



DECEMBER

# NEWSLETTER

## A Note from the Director

Dear Parents,

Special thanks to all of the veterans and their families who participated in GEM's annual Veterans Day Celebration! Mrs. Sanders did an awesome job leading GEM classes in a fun musical salute to our Veterans. The GEM staff and students enjoyed this special time of remembrance. We are indeed blessed to live in a free country and appreciate the service of all Veterans on our country's behalf!

**Make plans to join us for GEM's Annual Christmas Program:**

- **Thursday 12/14 (T/TH, M-TH 4s and kindergarten classes)**
- **Friday 12/15 (M/W/F, Stephens' and Friday Enrichment classes)**
- **We will begin the program promptly at 10:00am each morning**

Each year The GEM staff and students participate in a Christmas Giving Project. This year we are collecting new children's pajamas and children's books to donate to The Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County. **Please send in all donations by Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Progress Reports will be sent home in January. It has been a joy and privilege to encourage and observe the growth and development of our students. Please remember that children grow and develop at different rates and the purpose of the progress report is to note the observations our teachers have made in the classroom setting. The GEM staff is committed to providing developmentally appropriate learning activities for students. All too often emphasis is placed on writing and reading before children are ready. Many children do not possess the fine motor skills necessary to write until 4-5 years of age. Some of the skills necessary for beginning writing include, gross motor development, fine motor development, thumb dexterity and strength, visual discrimination, direction following, and the awareness of left and right concepts in books. The staff spends a lot of time working on gross and fine motor skills throughout the school day. Some of the activities we use to strengthen fine motor skills are; puzzles, Duplo's, Play-Doh and stringing beads. Parents are encouraged to provide fine motor play at home as well. These activities also encourage problem solving skills and creative thinking.

**Registration for the 2024-25 school year will open on Monday January 22nd @ 9am for current GEM students and their families.** Classes are filled on a first come first serve basis. In order to reserve a spot for your child you need to complete the registration forms and submit the registration fee. You may send your completed registration forms and fee in your child's take-home folder, or you may bring forms and fees to the GEM office to reserve a spot for your child. If you would like to get more information about our AWESOME kindergarten program, please plan to join Mrs. Wilaby for The Kindergarten Informational Meeting, Friday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. She will give you guidelines for kindergarten readiness, an overview of the curriculum and be available to answer any questions you may have about the program. Check in at the GEM office and you will be directed to the meeting.

**Open Registration offered community wide begins Friday January 26th @ 9am. GEM families can earn tuition vouchers for referring families to GEM. To qualify for a \$25 tuition voucher which can be applied to a tuition payment, the families you refer to GEM must complete the registration process and write your name in the referral section of the application. Families may earn up to 9 tuition vouchers per year!**

Thank you for your continued support of GEM Express Preschool & Kindergarten. It is my prayer that God would continue to reveal Himself anew during the Christmas season as we celebrate the greatest gift of all-The gift of Jesus Christ!

In His Service,  
Diana Abbott  
Director



"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord"  
Luke 2:11



Extended Care ends at **3pm** on Friday, 12/15

# Opportunity to Give Pajamas and Books

We are collecting new pajamas and books for preschool aged children through Friday, December 15th. We will be donating them to Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County. This a great opportunity to show God's love through giving.



**YOUR YEAR-END**

**GIVING**

**MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

For your year-end giving, would you help us reach our \$25,000 fundraising goal? If you'd like to give a gift to GEM, please scan the QR code below. Don't forget to ask your company if they do gift matching.

Thank you!



# STAFF BIRTHDAYS

12/7  
Cheri Hedges

12/10  
Lana Spencer

12/15  
Marci Adams

12/21  
Elizabeth Baker

12/23  
Jackie Erwin



# GEM Express' Christmas Program

December 14th & 15th at 10am

## Thursday, December 14th

Mrs. Erwin's T/TH 2s  
Mrs. Shivers' 2s  
Mrs. Jones' 3s  
Mrs. Stewart's 3s  
Mrs. Hernandez's 4s  
Mrs. Kaufman's 4s  
Mrs. Tarbox's 4s  
Mrs. Wilaby's Kindergarten  
Mrs. Smotherman's Kindergarten

## Friday, December 15th

Mrs. Erwin's MWF 2s  
Mrs. Palacios' 3s  
Mrs. Stephens' 3s  
Mrs. Taffet's 3s  
Mrs. Carter's 4s  
Mrs. Murthy's 4s  
Mrs. Hedges' Friday Enrichment  
Mrs. Minyard's Friday Enrichment



RaiseRight™

Simply the right way to fundraise

Support GEM as you plan ahead for the holidays. Stock up on gift cards to do your holiday shopping and to give as gifts. **The deadline to order to ensure delivery before Christmas is Friday, December 2nd!**

If you're not using Raise Right yet, sign up today! Scan the QR code or download the Raise Right app and use enrollment code **2F3AL97C43612.**



# VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

## THOSE WE HONORED



**Patricia Gray - Air Force**  
**Herman Luetze - Air Force**  
**Les Meier - Air Force**  
**Billy McGee - Air Force**  
**Tony Rivera - Air Force**  
**Barry Smink - Air Force**  
**Bobby Soles - Air Force**  
**Greg Spear - Air Force**  
**Steve Edwards - Army**

**James McConville - Army**  
**Dace Ward - Army**  
**Mike Todryk - Army**  
**Sal Barraza - Navy**  
**John Coker - Navy**  
**Colter Keith - Navy**  
**Jeff Maddox - Marines**  
**David Snelson - Marines**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

# Grace Kids CORNER

Our next Mom's Coffee Meet Up at Cream and Sugar is on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 10:30am.

Need a creative gift idea? Register your child for Sky Ranch Day Camp hosted at Grace the week of June 2nd and June 10th. Children entering kinder to 3rd are eligible.



Register now for A Not So Silent Night. Hope to see you there!  
Stephanie Connon  
Children's Director  
stephanie@grace-efc.org

## A Not So Silent Night

- & -

GINGERBREAD LANE

Dec 2nd \* 6 PM

Grace Church  
grace-efc.org





gemexpress.org

2005 Estates Pkwy  
Lucas, TX 75002

972-727-0071

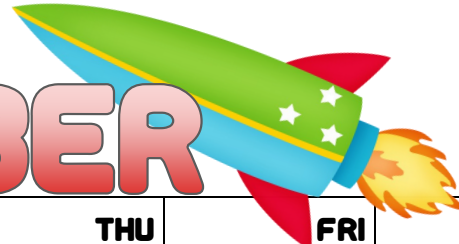
diana@grace-efc.org






Preschool & Kindergarten  
ACCREDITED  
ACSIS

# DECEMBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 	8 	9
10	11	12	13	14 Christmas Program at 10am <i>Followed by Classroom Parties</i>	15 Christmas Program at 10am <i>Followed by Classroom Parties</i>	16 <b>IMPORTANT REMINDER</b> Extended Care ends at 3pm on 12/15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>NO SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>						
24/31	25 	26	27	28	29	30
<b>NO SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>						