



SEPTEMBER

# NEWSLETTER

## A Note from the Director

We are excited to resume classes at GEM Express Preschool & Kindergarten! It has been fun to welcome back returning students and meet many new students. The GEM staff has been busy preparing lessons and interactive learning activities to ensure each student has a fun and meaningful experience at GEM. Thank you for entrusting your child to our care. We are blessed to partner with you in the teaching and nurturing of your child this year.

Morning carpool begins at 8:50am and ends at 9:10am. After 9:10am you will need to check in at the GEM office. Afternoon carpool begins at 1:50pm and ends at 2:10pm. Please remain in your vehicle and allow the GEM staff to assist your child unloading in the morning and loading in the afternoon. Cell phones should not be in use during carpool drop off and pick up times. This policy is in place to ensure parents and staff can communicate briefly regarding your child's day and in order to allow a moment of reconnection between parent and child after the school day. Please refer to your student handbook for carpool policies and procedures. **Thank you for your patience and cooperation as our new families become familiar with our carpool process.**

Thanks to all the parents who came to one of the Parent Informational Meetings in August. It was great to meet new GEM parents and reconnect with returning families. One of the reminders given at the meetings was that moving forward, no bedroll style mats are allowed to be used at GEM. Licensing requires the use of vinyl rest mats that the GEM staff can sanitize each day after rest time. Parents may send a small blanket or small stuffed animal that fits in the backpack. Please keep in mind that the following items need to fit in the backpack as well: the school folder, a change of clothes in case of a toileting accident, and daily lunch. Thank you for following this policy.

GEM Teachers have set up class Band App accounts to share pictures as well as vital classroom information with parents. This is the main way teachers will communicate classroom information and activities. It is important that you read all the information on the Band App for you to be aware of special events and programming changes. Teachers will post a calendar of special activities, class snack calendars and share many of the fun and exciting learning activities happening in their classes. If you have questions about classroom schedules or activities, contact your child's teacher directly.

We are celebrating **Grandparents Day** on September 12th and 13th. GEM will provide a light breakfast at 8:30am each morning for grandparents and their GEM students. For more information and to make a reservation see page 3.

**SmartCare is the system we use to send monthly invoices and payment reminders but is not used for making payments to GEM.** You may make online payments at [gemexpress.org](http://gemexpress.org), sign up for monthly auto draft payments, or pay by check or cash. If you have account or payment questions, please contact Bonnie in the GEM office at (972)727-0071 or [bonnie@grace-efc.org](mailto:bonnie@grace-efc.org).

We are looking forward to a fun new school year of learning and growing together. If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at [diana@grace-efc.org](mailto:diana@grace-efc.org) or (972)727-0071.

In His Service,  
Diana Abbott  
Director

\*Please visit the GEM website @ [gemexpress.org](http://gemexpress.org) to access the 2023-24 school calendar.



"I praise you  
because I am  
fearfully  
and  
wonderfully  
made..."

Psalm 139:14



Be on the lookout for  
our Chapel Challenge.



# OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS SPACE

## 5 Great Tips for a Super Start to the School Year

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1. Establish a consistent bedtime routine. Children learn and interact best when rested!
2. Start the day with a healthy protein based breakfast. Studies show that children have better cognitive function and better classroom behavior when they have a good breakfast.
3. Check your child's take-home folder daily. The GEM staff will send information and fun projects your child has completed that you won't want to miss!
4. Establish a strong line of communication with the GEM Admin Team and your child's class teacher. We are available to answer questions and provide information as needed.
5. Share your enthusiasm and excitement about GEM and learning with your child! Your positive attitude towards school will encourage your child to be excited about coming to school and this will make their transition from home to school much easier.



### Important Carpool Procedures

- Please stay in your vehicle and allow the GEM staff to assist your child at drop-off and pick-up.
- Be sure to hang your assigned carpool tag from your rearview mirror, number facing out. If you can read it, we can't!
- If you need to speak with a member of the GEM staff, please pull into a parking spot.
- Please be patient as our new families learn our system. Do not pull around parked vehicles or cut through the cones unless directed to do so by a GEM staff member.
- On rainy days, you will stay in one line no matter car tag color.

*If you need an  
additional carpool tag  
please email Nicole Miksa at  
[nicole@grace-efc.org](mailto:nicole@grace-efc.org)*



## STAFF BIRTHDAYS

7/26

Allison Stewart

8/15

Leslie Hernandez

9/7

Mayleng Shivers  
Tina Young

9/11

Bonnie Phillips

9/12

Cheril Carter

9/13

Molly Wilaby

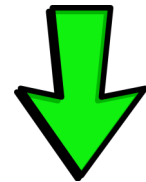
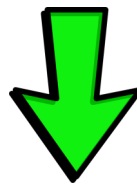
9/25

Heather Roland

## Tennis Shoes on P.E. Days

Our P.E. days are Wednesday and Thursday every week. Please send your child to school in tennis shoes on these days. We are very active in P.E. and tennis shoes provide the safest experience in the gym.

Thank you!



## Grandparents Day Breakfast

Tuesday, Sept. 12th and Wednesday, Sept. 13th

8:30am-9:00am

Grandparents are invited to have breakfast with your child and to enjoy a time of fellowship with classmates and other grandparents. Muffins, cereal, fruit, juice, milk, and coffee will be available.

*The cost is only \$5.00 per family.*

### Tuesday September 12th from 8:30am-9:00am

Mrs. Erwin's T/TH class  
Mrs. Shivers' class  
Mrs. Stephens' class  
Mrs. Jones' class  
Mrs. Stewart's class  
Mrs. Hernandez's class  
Mrs. Kaufman's class  
Mrs. Tarbox's class

### Wednesday September 13th from 8:30am-9:00am

Mrs. Erwin's M/W/F class  
Mrs. Palacios' class  
Mrs. Taffet's class  
Mrs. Murthy's class  
Mrs. Carter's class  
Mrs. Wilaby's class  
Mrs. Smotherman's class

Please scan to make your reservation by 9:00am Monday, September 11th.

# Grace Kids CORNER

Stephanie Connon has had the joy of working as the Children's Ministry Director at Grace Church, overseeing birth through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, for the past year. She first got connected to this position as one of our very own teachers at GEM in the 2s class. Though she is no longer in a classroom, she still hopes to be present and available to GEM families. She even plans to pop in and teach a few of our chapel Bible lessons. Be sure to check out this corner of the newsletter for future events and updates associated with Grace Church.

stephanie@grace-efc.org



gemexpress.org

2005 Estates Pkwy  
Lucas, TX 75002





972-727-0071

diana@grace-efc.org



# SEPTEMBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 	5	6	7  WEAR YOUR GEM SHIRT	8  WEAR YOUR GEM SHIRT	9
10	11	12 		13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30