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April Highlights:

- April 1—Monthly & Preschool Tuition Due
 - April 2—FCPS Closed/ELC Blue Jays Class (PS) Closed
 - April 2—Spirit Day: Wear Blue
 - April 3—Fitness Fun Day, “Scooters”
 - April 9—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
 - April 10—FCPS Closed/ELC Blue Jays Class (PS) Closed
 - April 10—FCPL Bookmobile
 - April 15—Monthly Early Bird Tuition Due
 - April 16-20—Week of the Young Child @ ELC
 - April 16—Scholastic Book Club Orders Due
 - April 17—Family Conferences (Hu)
 - April 18—Family Conferences (Ch)
 - April 20—Special Earth Day Celebration
 - April 23—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
 - April 23—FCPL Bookmobile
 - April 23 & 24—Family Conferences (G)
 - April 24—Eric Energy Earth Day Science Spectacular, 10:00 a.m.
 - April 25 & 26—Family Conferences (R)
 - April 27—Popcorn Trolley
 - April 28—Parent’s Night Out, 4-9 p.m. (EFA)
 - April 30-May 2—Family Conferences (B)
- Key:**
Blue—Off-Site Field Trips
Pink—Center-wide Events
Green—Family Events
Red—Closures (in-service day, holiday)
Purple—On-site Special Events



Rachel and Gabriel from the Blue Jays Class enjoyed spending time in the cockpit of a plane during the field trip to the Frederick Municipal Airport on March 23.



McKenna and Yahvi from the Blue Jays Class measured the weight of items on a scale during STEM on March 6.

April Curriculum Highlights



April Unit of Study: Plant Power and Ecology

The Unit of Study for April is “Plant Power and Ecology.” This month children will discover how plants are an important part of everyone’s lives. Children will learn about the different types of plants, their structures, the function of plants, and how to care for them. Children will also learn about recycling and ways to take care of planet earth. Educare will celebrate the Week of the Young Child, April 16-20, and an all-center Earth Day Celebration will be enjoyed on April 20. A special visit from Eric Energy for an Earth Day Science Spectacular will be held on April 24.

April Curriculum Enhancements* (See Educare Calendar of Events for specific dates.)

- ◆ **Home/School Activity, “Week of the Young Child”** — Educare families will be invited to complete a family tree to be on display throughout the month on the main hallway bulletin board (see the information on the back for details).
- ◆ **Food Fun, “Tasty Tuesday”** — Children will create “Friendship Pizzas” on Tuesday, April 17 for the Week of the Young Child festivities. Sign up sheets to bring in a fruit are located outside classroom doors.
- ◆ **Discovery Walks** (monthly) – Discovery Walks are led by Ms. Janice once a month for each classroom; each walk begins at 10:30 a.m. and is designated on the monthly Educare calendar. Children need to come dressed in appropriate clothing for the weather (safe shoes/boots, hats, coats, etc.). This month children will be noticing all the changes that spring brings to nature.
- ◆ **Music** (weekly) – Ms. Janice will provide exciting music and movement activities related to plants, spring, and ecology. Children will use sign language to sign the song “We’ve Got the Whole World in Our Hands.”
- ◆ **Fitness Fun Days** – Special P.E. equipment will be provided in the Nest on April 3. The focus for April will be “Scooters.” Children will have a chance to “scoot” around in the nest and outside (weather permitting).
- ◆ **Fitness Focus, Toe Touches**— Children will stay fit touching their toes throughout the month. Teachers will discuss the importance of staying active all year long.
- ◆ **STEM Focus, Eric Energy**—This month’s STEM focus will include a special visit from Eric Energy on April 24 (see description below).
- ◆ **Community Helper Focus, Park Ranger**—Children will learn about all of the various tasks that a park ranger does to protect our environment. Park Ranger Visit TBA.
- ◆ **FCPL Bookmobile Visits**—The Frederick County Public Library Bookmobile visits Educare Learning Center every four weeks. All classrooms have the option to check out new library books at each visit. Children in the Robins, Cardinals and Blue Jays select their own books from the bookmobile to keep in the classroom. A FCPL librarian provides a story time for children in the Blue Jays and Cardinals classrooms. The next bookmobile visit will be on April 23.

April Special Events (Calendar Attached)



- ◆ **FCPS Schedule**—FCPS will be closed April 2 and April 10. The Blue Jays Class will be closed and the Herons Class/School-age will be in attendance for full days.
- ◆ **Spirit Day, 4/2**— Children and teachers are invited to participate in Spirit Day and wear blue on April 2 in honor of World Autism Awareness Day.
- ◆ **Spring Family Conferences**—Families in the Hummingbirds, Chickadees, Goldfinches, Robins, and Blue Jays are invited to attend spring conferences for their children in April–May (see calendar for dates). Spring conferences are a great opportunity for families to learn about their child’s progress throughout the school year. Sign up sheets will be posted on the main hallway bulletin board by April 2.
- ◆ **Week of the Young Child, April 16-20**—Educare will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child with various activities offered throughout the week. See information on the back for more details.
- ◆ **Special Earth Day Celebration, 4/20, 10:00 a.m.**—A special Earth Day Celebration will be held on April 20. Classrooms will complete individual classroom assignments to beautify ELC grounds prior to Earth Day.
- ◆ **Eric Energy “Earth Day Science Spectacular”, 4/24, 10:00 a.m.**—Eric Energy will help children at ELC celebrate Earth Day and learn about the environment. Eric Energy will perform experiments about electricity, polymers and air. The children will also learn about the 3 R’s (Reduce, Recycle, Reuse). Visit www.ericenergy.com for more information.
- ◆ **Parent’s Night Out, 4/28, 4-9 p.m. (Fundraiser for EFA)**— Children will enjoy playing, making crafts and watching movies. Pancakes, eggs and fruit will be served at 5:45. Children are invited to wear or bring PJ’s, keeping in mind dressing for outdoor play (socks, shoes, coat, etc.). Cost is \$30 for the first child, \$50 for a family of two children, \$60 for a family of 3 or more children (CASH payment only). Sign up at the bulletin board located at the front desk today, spaces are limited!



Program Updates/Reminders

- ◆ **Scholastic Book Orders**— Scholastic Book Order Catalogs are available at the front desk each month or visit clubs.scholastic.com, register, find our school, **Educare Learning Center**, and type in our center activation code **M7XFW** to place orders online. Orders will be shipped directly to ELC. Educare earns points for all orders which can be redeemed for books and other materials for the center. **April orders are due to the front desk or submitted online by April 16.**
- ◆ **Referral Credit for New Enrollments**— We have a referral program here at ELC. Families who refer a family to ELC will receive a \$50 credit on their accounts after 30 days of enrollment of the new family. We appreciate your referral!
- ◆ **Outdoor Reminders**—Now that warmer weather is upon us, we will be using sunscreen more frequently on exposed skin when going outdoors. Check with your child's room to confirm that you have sunscreen to keep at ELC (non-expired). Children will be outdoors more frequently in the evenings, as well. Families are to check in at the front desk to sign children out before going to the playgrounds to pick up children. When possible, parents are asked to enter and exit through the building so that the front desk can confirm the child has left the building. Families who leave through the gates should check to ensure that the gate is secure with locks applied (if applicable) upon exit from the playground. This ensures the safety of children at all times. Teachers will be following the Child Care Weather Watch guidelines for time spent outdoors during at ELC. http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/child_care_weather_watch.pdf
- ◆ **Illness Policy Reminder**— As per our family policy handbook, if a child has a temperature of 99.0 axillary/100.0 oral or higher or exhibits vomiting, diarrhea, or drainage from the eye, he/she may not return until symptom-free for a full 24 hours without medication. Reminder: If someone other than those listed on the emergency card pick up a child, the parent/guardian must call Educare or notify in writing. The person picking up a child must show proper identification.
- ◆ **Enrollment Updates**—Please make sure to turn in any immunization updates and changes to emergency card information to the front desk (i.e., change in primary doctor, phone numbers, addresses, email addresses or emergency contacts).
- ◆ **Discovery Walk Path**—Families are invited to walk the discovery walk path together during the week or weekends. Families are asked to please inform the front desk when planning to walk the path. Families are invited to grab a backpack at the entrance and complete a journal entry found in the first shadow box. Families are encouraged to leave items found on the pathway in the shadow box at the beginning of the path for others to view.



Educare Family Association Updates

EFA Meeting: The EFA supports ELC children and families through planning and implementing events that enhance family life and program quality. The EFA requires no fees to participate and childcare is provided at no charge for all meetings. The EFA held their last meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2018. The agenda included planning the End of Year Family Picnic scheduled for May 19. **Join the Educare Family Association Facebook Group** created exclusively for families currently enrolled at ELC to stay up to date with family involvement opportunities <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EducareFamilyAssociation/>

EFA Event Highlights:

- ◆ **EFA Family Cookbook**—Thank you to the families who submitted recipes in March and were entered in the drawing for a Scholastic Book Pack. This month's theme will be to share your favorite dessert recipe. All recipes submitted in April will be entered in for the Scholastic Book Pack drawing to be held on April 30.
- ◆ **Parent's Night Out, 4/28**—See special events on the front for additional information.
- ◆ **End of School-Year Picnic, 5/19, 5-7 p.m.**—Families are invited to attend a family picnic that will be held on the Educare School-age Playground in celebration of the end of the school-year. More information to follow.



Week of the Young Child Celebration at Educare

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). www.naeyc.org/woyc The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The following events will be occurring at ELC to celebrate the children and families at ELC:

- **MONDAY (April 16), Music Monday/Dance-mania:** Children of all ages will be dancing the day away in their classrooms to CD's created to get them moving all day long.
- **TUESDAY (April 17), Tasty Tuesday/Special Food Fun Day:** Children in all classrooms will be preparing a "Friendship Fruit Pizza" for their food fun activity for April. Families are invited to sign up outside their child's classroom to bring in a fruit topping to be included on the pizza.
- **WEDNESDAY (April 18) Work Together Wednesday/Classroom Puzzle:** Children will be decorating their own individual kid-shaped puzzle pieces to be part of a classroom puzzle.
- **THURSDAY (April 19), Artsy Thursday/Recycled Art:** Children in all rooms will be creating their own tissue paper pencil cans made out of recycled soup cans. We are in need of empty soup can donations. Please bring in any empty (washed) soup cans to the box in the front entryway.
- **FRIDAY (April 20), Family Friday/Family Tree:** Families are invited to decorate their own family tree. Materials will be sent home to each family by April 13. Please return your completed tree to the front desk by Wednesday, April 18. Family trees will be displayed on the main hallway bulletin board throughout the month of May.



Are you on our list? Stay up to date with all of the happenings at Educare!

Email-- Families who are not currently on the Educare email list will need to contact the front desk or email educare@educatewithcare.com to be added. This email list is also used to communicate general program reminders (3-4 x/month).

Text Messages-- Families are encouraged to sign up to receive text message alerts directly from ELC by texting the keyword "Educare" to 84483. This text message option will only be used to communicate planned/unplanned disruptions to normal operation (delays, early closures and/or full day closures).