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## March Highlights:

- March 1—Monthly & Preschool Tuition Due
- March 1—Read Across America Day/ Special Dr. Seuss Activity
- March 1—FCPS Dismiss 2 hrs. Early
- March 5—Dine to Donate Night @ Texas Roadhouse, 3-10 p.m. (EFA)
- March 8—STEM, “Ramps”
- March 11—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
- March 11—Scholastic Book Club Orders Due
- March 11—FCPL Bookmobile
- March 13—New Family Orientation, 5:30 p.m.
- March 14—EFA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- March 15—Quarterly & Monthly Early Bird Tuition Due
- March 15—Spirit Day: Wear Green
- March 25—Bi-weekly Tuition Due
- March 26—Fitness Fun Day, “Ramps Scavenger Hunt”
- March 29—Special Treat Day

### Save the Dates in April!

- April 6—Parent’s Night Out (new date!)
- April 8-12—Week of the Young Child
- April 17-May 4—Family Conferences
- April 19—ELC Closed/In-service Day
- April 27—Spring Fest & Family Discovery Walk (EFA)

### Key:

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



Children enjoyed helping Wendy Woo Woo with her magic tricks during her visit on 2/5/19.



Dr. Kaler, D.D.S. brought her puppet friend “Ollie Mutt” to help demonstrate proper tooth brushing techniques during her community helper visit on 2/22/19.

## March Curriculum Highlights



### March Unit of Study, “Going Places”

Children will explore many types of transportation, observe and discuss signs of spring, document weather changes, and celebrate spring-related holidays/special events. Community helpers associated with transportation will be discussed with a focus on pilots. Special Events will include Read Across America Day (3/1), Dr. Seuss’ Birthday (3/2) and St. Patrick’s Day (3/17).

### March Curriculum Enhancements\* (See Educare Calendar of Events for specific dates.)

- ◆ **Home/School Activity: “Land, Air, Water Family Activity”** — Classrooms will discuss the different types of travel – air, land, and water. Handouts will be sent home for families to complete regarding the types of travel they have done as a family. Completed handouts may be returned to teachers and used to spark a classroom discussion of types of transportation.
- ◆ **Food Fun: Green Foods or “Fast Foods”** (monthly)—Children will either help in preparing an assortment of green foods in honor of St. Patrick’s Day or make transportation vehicles from fresh fruits or vegetables for our transportation theme this month.
- ◆ **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 gather new “nature treasures” to add to the discovery areas in classrooms, place in shadow boxes on the path, or bring home to share with families.
- ◆ **Music** (weekly) – Ms. Janice will provide music and movement activities related to our topics of study this month (spring, transportation, and weather).
- ◆ **Fitness Fun Days** (monthly) – Children will go on a “Ramp Scavenger Hunt” for Fitness Fun on March 26. Children will look for and use ramps on the Educare grounds – sliding down 4 different outdoor slides, walking up the sidewalk ramp, climbing hillsides, walking down and up the Discovery Walk path, and enjoying the indoor slide in the Nest.
- ◆ **Fitness Focus/Hopping**— Children will stay fit hopping throughout the month. Teachers will discuss the importance of staying active to stay healthy.
- ◆ **STEM Focus, Ramps** (monthly)—In celebration of our unit of study, the STEM focus on March 8 will involve exploring ramps via “Peep and The Big Wide World” ([www.peepandthebigwideworld.com](http://www.peepandthebigwideworld.com)). Children will watch a short animated video featuring Peep, Quack and Chirp as they discover the properties of ramps. A hands-on discovery activity will follow the video.
- ◆ **Community Helper Focus/Pilots**—Children will learn about the different types of transportation occupations this month (truck drivers, astronauts, bus drivers, pilots, etc.)
- ◆ **FCPL Bookmobile Visits**—The Frederick County Public Library Bookmobile visits Educare Learning Center every four weeks. All classrooms 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 March 11 at 9:30 a.m.

## March Special Events (Calendar Attached)



- ◆ **Special Dr. Seuss Activity, 3/1**—In honor of “Read Across America Day” (3/1) and Dr. Seuss’ Birthday (3/2), children will enjoy special book readings and activities all week long in individual classrooms with a grand finale of viewing Dr. Seuss short stories on the “big screen” in the Nest on Friday, March 1.
- ◆ **Dine-to-Donate Night at Texas Roadhouse, 3/5, 3-10 p.m. (EFA)**—Families are invited to dine out on March 5 at the Texas Roadhouse in Frederick (5101 Pegasus Court, Frederick). The EFA will receive 10% of the sales for every family who brings a copy of the 1/2 page flyer that was distributed with the Gift Card Fundraiser Packets in February. Extra copies of the flyer are available at the front desk. Share this event with family and friends!
- ◆ **Daylight Savings, 3/10**—Don’t forget to “Spring” your clocks forward one hour on March 10 for the beginning of Daylight Saving Time.
- ◆ **New Family Orientation, 3/13, 5:30 p.m.** — All parents/guardians are welcome to attend an orientation meeting on March 13. 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 program policies.*
- ◆ **Spirit Day, 3/15**— Children and teachers are invited to participate in Spirit Day and wear green on March 15 in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day which occurs on March 17.
- ◆ **Vehicle Visits**—We are inviting families to provide various transportation vehicles for ELC children to experience. If you have access to a special transportation vehicle that you would be willing to bring to ELC, let the front desk know and we will schedule a time (tractors, bulldozers, trucks, buses, etc.). Children will not ride in the vehicles, but will be able to have a close-up look at aspects of vehicles and take photos to display in the classroom.

## Program Updates/Reminders

- ♦ **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. **March orders are due to the front desk or submitted online by March 11. March flyers include a coupon for a free \$5 book (min. \$25 order).**
- ♦ **FCPS Kindergarten and Pre-K registration, 3/18**— Registration begins on Monday, March 18. Please take immunization records, proof of birthdate, and proof of residency to your local elementary school. Contact your child's home school for any registration questions.
- ♦ **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. 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. **Reminder: No person other than those who appear on the emergency card will be allowed to pick up a child. 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.
- ♦ **Flu season is still here!** We are asking families to continue to monitor their children's health and be cautious about any symptoms, keeping children home if they exhibit a fever, body aches, lack of appetite, or other discomforts of illness. Going to the doctor to have a flu test is also encouraged. **Please report any diagnosed cases of flu to Educare as all cases will be documented.** Notices will be posted outside classroom doors when diagnosed cases are reported in each room. Thank you for your diligence to decrease/stop the spread of flu this season. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm> for additional information.
- ♦ **Inclement Weather Policy Reminder (full version available on our website)**— When Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) 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 FCPS are closed due to inclement weather (extra charges apply). When FCPS are delayed, the Blue Jays Class will be delayed. All other Educare classrooms will operate on a regular schedule. **Families who generally arrive between 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. are encouraged to call the center, check email, check Go2s, visit the Educare Facebook page or website for operation updates 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](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/child_care_weather_watch.pdf)
- ♦ **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).
- ♦ **Go2s**—ELC will be phasing out the Rained Out text messaging system to inform families of any changes to operation. We are asking families to sign up for Go2s so that we can get everyone on board our invitation-only Educare Learning Center Group. This group will be used to communicate program reminders and any updates to operation during inclement weather. You can access the app via the web (for desktop/laptop/tablet users) or download a mobile version for iPhone and Android devices. **Visit this link to sign up for Go2s and be invited to the Educare Community Group** <https://qy3mn.app.goo.gl/PvKWLh5KeewXoQ3HA>

## Educare Family Association (EFA) 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 planning sessions that are held in Nov., Jan., Mar. and May. The EFA will hold their next meeting on Thursday, March 14. The agenda will include a review of the "Soup-er" Bowl Food Drive in January and the Texas Roadhouse Fundraisers in February/March. The EFA will begin planning the Spring Fest on April 27. Sign up at the front desk bulletin board to join us at our next meeting! **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 February in Review:

- ♦ Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Fundraiser —Thank you to everyone who participated in the Gift Card Fundraiser in February. The EFA earned \$122 from the sales. Families are invited to use their gift cards at the Dine-to-Donate Night to help the EFA earn an additional 10%.
- ♦ EFA Cookbook—There is still time to submit recipes for our EFA cookbook. Recipe cards are available at the front desk. Submit your completed recipe card to the front desk today!

### Upcoming Event Highlights:

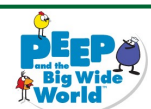
- ♦ Dine-to-Donate Night at Texas Roadhouse in Frederick—Tuesday, March 5, 3-10 p.m. (Kids Night)
- ♦ EFA Meeting—Thursday, March 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- ♦ Parent's Night Out—Saturday, April 6, 4-9 p.m. (New Date!)
- ♦ Spring Fest and Family Discovery Walk—Saturday, April 27, 4-6 p.m.



## Explore Ramps with Your Child

Excerpt from Peep and the Big Wide World Parent Handout

<http://d21na5cfk0jewa.cloudfront.net/bedrock/pdf/peep-parents-ramps.pdf> (full version to be distributed on March 8)



**Out and About**--Look for ramps. As you and your child walk around the neighborhood, see how many ramps you can find. Look for curb cuts in the sidewalk and entrance ramps to public buildings. Let your child try going up and down them. Talk about how ramps can make it easier for people in wheelchairs or with strollers to get around.

**In the House**--Let it roll. Build a ramp with your child by propping up one end of a large picture book or a piece of cardboard. Together, collect things that you think will roll down the ramp—for example, a crayon, a toy car, a ball, a toilet paper roll. Encourage your child to experiment: What could we do to the ramp to make the objects roll faster? How about more slowly?