRUARY

# NEWSLETTER



## Director's Corner

As we move into February, we want to thank you for your continued dedication to our Head Start families and children! Please remember that our offices will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents Day.

This month, let's focus on nurturing relationships with both our children and their families, supporting them as partners in the learning journey. Celebrating achievements big and small, helps children feel proud, and families feel connected and empowered. Together, we make Head Start a place where children flourish and families feel supported, valued, and part of our community.



## Kindergarten Registration Updates


Happy February, everyone!

I hope you are all staying warm and well during these frigid days. Spring is just around the corner! Teachers should be completing the majority of mid-year conferences by the end of this month. These conferences are vital in helping families contact their home school to register their child for Kindergarten. If you haven't heard yet, the State of Ohio has changed the Kindergarten cutoff date. It is now based on the school district's first day of school. A child must be 5 years old on or before the first day of school to register for Kindergarten. This change affects some Kindergarten transition lists. I am working on updated lists for all of you, but I first need to confirm the first day of school for some districts. As soon as I have that information, I will share it with you. During these conferences, you are offering crucial support to families registering their children for Kindergarten. This can be an overwhelming process for parents, and many do not know where to begin. I have sent out school district instructions to each of you for online registration, along with a list of documents to help parents prepare or copy for the schools. I am also staying in contact with school districts, and as soon as I know their start dates, I am sending them a Kindergarten transition list as well. None of our students should miss Kindergarten registration! I know that each of you will help parents navigate this process to the best of your ability.

Remember, Stevi is just a phone call away if you need support.



**BE KIND**  
**TO**  
*Yourself*



Have your 2025 tax return prepared and e-filed for FREE with the United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program! The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to individuals or families who make \$69,000 or less. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. Scheduling began on January 20, 2026.

There are three ways to schedule:

1. Call the United Way Stark Call Center at 330-994-8482.
2. Schedule online at [www.tuscunitedway.org](http://www.tuscunitedway.org).
3. If you cannot get through to the Stark Call Center or access the online scheduler, call the United Way of Tuscarawas County office at 330-343-7772.

FYI: This is a drop-off service ONLY. Your taxes will not be prepared the same day as your appointment. Expect pick-up in 10-14 days after drop-off.



### Program Development & Transportation

Happy February. Please let April know if you have any ChildPlus or Learning Genie training needs or issues.

February is Love the Bus Month.

As for February, we shall probably see some more freezing cold weather. Keep those buses plugged in and even on days when you don't have kids in attendance, still go out and start your bus and let it run for a few minutes.

