

Spring 2026

# Gazette

**“When the world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.” – Malala Yousafzai**



## Education

Q1 marked an important milestone in the school year: the 100th day of school. Educare DC students celebrated the day with fun, hands-on activities centered around the number 100. From dressing up as 100-year-olds, to creating collections of 100 items, or designing “100-day” murals, students explored math in meaningful and joyful ways!

The first quarter also saw great leadership from our amazing teachers. Shout out to our amazing educators who stepped up and did an amazing job with the high-quality work they do every day!



*Our Centenarians celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of School!*

## Development

The Development team started off the year strong. In Q1, the department reconciled the results of the Annual Appeal and found considerable growth in their analysis. The Appeal, which is sent out to donors across DC, featured Educare DC parent Lauren Hooper, and her son Markos. The campaign received more than \$135,000 dollars! We are deeply thankful for our community members who have stepped forward and advanced Educare DC’s mission.

The Team also had the honor of welcoming two new members this quarter: Development Manager Darius Gordon, and Development Specialist Hanna Finigan.



*H. Finigan*



*D.Gordon*



*Lauren Hooper and Markos*

## Enrollment

- **Re-enrollment has begun!** Please reach out to a member of our enrollment team at [Enroll@educaredc.org](mailto:Enroll@educaredc.org) to secure your students' enrollment slot for the 2026-2027 school year.
- In the first quarter, the Enrollment team has been working to support full enrollment across all Educare DC network sites. The team has been extremely successful in **increasing attendance entry timeliness**, and **accuracy**, while also improving internal enrollment procedures to ensure **smooth transitions for all families**.

## Comprehensive Services

In Q1, Comp Services celebrated Dental Awareness month in February with a partnership with Gordon Dental Associates. The event provided over 30 students with free dental services! The team also worked to hold their Health and Mental Health Services Advisory Committee meeting (HMHSAC) meeting where we partnered with DC Health to talk about vaccine hesitancy, and family wellness.

*Students received free Dental services through a partnership with Gordon Dental Associates*



## Additional Information

**Remind App:** Remember to utilize the Remind App, if you are not already connected. Contact your family engagement specialist to help create an account or if your phone number has changed.





# Public Affairs

Anticipating the Mayor's proposed FY27 budget, the Public Affairs team has worked to explain the value of the Pay Equity Fund to the public and policymakers. Through media interviews, rallies, and meeting with Councilmembers, the Public Affairs department has positioned Educare DC as a leading voice in local advocacy for early childhood education. Special shoutout to our incredible Parent and Teacher Ambassadors who we couldn't do this important work without!

To join Educare DC in the fight to protect Early Childhood Education investments email [publicaffairs@educaredc.org](mailto:publicaffairs@educaredc.org) today !

*Parent Ambassadors  
Cesalie Jenkins and  
Lauren Hooper  
attending the DC Day  
Without Childcare  
Rally alongside CEO  
Jamal Berry*



## Follow us on social media!

[educaredc](#) [EducareWashingtonDC](#) [DCEducare](#)

# Family Engagement

In the first quarter of school year 25-26, the Family Engagement team achieved nearly half of their goals for the school year.

A highlight from the previous quarter was the highly-attended Polar Express event, where children, families, and staff attended a winter celebration. Attendees enjoyed a hot cocoa bar, train ride, arts & crafts, and food.



*Children, Families, and staff attending the Polar Express Winter Celebration*

**A School for Your Community** - Educare of Washington, DC is an early childhood school built to serve 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 Network, Office of Head Start, and the University of Maryland.

# Shoutouts

- Shout out to **Ms. Darline Concoba** who has played a vital role in bringing on-site medical and dental van services and expanding care for our children.
- Shout out to the entire **Family Engagement team** for their hard work during the first quarter. The team engaged with over **530 individuals** across **38 family engagement events**, distributed **402 food kits, 31 holiday boxes**, and provided **270 brand-new coats** to students and families.
- Shout out to **Imani Crawford** for her hard work proactively creating systems to support attendance entry across Educare DC's network, and ensuring compliance.
- Shout out to the **Teacher and Parent Ambassadors** who have participated in **over 20 advocacy events** in the last quarter, spanning media appearances, rallies, and meetings with policymakers all towards protecting investments in early childhood education
- Shout out to our **Educators** who took part in the Federal Review and demonstrated daily excellence in the classroom:
  - Naijah Hughes
  - Jakelya Brooks
  - Shanequa Green
  - Jackie Strickland
  - Madison Pearce
  - Niesha Kibler
  - Tamika Hill
  - Shanne Lewis

# Professional Development

The Professional Development team compiled nearly **130 Individualized Professional Development plans**. They have also been advancing in their application to become an OSSE approved ECE training facility!

Advance your learning today - Educare DC provides free access for families to use Academy + where parents can access courses in child development, and Head Start related topics. Contact your Family Engagement specialist to learn more today!

