

ISSUE 11 | VOLUME 2 | DECEMBER 2022

EDUCARE
WASHINGTON, DC

Gazette

"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around." - Willie Nelson



Letter from Leadership

Pyper Davis: As I prepare to leave Educare DC after nearly 8 ½ years, my heart is full. Full of **pride**, of course, for our organizational growth and success. But mostly full of the **joy** of watching countless children grow and learn. And full of **gratitude** to families for trusting Educare as a partner. And full of **affection** for all of my Educare colleagues who have taught me, pushed me, laughed and grieved with me, and linked arms with me to do this good work. **Thank you** for all you have shared with me.

- **Enrollment:** Dear Educare Families, we do not want you to miss out on the opportunity to receive funds for your child's future through the Educare DC Future Scholars Program. To receive this benefit, we will need your child's social security number to create an account for them. If you have not provided this information yet, please submit that information to enroll@educaredc.org. If you would like more details about this program, please reach out to Ms. Kimyata Black or Mr. Frankie Addison as soon as possible.
- **Prenatal Program and Enrollment:** Learn more about how expectant moms can get empowered, informed, and supported by joining our Moms2Be prenatal program. Reach out to your FES, Perinatal Engagement Coordinator, or enrollment team to register. Visit our website today at www.educaredc.org/prenatal/.
- **Parent Policy Council Meeting:** Provides a formal structure whereby parents and community representatives can provide input regarding the nature and operations of the program as outlined in the Head Start Performance Standards and Head Start Act. Interested in learning more? Please reach out to your Family Engagement Specialist.
- **Family Wellbeing Program at Educare DC:** The Family Wellbeing Program offers mindful parenting sessions and other therapeutic services to support the emotional resilience of families. Interested in learning more? Please contact your Family Engagement Specialist.

Important Dates in December



- **December 26th -30th** Winter Break (School Closed)



Parent Café: In Person - December 19 at 3pm

Cafés are physically and emotionally safe spaces where families talk and listen to each other on topics that matter to them, such as the challenges and victories of raising a family, navigating landscapes of inequality, enhancing well-being, or being involved in the recovery process of someone they love. Through individual deep self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning, families explore their strengths, learn about the Protective Factors, and create strategies from their own wisdom and experiences to strengthen their families. Families leave Cafés feeling inspired, energized, and excited to put into practice what they've learned. Interested in learning more? Please contact your Family Engagement Specialist.

Additional Information:

Contact Educare DC: Please call 202-727-5604 if you have any questions.

Remind App: Remember to utilize the Remind App, if you are not already - contact FES to help set an account up or if your phone number has changed.

We Are Thankful For Each Other



Last month, we celebrated our Fall Festival at Parkside on Monday 11/21. The students received Educare DC hoodies and had an array of activities to choose from. We also had two horses and a donkey for the students to ride on, some of the teachers enjoyed a ride as well. From lasagna to a funnel cake machine, our families got to choose some tasty options. The parents, students, and staff had a blast with all of the festivities.

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022 all Educare DC families were afforded the opportunity to vote for their SY 22-23 Policy Council officers and members. Families were given multiple options to cast their votes; in person, online etc. The turnout and participation produced record breaking numbers and the following parents were victorious in earning a spot on Policy Council: James Goddard, Ronnika Wheeler, Jewell Barber, Lexisley Brown, Tania Franks, Tanesa Quick.

Learning Tip of the Month

"I have a lot to be thankful for. I am healthy, happy and I am loved." —Reba McEntire

With the holidays approaching, it's important to teach children about the power of being thankful for the things that can't be bought like family and love.

The holidays are perfect time to bring joy into a student's life and gifts of knowledge. Teaching students to say affirmations not only boost self-esteem and promote a growth mindset, but they also help combat negative thoughts.

This learning tip of the month is to create a list of affirmations and encourage students to learn them.



SHOUT-OUT!

"Shout out to Nashandra Ellis for diving in as the new PreK MT and being a powerful influence of grounding and wisdom for our school! to our school! Welcome to Educare!" - Megan S.

"Shoutout to the new teachers at Educare, we are happy to have you aboard! Thank you for what you bring to our school! Welcome to Educare!" - Megan S.

"I would like to shout out Ms. Kat for always making herself available to support children and families at both sites! She volunteers to open, close, stay after-hours, and push into classrooms. Thank you for being such a team player, Kat!" - Angela Williams

"Shout out to Cheryl Burgess for her efforts in ensuring the completeness of all First-Aid backpacks at Educare DC Classrooms. She did a tremendous job along with her team." - Enrique Viejon

"Shout out to Pyper Davis for being a fierce advocate for teachers, children, and families. I have had the privilege to learn from her these past few months and will continue to ask myself 'what would Pyper do' as I manage our advocacy work into the future. Thank you Pyper!" - Adam Barragan-Smith

"Shout out to Pyper Davis for the effort and care that she has put into building Educare DC over the past 8 years. I am grateful to have learned from her and I wish her much success in the future" - Eliza TH

"Shout out to all the teachers holding it down! Thank you all for encouraging our youth to be their best. You all rock! Special shout out to classrooms 120, 124, 130 and 152. I appreciate you all for partnering and growing with me. Looking forward to seeing what the rest of the school year will bring." - Kimyata Black

"Happy Birthday to my favorite December Babies: Mr. Frankie Addison, Ms. Michelle Dunn and Mrs. Glover! Team Glover thank you all so much for making this work thing worth it! Without you I wouldn't be sharpened and I hope I am sharpening you as much as you are sharpening me." - Kimyata Black

A School for Your Community

Educare of Washington, DC, is an early childhood school built to serve the children and families of Washington, DC. We engage and empower parents in their children's learning and provide high-quality education through small class sizes and cutting-edge teaching methods. We are also committed to evaluation and continuous program improvement through our partnerships with the Educare Learning Network, Head Start and the University of Maryland.