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## October Highlights:

Unit of Study: Fall Happenings

- October 1—Monthly & Preschool Tuition Due
  - October 5—FCPS Dismiss 2 Hours Early
  - **October 5—STEM**
  - October 8 — Bi-weekly Tuition Due
  - October 9—Music Make-up Day
  - **October 10—Jumbo's Pumpkin Patch Field Trip (R, Ca, B)**
  - October 10—Scholastic Book Orders Due
  - **October 10—Family Orientation, 5:30 p.m.**
  - **October 11—Jefferson Fire Department Visit, 9:30 a.m. (all ages)**
  - October 12—Music Make-up Day
  - October 15—Monthly Early Bird Tuition Due
  - **October 16—Pumpkin Patch at ELC**
  - October 22—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
  - **October 22—FCPL Bookmobile**
  - **October 22—Conferences (Hu)**
  - **October 23—Conferences (Ch)**
  - **October 23—Fitness Fun Day**
  - **October 24 & 25—Conferences (G)**
  - **October 26—Popcorn Trolley**
  - **October 27—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

### November Save the Dates:

- 11/1—Kindergarten Readiness Meeting (Ca & B), 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 11/5—**ELC Closed (In-service Day)**
- 11/7-11/8—Family Conferences (Robins)
- 11/12 & 11/13—Portrait Days for Children
- 11/12—Family Portrait Night, 3-6 p.m.
- 11/14-11/15—Family Conferences (Cardinals)
- 11/21—**ELC Closes @ 4:30 p.m. (Thanksgiving Eve)**
- 11/22—**ELC Closed (Thanksgiving Day)**
- 11/26, 27, 30—Family Conferences (Blue Jays)



Kennedy and Vivian from the Heron's Class enjoyed the s'mores at the EFA Family Discovery Walk & Campfire on 9/22/18.

## 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 may 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/Apples!**—Ms. Janice, our on-site scientist, will be exploring the properties of apples with children. Emphasis will be science (parts of an apple, life cycle of an apple), technology (apple peeler, colander, hot plate), engineering (steps of making recipes using apples), and math (measuring ingredients for apple recipes).
- ◆ **Community Helper Focus/Fire Fighters**—October 7-13 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 11.
- ◆ **FCPL Bookmobile Visits**—The Frederick County Public Library Bookmobile will be visiting Educare Learning Center every four weeks which began on September 24. 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 22 at 9:30 a.m.

### October Special Events (Calendar Attached)



- ◆ **Jumbo's Pumpkin Patch Field Trip (10/10, 9:15—12:00) 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 Wednesday, October 10 (**permission slips due by October 5**). Children who are not enrolled on Wednesdays are invited to attend the field trip with a parent chaperone at no charge. The chaperone and child will need to drive separately (limited spaces available on the bus). Please inform the front desk of the extra attendance (if applicable). Please inform the front desk of the extra attendance. NOTE: The Hummingbirds, Chickadees, Goldfinches, Blue Jays (T/Th), 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, 10/10, 5:30 p.m.** — All parents/guardians are welcome to attend an orientation meeting at Educare on October 10 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.*
- ◆ **Jefferson Fire Department Visit, 10/11, 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. **The 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.
- ◆ **Fall Family Conferences**—Fall conferences are beginning this month: Hummingbirds (10/22), Chickadees (10/23), Goldfinches (10/24 & 10/25). 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.

- ◆ **“Stuff the Foyer” Stuffing Drive (October 15-November 14)**—The EFA is working with Brunswick Food Bank (BEACON) to provide boxes of stuffing for the Thanksgiving packages that will be provided to 90 local families in need. **Donations are due to the front entryway by noon on November 14.** Thank you in advance for your participation to help us reach our goal of 90 boxes!
- ◆ **Trunk or Treat Family Event (EFA Sponsored Event), 10/27, 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 on the bulletin board at front desk** for families to indicate attendance and list any goodies they would like to bring to the event (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 Wednesday, 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

- ◆ **Credit Card Fees**—There is a 3% fee for any online tuition payments made with a card backed by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express. This fee will be added to the account to be paid with the next tuition payment. There is no charge to families who use the “Bank Transfer” option. This option requires a bank account and routing number to make the ACH debit from the bank account.
- ◆ **Scholastic Book Orders**— Scholastic Book Order Catalogs are available at the front desk each month or visit [clubs.scholastic.com](http://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 10.**
- ◆ **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 in a timely manner (**within one hour of notification**) 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!
- ◆ **Non-Napping Room**—ELC offers a non-napping room held in the Blue Jays/Heron’s class from 2-3 p.m. for children who do not nap on a given day.
- ◆ **Parking Lot Safety**—Maryland Law states that an unattended vehicle may not be left idling in parking lots. In addition, it is against Maryland Law to leave a child under the age of 8 years old unattended in a motor vehicle. Failure to follow these laws could result in a fine, points on your license or a mandatory court appearance. Please be considerate for the safety of our ELC children and families during drop-off and pick-up times. Also remember to maintain safe, slow speeds when entering and exiting the parking lot.
- ◆ **Lunches**—Please keep in mind that each classroom has multiple children—preschool classrooms have up to 20 children. We would appreciate any efforts to pack items that do not require heating up or no more than one minute heat up per lunch.

### Educare Family Association Updates

**EFA Meeting:** The EFA held their first meeting of the new school-year on Thursday, September 13. Agenda included the upcoming family events and committees for families to be involved in throughout the year.

#### Fall Event Highlights:

- ◆ Stuffing Drive, October 15- November 14, 2018—Boxes of stuffing are due by November 14 (more information to follow)
- ◆ Trunk or Treat, —Saturday, October 27, 2018 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Next EFA Meeting—Thursday, November 8, 2018 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/>

### Your Child Learns First From You!

“You might think of kindergarten as the start of your child’s education. But by that time, your child has already been learning for years! In fact, your child has been learning since birth: from you. Spend just 15 minutes a day on learning activities now with your young child, and it can make a difference for life. No matter what you’re doing together, your child is learning.”—Ready at Five

Try some of these fun ParentTips with your child, visit <http://www.readyatfive.org/for-parents/parent-tips.html>



#### 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](mailto: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://freelinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=gc5d0k1latq3jrxp275010>

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