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October Highlights:

Unit of Study: Fall Happenings
Fitness Focus: Sit Ups
STEM Focus: Applesauce
Community Helper Focus: Fire Fighters

- October 1—Monthly & Preschool Tuition Due
 - October 2—Music Make-Up Day (G, B, Ca)
 - October 3—Photo Day (G, B, R)
 - October 4—Photo Day (Hu, Ch, Ca, B)
 - October 6—FCPS Dismiss 2 Hours Early
 - October 9 — Bi-weekly Tuition Due
 - October 9—Jefferson Fire Department Visit, 9:30 a.m. (all ages)
 - October 10—Jumbo's Pumpkin Patch Field Trip (R, Ca, B) Rain Date: 10/24/17
 - October 11—FCPL Bookmobile (p.m.)
 - October 11—Family Orientation, 5:30 p.m.
 - October 15 — Monthly Early Bird Tuition Due
 - October 16—Scholastic Book Orders Due
 - October 16—Pumpkin Patch at ELC (Hu, Ch, G, B, He)
 - October 17—STEM, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
 - October 19—Kindergarten Readiness Meeting (B, Ca), 6:30-8:00 p.m.
 - October 20—ELC Closed (In-service Day)
 - October 23—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
 - October 23—Conferences (Hu), 2-6 p.m.
 - October 24—Conferences (Ch), 2-6 p.m.
 - October 25 & 26—Conferences (G), 2-6 p.m.
 - October 27—Fitness Fun Day (all ages)
 - October 27—Popcorn Trolley
 - October 28—Trunk or Treat, 4-6 p.m. (EFA)
 - October 31—Spirit Day: Costume Day, Fall Festival Parade, 10:00 a.m./Classroom Parties
- Key:**
● Blue—Off-Site Field Trips
● Pink—Center-wide Events
● Green—Family Events
● Red—Closures (in-service day, holiday)
● Purple—On-site Special Events



The EFA Board Members along with their children assisted Ms. Mary and Ms. Janice with the ribbon cutting for the re-opening of the improved Discovery Walk Path during the Campfire at the Creek Event on September 9.

October Curriculum Highlights



October Unit of Study: Fall Happenings

Children will gain a greater understanding of seasonal changes that are happening as our weather turns cooler; activities that families enjoy in Fall; apple and pumpkin harvest; safety practices (including fire safety and traffic signs), and fire fighters.

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

- ◆ **Home/School Activity** (monthly) – Families are invited to complete a Fall Scavenger Hunt (pick up a copy at the front desk) to look for fall items. Families are invited to gather the suggested items in a bag and bring them into classrooms to add to Discovery Centers. Happy Hunting!
- ◆ **Food Fun** (monthly) – This month's food fun will be taste-testing different kinds of apples and also using apples for a fun cooking project during the month.
- ◆ **Discovery Walks** (monthly) – Discovery Walks will be led by Ms. Janice once a month for each classroom; each walk begins at 10:30 a.m. and Discovery Walk Days are designated on the monthly Educare calendar. Children need to come dressed in appropriate clothing for the weather and for walking down the nature path (safe shoes, hats, coats, etc.). The focus for October will be to look for fall changes happening in nature.
- ◆ **Music** (weekly) – Ms. Janice will provide exciting music and movement about Fall Harvest and Halloween including singing piggy back songs (putting new words to familiar tunes). Sign language will include "Fall is Here" and "Harvest Time."
- ◆ **Fitness Fun Days** – Special P.E. equipment will be provided on the school-age playground or in the Nest. October's focus will be "Ball Bonanza!" Children will enjoy ball crawl, ramps, throwing for accuracy, dodge ball, soccer, football, basketball, tether ball, etc.
- ◆ **Fitness Focus/Sit Ups**— Children will stay fit doing sit ups each day throughout October. Reminder: Each month a new exercise is part of the curriculum.
- ◆ **STEM Focus/Applesauce!**—Ms. Janice, our on-site scientist, will be exploring the properties of apples with children on October 17. Emphasis will be Science (parts of an apple, life cycle of an apple), Technology (apple peeler, colander, hot plate, foley mill), Engineering (steps of applesauce-making), and Math (measuring ingredients for an applesauce recipe).
- ◆ **Community Helper Focus/Fire Fighters**—October 8-14 is National Fire Prevention Week. This month children will learn how fire fighters keep us safe. Children will have first-hand experience with fire fighters and their equipment when the Jefferson Fire Department Visits ELC on October 9.
- ◆ **FCPL Bookmobile Visits**—The Frederick County Public Library Bookmobile will be visiting Educare Learning Center every four weeks which began on September 11. All classrooms will receive new library books with each visit. 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 October 11 at 3:15 p.m. (the library is closed on our regularly scheduled date on October 9).

October Special Events (Calendar Attached)



- ◆ **Photo Days, 10/3 & 10/4** — School pictures will be taken on October 3 and 4 at Educare by Frannie Sweeney Photography. Please see the information previously distributed regarding classroom photo day schedules. Payment envelopes are due to the desk prior to the scheduled photo day. CD's of children's photos will be delivered to families the week of October 9.
- ◆ **Jefferson Fire Department Visit, 10/9, 9:30 a.m.**—In celebration of National Fire Prevention Week, volunteers from the Jefferson Fire Department will visit ELC to give children a first-hand experience with a fire engine and ambulance and talk with fire fighters regarding fire safety. Children will all receive a fire fighter hat as a souvenir of the experience. Parking lot will be closed at 9:30 a.m. to ensure the safety of children who will be exploring the fire engine and ambulance.
- ◆ **Jumbos Pumpkin Patch Field Trip (10/10, 9:30—12:30) and Educare's Pumpkin Patch, 10/16** — Children in the Robins, Blue Jays and Cardinals classrooms will visit Jumbo's Pumpkin Patch in Middletown on Tuesday, October 10 (permission slips due by October 5). A rain date is scheduled for 10/24. Children in the Robins, Cardinals or Blue Jays that are not scheduled to attend on October 10 are welcome to drop in for the field trip (there is an extra charge if parents don't attend with the child). Please inform the front desk of the extra attendance. NOTE: The Hummingbirds, Chickadees, Goldfinches, Blue Jays (M/W/F), and the Herons will visit an Educare Pumpkin Patch on-site on October 16. All children will receive a small pumpkin to take home.
- ◆ **New Family Orientation, 10/11, 5:30 p.m.** — All parents/guardians are welcome to attend an orientation meeting at Educare on October 11 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This meeting will include an opportunity to network with other parents/guardians, review Educare policy guidelines, participate in a question-answer session with Ms. Janice and other parents, and enjoy light refreshments. Child care



will be available for all ages. Please return your reply card to the front desk to ensure proper staffing for child care. *Note: New families are strongly encouraged to attend a parent orientation; however, all current families are welcome to attend to review information about Educare's program policies.*

- ◆ **Kindergarten Readiness Meeting, 10/19, 6:30 p.m.**—Families of children in the Blue Jays and Cardinals class that are going to Kindergarten in Fall 2018 are invited to attend a Kindergarten Readiness meeting on Thursday, October 19 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Childcare will be available, but limited (\$5/child). Information will be distributed to families the week of October 2.
- ◆ **ELC CLOSED, 10/20**—ELC will be closed on Friday, October 20 for an In-Service Day. Teachers will complete continued professional development and prepare for family conferences during this In-Service
- ◆ **Fall Family Conferences**—Fall conferences are beginning this month: Hummingbirds (10/23), Chickadees (10/24), Goldfinches (10/25 & 10/26). Please sign up in the main hallway for a conference with your child's teacher. This conference will allow the opportunity to ask questions about the curriculum and discuss goals for the school-year. **If the date and times do not fit your schedule, please feel free to contact the teachers to set up a phone conference or to meet on a different day/time.** Each conference will be about 20 minutes. We ask that parents/guardians arrive five minutes early to ensure that conferences stay on schedule.
- ◆ **Trunk or Treat Family Event (EFA Sponsored Event), 10/28, 4:00-6:00 p.m.** — Families are invited for a night of fun when children will enjoy safe "trick-or-treating" by visiting trunks of Educare family cars that are safely parked in the Educare lot. Children and families are invited to dress up in CHILD-FRIENDLY costumes and enjoy pizza and beverages provided by the EFA. A sign-up sheet will be located at the front desk for families to indicate attendance and any goodies they would like to share (more information to follow).
- ◆ **Fall Festival Parade and Parties, 10/31, 10:00 a.m.** — Children will enjoy dress-up fun for a Fall Festival Costume Parade on Tuesday, October 31 at 10:00 a.m. in the Educare Parking Lot (weather permitting). Families are invited to sign up outside classrooms to provide healthy snacks for classroom parties. Please bring children dressed in their costumes and bring a change of clothes for children to wear for the rest of the day. Parents are welcome to be spectators for the parade at 10:00 a.m. and join the classrooms for the parties afterward. The parking lot will be closed at 9:45 a.m. to ensure the safety of our parade participants.

JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

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. **October orders are due to the front desk by October 16.**
- ◆ **Enrollment Reminders:** Please make sure to turn in any immunization updates and changes to emergency card information (i.e., phone numbers, addresses, email addresses or emergency contacts) to the front desk.
- ◆ **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 for 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!
- ◆ **Lunches**—Please keep in mind that each classroom has an average of 15 children. We would appreciate any efforts to pack items that do not require heating up.
- ◆ **Blue Jays Class**—The preschool-hours-only program in Room 5 (9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) follows the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) calendar. If FCPS are closed, the Blue Jays (preschool-hours-only class) will also be closed. In the event of a FCPS school delay, the Blue Jays will also delay. For example, if FCPS are on a 2 hour delay, preschool will be held from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The schedule will not be adjusted for a FCPS 2 hour early dismissal. Adjustments are noted on monthly calendars.

Educare Family Association Updates

EFA General Meeting: The EFA held their first meeting of the new school-year on Tuesday, September 26. Agenda included the upcoming family events and committees for families to be involved in throughout the year.

Fall Event Highlights:

- ◆ Trunk or Treat,—Saturday, October 28, 2017 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Stuffing Drive, November 2017—Boxes of stuffing will be due by November 16 (more information to follow)
- ◆ Next EFA Meeting—Tuesday, November 28, 2017 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Educare Family Association facebook Group: Join the EFA Closed Group created exclusively for families currently enrolled at ELC to stay up to date with family events. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EducareFamilyAssociation/>



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).

Educare Online Suggestion Box—ELC has created an online suggestion box to receive anonymous suggestions, comments, and/or feedback throughout the year. Suggestion box website link: <http://freeonlinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=gc5d0k1atq3jrxp275010>

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