



OCTOBER

# NEWSLETTER

## A Note from the Director

GEM Parents,

We have lots of fun learning opportunities and activities planned for October. Be sure to check your child's folder daily to receive all school correspondence. Check your class BAND app for class specific information and view the school calendar online at: [gemexpress.org](http://gemexpress.org) for more details on upcoming events.

SmartCare is the system used to send monthly invoice statements and payment reminders, but you may *not* use this system to make payments to GEM. To make an online payment, go to [gemexpress.org](http://gemexpress.org) under Enrollment and Pay My Tuition. Tuition payments can be made by check, cash, online credit/debit card or monthly auto draft. Questions about your account? Contact Bonnie Phillips at [bonnie@grace-efc.org](mailto:bonnie@grace-efc.org) or 972-727-0071.

Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24th. T/TH, M-TH and Mrs. Stephens M-F classes will have Open House beginning at 5:30pm and ending at 6:15pm. Kindergarten and the M/W/F classes will have Open House beginning at 6:30pm and ending at 7:15pm. Open House is a fun time to see your child's classroom and some of their class work and art as well as to chat with your child's teacher.

Class baskets will also be auctioned off during Open House. Bidding will begin at 5:30pm and end at 7:30pm. Winners will be notified Wednesday, October 25th and will be given payment and pick up instructions. Room parents are assisting in collecting items for class baskets and assembling them for the auction. Funds raised will be used towards adding an additional play area outside and for purchasing additional classroom resources. Thank you for your support!

The school year is off to a great start! The children are doing well adjusting to school routines and they are making friends and getting acquainted with the GEM staff. We know they are processing many new things at the start of the school year and they are doing well. The GEM staff is working hard to lay a strong foundation for a year of learning, making friends, and having FUN!

Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in the training and teaching of your children. Most parents have adjusted to the new school year drop-off and pick-up schedule. Carpool is going well, and we appreciate your cooperation as new GEM families get familiar with the system we have in place. Please allow ample time to ensure you are available to pick up your children on time each day.

Please be advised that all students not registered for After Care should be picked up no later than 2:10pm.

After Care students should be picked up no later than 4:00pm. Parents with children in After Care should walk in for pick-up and show their carpool tag to GEM staff.

Late fees will be assessed according to the policy in the GEM Handbook. Please contact me in the GEM office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,  
Diana Abbott  
Director



"Children  
obey your  
parents in  
the Lord, for  
this is right."  
Ephesians 6:1



**GEM EXPRESS**  
**PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN**

**OCTOBER 24TH**  
**5:30PM - 7:30PM**

5:30-6:15pm  
 Erwin (T/TH)  
 Shivers  
 Jones  
 Stephens  
 Stewart  
 Hernandez  
 Kaufman  
 Tarbox

6:30-7:15pm  
 Erwin (M/W/F)  
 Palacios  
 Taffet  
 Carter  
 Murthy  
 Smotherman  
 Wilaby

**OUR SILENT AUCTION WILL BE  
 OPEN FROM 5:30-7:30**



**RaiseRight™**

Simply the right way to fundraise

**WIN A \$25 GIFT CARD**

When you sign up for Raise Right and purchase a minimum of four \$25 gift cards by **1 pm on Friday, October 6th** you will be entered in a raffle to win a \$25 gift card!  
 A flyer went home in your child's folder with enrollment details.

Have additional questions?  
 Contact Trisha Greenwalt  
[trisha@grace-efc.org](mailto:trisha@grace-efc.org)



**WE'RE A BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION™ SCHOOL!**

For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given nearly \$1 billion to schools nationwide, 10 cents at a time. Every kid deserves a chance to reach their full potential, and Box Tops can help us close the funding gaps in our school.

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## **GEM Express Preschool & Kindergarten Receives 2023 Best of Allen Award**

GEM Express Preschool & Kindergarten has been selected for the 2023 Best of Allen Award in the Kindergarten category by the Allen Award Program!

Each year, the Allen Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Allen area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2023 Allen Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Allen Award Program and data provided by third parties.



# Grace Kids CORNER

Looking for a chance to connect with other moms? Join us for a meet up on October 18th at Cream & Sugar from 9 - 10:30am. Free coffee for those who attend. Bring a friend, come solo, or with littles!

Grace Church offers children's services every Sunday 9:00am and 10:45am. I hope to see you there!

Stephanie Connon  
 Children's Director  
 stephanie@grace-efc.org



[gemexpress.org](http://gemexpress.org)

2005 Estates Pkwy  
 Lucas, TX 75002

972-727-0071

[diana@grace-efc.org](mailto:diana@grace-efc.org)



# OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 	6 	7
8	9 	10-12 <b>NO SCHOOL - FALL BREAK</b>			13 	14
15	16-17 LUCAS FIRE DEPT VISIT 		18	19	20	21
22	23	24 	25	26	27	28
29	30-31 FALL FESTIVAL 					