

2538 JEFFERSON PIKE
JEFFERSON, MD 21755 301-834-9007
WWW.EDUCATEWITHCARE.COM
EDUCARE@EDUCATEWITHCARE.COM



December Highlights:

Unit of Study: Celebrate!
Fitness Focus: Jogging

STEM Focus: Winter Wildlife Feeders
Community Helper Focus: Postal Carrier

- ◆ December 1—Monthly & Preschool Tuition Due
- ◆ December 4—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
- ◆ December 4—FCPL Bookmobile
- ◆ December 5—Family Wreath Making Event (EFA), 5-7 p.m.
- ◆ December 8—Fitness Fun Day (all ages)
- ◆ December 12—Willy Woo Woo's "Magical Snowman Show", 10 a.m.
- ◆ December 15—Monthly Early Bird & Quarterly Tuition Due
- ◆ December 15—FCPS Dismiss 2 Hours Early
- ◆ December 15—Scholastic Book Club Orders Due
- ◆ December 16—Parent's Night Out, 4-9 p.m.
- ◆ December 18-22—Holiday Teacher Luncheon (EFA) Date TBA
- ◆ December 18—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
- ◆ December 19—STEM
- ◆ December 22—Spirit Day: Holiday Pajama Day
- ◆ December 25-January 1—FCPS Closed/ ELC Blue Jays Class (PS) Closed
- ◆ December 25—ELC Closed (Christmas Day)
- ◆ December 29—Popcorn Trolley
- ◆ January 1—ELC Closed (New Year's Day)

Key:
Blue—Off-Site Field Trips
Pink—Center-wide Events
Green—Family Events
Red—Closures (in-service day, holiday)
Purple—On-site Special Events



Khloe from the Cardinal's Class "feasting" on chicken nuggets during the Thanksgiving Feast on 11/15/17.



Jaxson from the Cardinal's Class shows off his "mining skills" during the visit from Tim's Gems on 11/20/17.

December Curriculum Highlights

December Unit of Study: Celebrate!

The December unit of Study is "Celebrate!" Children will focus on similarities and differences in regard to how families celebrate holidays this time of year including gift-giving, sending cards, wrapping gifts, holiday cooking, holiday music, and special family traditions. Holiday celebrations that families enjoy will be the focal point of discussions in classrooms. In addition, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and New Year celebrations will be explored.

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

- ◆ **Home/School Activity** (Family Celebrations) – Families are invited to share their own special holiday family traditions by completing a questionnaire that will be submitted to the classroom to use during discussions at group time.
- ◆ **Food Fun** (monthly) – This month's Food Fun will be preparing favorite holiday treat recipes, keeping nutrition in mind.
- ◆ **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.). The Discovery Walks will be held on the upper grounds during November-February. This month children will be going on Buddy Walks talking about favorite family celebrations and caroling. Children will also enjoy decorating a holiday tree that will be on display in the main hallway made totally from natural items; children will learn how to make ornaments from items found in nature.
- ◆ **Music** (weekly) – Ms. Janice will provide exciting music and movement activities related to "Celebrate!" and family holiday traditions.
- ◆ **Fitness Fun Days** – Special P.E. equipment will be provided in the Nest. December's focus will be "Bowling Bonanza." Bowling alleys will be set up in the Nest for children to build skills that include counting pins, aiming the bowling ball, taking turns, controlling the ball (aim, speed), etc.
- ◆ **Fitness Focus, Jogging**— Children will stay fit jogging outside and learning how to jog in place indoors throughout the month. Teachers will discuss the importance of staying active all year long.
- ◆ **STEM Focus, Winter Wildlife Feeders**—This month's STEM focus will be creating Winter Wildlife Feeders. Children will talk about the foods animals need to survive cold winters (science), how to construct feeders so food is readily available to animals (technology and engineering), and discuss the amounts of food different animals may need to be fed during the winter months (math).
- ◆ **Community Helper Focus/Postal Carrier**—Children will focus on the important roles that Postal Carriers have in our community and especially at this time of year of sending packages and cards through the mail.
- ◆ **FCPL Bookmobile Visits**—The Frederick County Public Library Bookmobile has been visiting Educare Learning Center every four weeks since September 2017. All classrooms check out new library books at each visit. Children in the Robins, Cardinals and Blue Jays will select their own books from the bookmobile to keep in the classroom. A FCPL librarian will provide a story time for children in the Blue Jays and Cardinals classrooms. The next visit will be on December 4, 9-10 a.m.

December Special Events (Calendar Attached)



- ◆ **Family Wreath Making Night, 12/5, 5-7 p.m. (EFA)**— Families are invited to enjoy an evening of wreath-making at Educare. Cost is \$2.00 per wreath (payment required at registration). Proceeds benefit the EFA Discovery Walk Path Fundraiser. A parent/adult must accompany children at all times during this event. Supplies are limited; pre-registration is required by Friday, December 1. A sign up sheet is located on the Sign-Up Bulletin board at the front desk.
- ◆ **Willy Woo Woo's Magical Snowman Show, 12/12, 10:00 a.m.**— Willy Woo Woo will return to ELC to perform a magical fun-filled show complete with magic tricks, puppets, live animals and child participation. At the end of the show, the children will help make it snow inside the classroom.
- ◆ **Parent's Night Out, 12/16, 4-9 p.m. (EFA)**— Children will enjoy playing, making holiday crafts and watching holiday movies. Pancakes, eggs and fruit will be served at 5:45. Kids—Wear or bring your PJ's, but also dress for outdoor play (socks, shoes, coat, hat, gloves). 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! The next Parent's Night Out will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2018.
- ◆ **Spirit Day, 12/22**—Children and teachers are invited to wear their favorite holiday pajamas.
- ◆ **Teacher Treat Shoppe**—Families are invited to bring in a holiday treat for teachers during December. A Treat Shoppe will be set up in the kitchen area for teachers all month long. Sign up at the front desk bulletin board to indicate your interest in bringing a treat.
- ◆ **Teacher Luncheon, Date TBA (EFA)**—A special catered meal will be provided by the EFA for teachers. Proceeds from the Parent's Night Out will help sponsor this meal. A donation jar will also be available at the front desk if families want to make a monetary donation to the EFA.
- ◆ **December Hours of Operation**—ELC will be closed on December 25 for Christmas Day (and January 1 for

New Year's Day). Please inform the front desk of any planned absences during the holiday season. FCPS and ELC Blue Jays Class will be closed 12/25-1/1 (Heron's Class/School-age will be in attendance at that time). We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!



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. **December orders are due to the front desk by December 15.**
- ◆ **Change of Clothes**—We are in need of donations of pants sized 3—6, boys and girls. We would also appreciate families returning any ELC clothes that have been sent home with children. Please check with your child's teacher to confirm that adequate extra clothes are at the center, labeled with your child's name.
- ◆ **Illness Policy Reminder**— As per our 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. Children should not return to the program until ready to participate in the full schedule of activities. All parents/guardians should have alternate emergency arrangements in place enabling another adult to pick up a in a timely manner if the parent/guardian is unavailable.
- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **Enrollment Updates**—Please make sure to turn in any immunization updates and changes to emergency card information to the front desk (i.e., phone numbers, addresses, email addresses or emergency contacts).
- ◆ **Update Emergency Cards**— It's that time of year again to stop by the front desk to review and/or update your child's emergency form on file at ELC. The Office of Child Care requires that all families review/update/initial their emergency forms every year even if there are no changes to the information. Updates were to be completed by December 1.

Educare Family Association Updates



EFA Meeting: The Educare Family Association (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 planning sessions that are held in Nov., Jan., Mar. and May. The EFA held their last meeting on Tuesday, November 28. The agenda included a review of the Trunk or Treat Event and Stuffing Drive and finalization of the Family Wreath Making Night and Teacher Luncheon. The next EFA meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. **Join the Educare Family Association facebook Group** created exclusively for families currently enrolled at ELC to stay up to date with family events. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EducareFamilyAssociation/>

EFA Event Highlights:

- ◆ **Stuffing Drive, November 2017**—Thank you to all who helped us “Stuff the Foyer” in November. We were able to donate 106 boxes to the Brunswick Food Bank (we exceeded our goal of 90 boxes).
- ◆ **EFA Family Cookbook**—Thank you to the families who submitted a Thanksgiving recipe for November. December's theme is to provide a recipe of your favorite holiday dish. Please complete the card available at the front desk and return it to the front desk by 12/29.
- ◆ **Holiday Vendor Event, 12/2**—The EFA has cancelled the event for December (New Date TBA for Spring 2018).
- ◆ **Parent's Night Out, 12/16**—See the front for additional details.
- ◆ **Week of December 18**—Teacher holiday luncheon (Details/Date TBA)



Educare Inclement Weather Policy — Colder Weather Is Upon Us!

Winter is here, cold weather is now upon us, which means it's time to remind families of our inclement weather policies at ELC:

- ◆ **Inclement Weather Operations at ELC (full version available on our website)**— When Frederick County Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Educare will open one hour late at 7:30 a.m. and the Blue Jays Class will be closed; school-age children will attend Educare when Frederick County Schools are closed due to inclement weather (extra charges apply). When Frederick County Public Schools are delayed, the ELC Blue Jays Class will also be delayed. All other Educare classrooms will operate on a regular schedule. All families are encouraged to call the center after 6:00 a.m. during inclement weather. Families who generally arrive between 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. are encouraged to call the center or check the website whenever the weather poses possible unsafe travel conditions.
- ◆ **Child Care Weather Watch**— Teachers will be following the Child Care Weather Watch guidelines for time spent outdoors during colder weather at ELC. http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/child_care_weather_watch.pdf

Tips for Handling (& Surviving 😊) the Holidays with Kids ~ By Susan Mogard, ELC Owner

Don't Underestimate the Importance of Routines

Because holidays bring so many exciting activities to enjoy, children may find it difficult to experience their needed predictable schedules. Keeping routines in tact as much as possible while on the go can make the difference between having a meltdown or enjoying a family excursion: Don't skip normal naptimes, keep bedtime routines and make sure children's diets have the mainstays (favorites that focus on good nutrition).



Focus on Giving Rather than Getting

During this season of giving, make sure children experience the act of giving of themselves to others: encourage children to make cards for others, invite children to help prepare food items to give to others, and have children participate in gift-wrapping and decorating.

Avoid Over-stimulation

Excitement can be exhilarating and exhausting. Make sure to pace activities to avoid fatigue and to lessen children's stress which often leads to challenging behaviors.