

Gazette

"The time is always right to do what is right"

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Letter from Leadership

- **Excellence in Everything:** As we kick off the new year, our CEO, Jamal Berry, has reinforced the importance of practicing excellence in everything. We will strive to be excellent in all that we do, from the classroom to meetings, to parent interactions and relationships!
- **Enrollment:** Things are moving! You may have noticed that we have begun the conversation with families about plans for next year to help prepare our students for success. As a reminder, Educare DC serves students 6 weeks to 5 years old so your child has the opportunity to stay with Educare until they head off to Kindergarten. We will continue communication in the coming months on updates to the enrollment process and timelines for families to complete this process. If you have questions about enrollment, please reach out to a member of our enrollment team at enroll@educaredc.org
- **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 February



- 20th Presidents' Day (School Closed)
- 21st - 22nd Mid-winter break (School Closed)

Follow us on social media for helpful reminders and updates

 [educaredc](https://www.instagram.com/educaredc)  [EducareWashingtonDC](https://www.facebook.com/EducareWashingtonDC)  [DCEducare](https://twitter.com/DCEducare)



(Virtual) Parent Café: February 16th from 3 - 5 pm

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.

Happy February!



The Winter Fest took place on Friday, January 6 from 2:00pm - 5:00pm at the Parkside. Families from IDEA and Parkside were invited to participate in our Winter Wonderland event for families, community, and positive parent-child relationships. Throughout the building, we offered learning, face painting, a bubble machine, and dancing by Groovy Nate. We also had an array of winter-themed books for each child.

On the 26th, from 9 to 12 pm, over 50 of our students showed up to receive a free dental screening from the Colgate Dental Van. Students received oral gift bags and a Colgate tee shirts.

We held a baby shower for our prenatal program on December 7, 2022 to celebrate our moms during the winter/holiday season. Our theme was '2022 Holiday Celebration of Life. Enrolled moms were invited to attend and encouraged to bring a guest. A hot lunch was provided and there was a hot chocolate/candy bar. We played traditional baby shower games with prizes for the winners and there were four informative presentations.

Learning Tip of the Month ✨

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly."

- Langston Hughes

In Celebration of this Black History Month, we have a quote from Langston Hughes to inspire all of our students and staff to continue to dream big.

It is important that we all continue to live a life full of dreams and encourage our students to dream big. We are all capable of so much as long as we believe in ourselves and believe in our dreams.



SHOUT-OUT!

"I would like to give a shout out to my very enthusiastic Food Service Team Jacqueline Makendi and Clarissa Long. The duo always give their best to ensure that our kids are being served with their breakfast, lunch and dinner. Additionally our kitchen always look fantastic." - Enrique Viejon

"I would like to give a shout-out to Mr. Enrique's team for a successful Oral Health Day at Parkside thru the collaboration of our community partner Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Future initiative. We were able to give services to 50+ kiddos." - Patricia Dela Torre

"I would like to give a shout out to Ms. Letitia for being proactive, willing, and flexible. She is a very thorough and amazing person to work with and I cannot wait to work with her more !" - Jamari

"I want to give a huge shout-out to Dr. Torrian Brent! First, congratulations on completing your PhD, I'm so proud of you! Thank you for being the most caring, supportive, and dedicated supervisor. You push me to better myself and support me and the team in all aspects. I know you hate shoutouts so I've refrained from doing one, but it needed to happen. Love you, Dr. B!!!" - Nora Reed

"Shout out to Ashley Harris, Alexis Richbow and Ambria Gordon for collaborating with the CCP directors and coaches to facilitate such marvelous holiday events!" - Talia Newman

"Shoutout to Richard Nduma for all of his support with the budget and his willingness to facilitate a fiscal training for our CCP directors." - Talia Newman

"Shoutout to Ronnell Nathaniel for all the innovative ideas she's brought for CCP pd and for sharing her knowledge and expertise about Head Start." - Talia Newton

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.