



Educare Newsletter

Monthly Family Newsletter

January 2012

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January Highlights:

Unit of Study: *Winter Wonders!*

- **January 2—ELC CLOSED (New Year's Day Observed)**
- January 4—EFA Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- January 9—Bi-Weekly Tuition Due
- **January 16—ELC CLOSED (Staff In-Service Day)**
- January 17—FCPL Bookmobile
- January 17—Monthly Early Bird Tuition Due
- January 20—FCPS Dismiss 2 Hrs Early
- January 23—Special Guest Entertainment (EFA)
- January 23—FCPS Closed/PS4 Closed
- January 23—Bi-Weekly Tuition Due
- January 27—Popcorn Trolley
- January 31—Parent Orientation, 5:30 p.m.

A Night Out of the Kitchen, Date/Time TBA (EFA)

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Happy New Year!

We wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year! Thanks to families for all the generous gifts, goodies, cards, and well-wishes provided to staff and administration during the holiday season. Families truly helped make the holiday season special for all of us.

Curriculum Updates

January "Sit-Up-A-Thon" Fitness Focus

This month's "a-thon" will be a Sit-Up-A-Thon. Classrooms will be integrating their exercises during their daily schedules throughout the month. Teachers will record the number of completed sit-ups weekly on the hallway bulletin board. Families are encouraged to pick up a calendar from the hallway bulletin board to record the number of sit-ups completed at home. We will include family totals on the bulletin board as well. Thanks for your participation in helping us to keep ELC children healthy and moving all month long!

January Cooking Fun

This month's center-wide cooking fun projects will be chosen from home-made ice cream recipes, soups, or other recipes decided upon by classrooms. Dates for Cooking Fun projects are indicated on the Winter Event Calendar distributed to families the end of December 2011.

Discovery Walk Reminder

During December through February all nature walks will be implemented on the upper grounds. We will begin using the Discovery Walk Path again in March. Be sure to check the calendar for Discovery Walk Days and dress children appropriately, including hats, mittens, boots and a warm coat.

Weather Reminders

Child Care Weather Watch Chart

Educare uses the *Child Care Weather Watch Chart* provided by licensing to discern days when the temperature/wind chill will prevent children from going outside. The chart is posted on the Parent Bulletin Board by the front desk.

Reminder: Inclement Weather Policy Update/Emergency Closings

"Educare makes every effort to stay open for scheduled program hours. When it is necessary to close during the day of operation due to weather, emergencies, or world events, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up children. In the event of inclement weather conditions existing prior to the center's daily opening, parents/guardians may contact the center or check the website for information regarding closure or delays." An email will also be sent to the Educare email list to inform of any delays or early closures due to weather conditions.

Other Announcements

Holiday/Early Closures

ELC will be CLOSED on Monday, January 16 for a Staff In-service Day. Teachers will receive 6 hours of continued training on the topic of Social-Emotional Competence in Young Children.

Registration

Re-registration information will be distributed this month for Summer and Fall 2012 programs. According to Educare's policy, each child must re-register every January for the up-coming school year (August 2012—June 2013) and indicate attendance for the Summer 2012 program. Spaces will be assigned based on the order registrations are received. Registration information will be available at the front desk in mid-January.

Winter Clothing Donations

If you have extra mittens or hats to donate to the program, please bring them to the front desk. We had a rather large supply at the beginning of colder weather that has now been depleted. If your child has come home with Educare clothing, please return them to the building so they can be available for use as needed. Thank you.

Medical Records/Immunizations/Allergies

Maryland State law requires child care providers to have current medical records on file for all students. It is the parent's responsibility to provide ELC with updates when vaccines are administered. Please request an updated copy of your child's immunization records or provide a copy of the walk-out statement reflecting the immunization administered from the pediatrician. Additional information regarding allergies (i.e., management strategies, new medications, or changes in reactions to substances that cause allergies) need to be updated with teachers and in writing at the front desk. Thank you for your attention to this important information.

Parent Resource Library and R.E.A.D. Library: A Great Way to Get Through These Cold Winter Days!

The **Educare Parent Resource Library** is available in the main hallway for families to use. Books available provide information helpful to families including activity books, books on promoting positive children's behavior, and materials that discuss typical challenges that families face such as sibling rivalry, stress, the teenage years, or balancing work and family. A sign-out sheet is provided. Keep the books as long as

you wish. When finished simply return the book and note the date returned on the sign-out sheet. Then check out another book.

Read Every Available Day (R.E.A.D.) is a library available for children to use located in the main hallway. Children are invited to select several (2-3) books to enjoy at home, parents can sign out on the form provided, place the books

in the bags provided, and take the books home to enjoy with their families. The only check out policy is that children return their books before checking out more. The focus of the books for January is the Easy-to-Read series. Books titles will be rotated monthly. Take advantage of this opportunity to check out books with no fines enforced!

