

Gazette

"I have discovered in life that there are ways of getting almost anywhere you want to go, if you really want to go." - Langston Hughes



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 March



- **March 10th:** Professional Development Day (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)



(In-Person) Parent Café: March 15th, 4 - 6pm

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.

Monthly Highlights

In celebration of Black History month in February, our staff planned Black History month spirit week from the 13th through the 17th. We had Black Out day, HBCU day, Black Excellence day, Historical Black Figures day, and Soul Food Friday where we had a chance to eat delicious cuisines.

On Valentine's Day our students and staff decorated the lobby with Valentine's Day cards. In addition, the National Women's Law Center brought candy and cards for teachers which brought smiles to everyone's faces.

We hosted the Child Care Partners (CCP) retreat downtown between 2/26-2/28/2023. The retreat consists of professional development opportunities with internal and external teams. We reviewed our goals, engaged in data dialogue, reviewed parent engagement strategies, discussed diversity, equity and inclusion, and more.



SHOUT-OUT!

"I want to thank every department for their outstanding commitment, creativities, knowledge and skills to the Educare model and its mission to combat aversities and barriers for the children and families we serve. Also, for investing in yourself and bringing the uniqueness that you are to a force of Early Childhood Professionals. Again, Thank you Operations team, Comprehensive health and Nutrition teams, Family Engagement team, Education team, Enrollment and Administration teams, Advocacy and Media teams, Leadership and Partners. Despite your location at Parkside, Idea or CCP HIGH FIVE with love. Individually, we can make a change but TOGETHER we are THAT CHANGE!" - Kermerish Prince

"Shout out to my team for having amazing ITERS and CLASS scores in February and for having great attendance as well!" - Megan S

"Congratulations to Torrian Brent on getting her PhD in Infant and Early Childhood Development." - Eliza TH

"To Torrian Brent, thank you for being an inspiration to US! This is Black Girl Magic and Black Excellence." - Jamese Burke

"I would like to acknowledge the Preschool Team for their hard work in preparing for CLASS Observations and the Office of Head Start Video Pilot. I also want to acknowledge our little preschool "rock stars" who have gone through this process with us." - NaShandra Ellis



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.