



Early Education Curriculum

Happy February! Below, please find the curriculum planned for the month.



UPK/Preschool

Bruins and Patriots: Unit 3 – Animals All Around Us

In Unit 3, children observe and discover animals living in various habitats, including the urban landscape, the outskirts of the city, and the ocean. They will also make direct connections between themselves and other animals.

Big Ideas:

- Animals are part of our community.
- Human beings are a species of animal.
- Animals communicate.
- Animals have special body parts that help them eat, breathe, drink, and stay protected.
- Animals use senses to gather information about the world around them.

Maple, Celtics, and Red Sox: Unit 3 – Wind and Water

Children will explore the properties of wind and water and consider how essential water is for living things. Children will experiment with moving water through different means. They will also observe and record the wind and weather outdoors.

Big Ideas:

- Wind and water affect living and non-living things.
- Living things respond in different ways to different kinds of weather.
- Wind and water can inspire art, play, and other activities.
- Water is essential for living things.
- People use water for drinking, washing, cooking, gardening, travel, and play.
- Water can change from a liquid to a solid to a gas.

Toddlers

Exploration Unit - How Things Move

In this unit, students will have fun discovering motion by using their bodies, objects, and the world around them as they explore and play.

Big Ideas:

How do different materials, people, and animals move in different ways?

How can I make things move?

How do rhythm and music inspire movement?



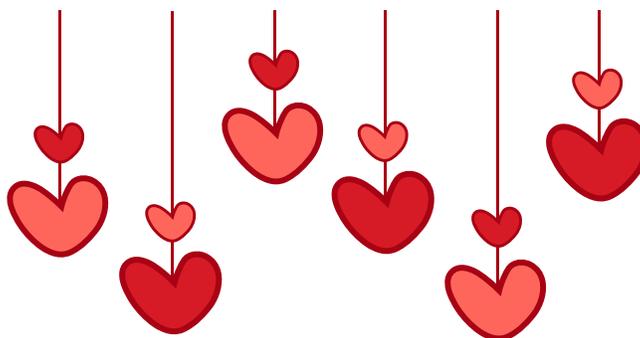
Infants

Infants six months and younger will continue their individualized curriculum. Please ask your child's teacher for a copy so you can try some of the activities at home!

For infants seven months and older, we are excited to continue piloting the Learning Through Exploration curriculum, developed in partnership with Neighborhood Villages.

Infant Reminders:

- All children must have something on their feet at all times. Please make sure your baby has socks, booties, or shoes to wear in the classrooms.
- Please make sure your child has a daily, labeled supply of sippy cups or bottles for every feeding. These will be sent home every day for cleaning.



Social Emotional Development

Throughout the year, all Ellis children will learn to identify their emotions and express their feelings.

Classroom Requests

- Please send photos of your child's family and friends so we can display them in the classroom.
- Pack a few extra sets of clothing for your child to keep at school.
- When you drop off your child, please help them wash their hands as soon as you enter the classroom.
- Please plan to arrive by 9:15 AM so your child has time to adjust to the classroom routine.
- Please remember to fold your stroller and neatly place it in the buggy parking area.

Music Classes with the New England Conservatory

We are so pleased to continue our partnership with the NEC. Please see the schedule below.



New England Conservatory Early Childhood Music Pilot Program Ellis Early Learning Music Schedule 2025-2026

Music classes run from September 29, 2025 through June 5, 2026. June 8-19: Music Class Make-Up Weeks



Teaching Artist	Phil Berman				Carmen Carbonell (& Emma Krause)
Days	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays		Thursdays
Location	Ellis South End 58 & 66 Berkeley	Ellis South End 66 Berkeley: morning 58 Berkeley: afternoon	Ellis Jamaica Plain 555 Amory St., JP		Ellis South End 58 Berkeley
9:30-10:00	Bumblebees Infants 58: 1 st floor	Breakers Toddlers fall / young preschool spring 66: 2nd floor	Willow Infants	9:30-10:00	Cubs 1-year-olds, 1st floor
10:05-10:35	Ladybugs Infants 58: 1 st floor	Red Sox Young preschool 66: 2nd floor	Spruce Infants	10:05-10:35	Bears 2-year-olds, 1 st floor
10:50-11:20	Crickets Infants 66: 1 st floor	Caterpillars 1-year-olds 66: 1st floor	Oak 1-year-olds	10:50-11:20	Pollywogs 1-year-olds, 1st Floor
11:25-11:55	Grasshoppers Infants 66: 1 st floor	Butterflies 2-year-olds 66: 1st floor	Cedar 2-year-olds Pinecone Play Space	11:25-11:55	Froggies 2-year-olds, 1st. Floor
12:00-3:30	Lunch/Nap	Lunch/Nap	Lunch/Nap		Lunch/Nap
3:30-4:00 pm	Dragonflies Infants 58: 1 st floor	Patriots 3's & 4's 58: 2nd floor	Birch 1-year-olds Pinecone Play Space		Schedule Note: When Emma Krause begins as lead teacher after Thanksgiving for Carmen's maternity leave, proposed adjusted schedule is: 9:30-9:55 am, 10:00-10:30, 10:35-11:00 am, 11:05-11:35 am (to be confirmed with Ellis)
4:10-4:40 pm	Celtics 3-year-olds 58: 2nd floor	Bruins 3's & 4's 58 Berkeley	Maple 3's & 4's		

Dates to Remember

Friday 2/13 - 3PM Closure for Professional Development

Friday 2/13 - Pajama Day

Monday 2/16 - Ellis Closed for President's Day



IMPORTANT DATES For School Year 2025-2026

	Start of Priority Registration	End of Priority Registration	Assignment Notifications
Students entering K0, K1, K2, 6, 7*, or 9	January 6	February 7	March 31
Students entering all other grades	February 10	April 4	May 31

K2 is now part of the January Priority Registration Period
*7th Grade Assignment Notifications will be mailed at the end of May

For information on the timeline for the BPS exam school process, please visit: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/exam>



February Celebrations

Birthdays:

- Anmary 2/4
- Luana 2/5
- Juliet 2/7
- Onyx 2/8
- Jackson 2/11
- Xaylee 2/21
- Yerinson 2/23
- August 2/24
- Lyla 2/24
- Sophia 2/24
- Trinity 2/2

Birthdays at Ellis: Policy Reminder

With a focus on equity and accessibility, we do not permit outside food to be served at Ellis. Birthdays will be celebrated with joy and merriment!

To celebrate your child's birthday, they will receive a canvas to paint or draw on, either at home or at school. Their artwork will then be displayed on the classroom Birthday Board.

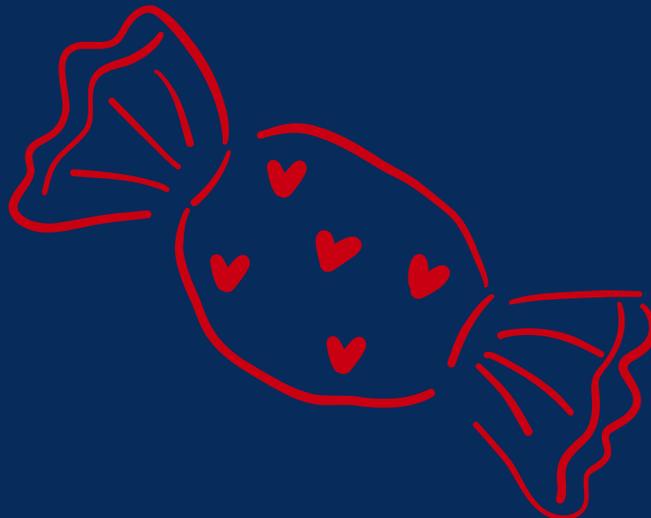
Anniversaries:

- Ms. Francis 2/1
- Ms. Winter J 2/14
- Ms. Winter H 2/21



February Menu

February Vegan/Vegetarian/Allergen Menu



Family Resources

Positive Behavior Support (PBS)

By Liz Muscolino, M.Ed., EdS, UPK Behavioral Health Services Liaison

What Is Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and Why Should I Care?

All behavior is communication — even tantrums! PBS is a way of interacting with children that helps us see what they're trying to say, without judgment. By doing this, we can turn every challenging moment into an opportunity to help children learn, explore, trust, and love.

Parenting is joyful for most people (91% in a large, diverse sample!) but it also comes with many questions. PBS, Responsive Caregiving, and Positive Parenting offer practical guidance to help along the way. Each month, our family newsletter will highlight one of the nine key elements of Positive Parenting, with examples and tips you can use at home.

Learn More:

- Watch this 5-minute video from Zero to Three: <https://vimeo.com/136542836>
- Read the full article: <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/nine-elements-that-power-positive-parenting/>

Notice and celebrate your child's strengths, abilities, and capacity to learn and develop.

Take a moment to notice who your child really is — and celebrate it! Maybe they love exploring, or maybe they stick close to familiar faces. Some qualities are easy to cheer for, such as curiosity or kindness. Others might feel trickier, but there's always something positive to notice.

Quick Ideas:

- Bosses other kids? Celebrate their leadership.
- Cries a lot? Celebrate that they express their feelings.
- Touches everything? Celebrate their curiosity.

Learn More:

Check out this free, 30-minute webinar from Conscious Discipline:

<https://consciousdiscipline.com/e-learning/webinars/tools-for-your-parenting-tool-box/>