

PARENTS' POST

The Early Learning Program of The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

November 2017

From the Director

Before we can even get our Halloween costumes gathered, glued, and finalized, it seems the stores are all already displaying tinsel and lights for Christmas! Does this bring you joyful anticipation, or does it cause you stress and anxiety? Perhaps it numbs you a bit and dulls the season as it draws out the anticipation far too long? Or what about sadness? Does the season cause you to feel sad at times as it brings back memories of loved ones that are absent from your table this year?

No matter how you answer the questions one thing is guaranteed for every parent.: The holiday season is busy, full of emotion, and will surely offer us all a variety of opportunities to be distracted.

So what is The purpose of Thanksgiving? If you're not intentional about teaching this to your children, our media and advertisement filled world will surely confuse your children by teaching that it is about having a perfectly baked pie and the best turkey recipe. Or even worse, we may be teaching our children that it is about finding the best sales to fulfill your Christmas list.

At ELP we strive to focused on Jesus and teach our children about GIVING to others and about having a THANKFUL heart. Our hope is that our children will not only learn about Jesus, but will also model to everyone who Jesus really is and why we celebrate all that He gives us!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving season!

Cindy

Mark Your Calendar

Pre K Vision & Hearing Screening

November 29

Big Picnic

November 14, 15, 16

Holiday, No School

November 21—25

Motor Movements Days:

10/31, 11/1, 11/3
11/28, 11/29, 12/1

December 6

Night Tree 6:00 PM

Portrait Dates!!!

LifeTouch will be at ELP taking class and individual photos on the following days:

Individual Portrait back drop is winter themed and says, "Let It Snow." It will be adorable for Christmas gifts. Dress in winter clothes!

11/7: T Owls
M/T Bluebirds
Flamingos
Cardinals

11/8: W Owls
W Bluebirds
MTW Robins & Ducks
PM Penguins

11/9: TH Owls
TH/F Bluebirds
AM Penguins
All Ears!

11/10: TH/F Robins & Ducks

Book Fair— THANK YOU!

Thank you to all parents who joined us in our Book Fair this year. Your time as a volunteer and the donated books were greatly appreciated! The teachers and children have all loved reading all those new classroom books!



Ordering Photos

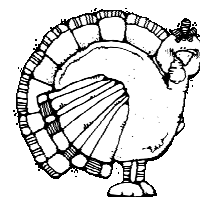
IMPORTANT INFO

Proof envelopes will be sent home on the picture day.

You will have one week (until Nov. 17) to order your portraits ONLINE ONLY.

Portraits will arrive week of December 11, just in time for Christmas!

Give thanks to
the Lord
for He is Good
Psalm 136:1



No School November 20—24
Enjoy your Family!

GIVE Your Child The Gift Of GIVING!

ELP will partner with WCPC in November by collecting these items as an offering! Please drop items off in the collection bin just outside the office. It will be especially wonderful to have your child carry the item in himself and place them in the box. (Our teachers can assist carrying items from the morning car line too!) Don't forget to always include your children in the giving experience! They can easily learn the power and joy of giving to others in need! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!!

The Interfaith Food Pantry

Interfaith values our support of their Food Pantry. Since the beginning of the year, Interfaith has provided food assistance to more than 6,000 families. Please continue to remember our neighbors in need when you go grocery shopping.



Special Pantry needs for November

**boxed brown rice, barley
instant potatoes**

Recycle Christmas Tree Lights for Habitat

Christmas lights not working? Don't throw them away! Bring them to ELP. We will turn them into money that goes directly to Habitat. Please deposit your light strands in the specially marked box located in the office. **This program will run from Sun. Nov. 26th through Sun. Jan. 14th.**



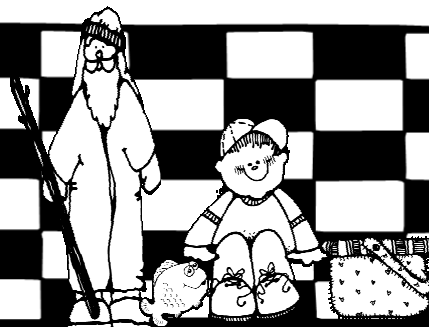
Watch the backpacks for a letter coming home in coming days with details on our December offering.
Stocking Stuffer Drive for Willis Parental Center.

The Big Picnic

Our annual Big Picnic is scheduled for **Tues, Wed. Thurs. Nov. 14, 15, 16 at 11: AM and 12:30 PM.** The Big Picnic is ELP's untraditional Thanksgiving Feast. Our children here at ELP are so young that celebrating the first Thanksgiving with Pilgrims and Indians does not make much sense to them. We want to emphasize the concepts of sharing and thankfulness during this season, so we have chosen a Bible story to illustrate God's abundant love for all of his people. We will be telling the story of how a little boy shared his lunch of fish and bread with Jesus and fed 5000 people. The children will enjoy a picnic snack of fish sticks and bread.

Please have your children bring an adult shirt, and a towel or scarf for his/her head to wear to the picnic. We will dress like they did 2000 years ago! :)

Parents are invited to attend and help serve. Please feel free to dress the part yourself.



Science Is Fun!

Our Science Fun program offers your child the opportunity to attend a one day a week class filled with all kinds of age appropriate hands on science experiments, games, books, and more! The children explore and experiment from concepts such as bubbles to dinosaurs and magnets and more! This class is offered to children in the Pre-K and Transition program and is offered on Wednesdays from 12-3 and Fridays from 9-12. Your child can attend on a day that he /she doesn't have his Pre-K class, or he/she can join in on a current class day, thus extending his/her day to a full day.

We currently have an opening in our Friday morning class! If you are interested in learning more about the program, please stop by and inquire! We'd love to give you a tour of the class and show you the program! If your child is in the in the 3's program this year, keep the class in mind for next year!

Please take a moment to meet our Science teachers!



Debbie Olson

This is Debbie's fifth year teaching ScienceFun and her ninth year at ELP. Before coming to ELP Debbie worked for CISD at the District

office.

Debbie has been married for 35 years, has two grown daughters and three grandsons. She loves sharing the wonders of God's creation.



Lisa Skinner

This is Lisa's eleventh year at ELP and her second year teaching ScienceFun. Lisa has been married or 22 years and has two daughters who both graduated from ELP. One daughter is in her Junior year of High School and one a Sophomore at Rice University. Lisa loves exploring God's creation with the ScienceFunnners!

A QUOTE TO REMEMBER

"Speak to Children as if they are the wisest, kindest, most beautiful and magical humans on Earth.....for what they BELIEVE is what they will BECOME."

-a quote shared by an ELP teacher during AM devotional time .

Author unknown

Can We Pray For You?

Did you know that ELP teachers pray everyday at 8:50 AM for your children? We are honored and consider it the best way to start our day!

We have blank prayer cards in the office. Please grab one and return it with a written prayer anytime! Feel free to be anonymous or very specific. We would love to lift up your prayers! Or—please simply share a kind word of gratitude to the teachers, or even a special uplifting note/quote.

Our Special Teachers make Special Events "The Best Day Ever!"

We have 3 amazing teachers who work together all year as a committee to create the monthly special events: Corky Janisch, Lisa Miller, and Kristi Zerangue

We thank you ladies for creating an amazing, fun filled Fall Festival! Not only was it a perfect day each day, but the memories we shared together on these special days will last a lifetime! (And praises to The Lord too for all that great sunshine and cooler temps!)

Each morning and afternoon, these teachers set up and cleaned up all of the stations on the side yard. Please take a moment to give them an extra hug of gratitude!

Reducing Holiday Stress

As the traditional holiday season approaches, family stress begins to build. Parties, shopping, family commitments, activities, presentations, and anticipation all take their toll on adults. What happens to children at this time of year? Often adults can use words to express their over stimulation, while children resort to the most basic level: their body language. Whining, crying, hitting, sibling rivalry, lack of cooperation can peak as the holidays come closer. Parents can take action before the season swings into gear. With family plans, thoughtful consideration in the forefront, holiday stress can be reduced and family time can become more relaxed and productive. Some ideas worth trying include:

1. Delay talking about the approaching holiday until a few days before it will occur. The concept of time is quite abstract and beyond the cognitive abilities of most preschoolers. Waiting is very hard for most children and almost impossible for some. Make it easy on yourself and your children by choosing to save anticipation for the very last moment!
2. Let your child know clearly that gifts are NOT rewards for good behavior. Gifts are given because someone loves you and cares about you. Children can become very worried that their behavior will never be "good enough". Your LOVE is your greatest gift to your child.
3. Be sensitive to your personal reactions to the busy holiday season. Children sense their parent's every mood. Your personal stress can be communicated to your child without saying anything!
4. Your child may ask specific and often value-laden questions about holiday time. Take time to answer each question thoughtfully. "Is Santa real?" "What is Jesus' birthday?"
5. Provide opportunities for your child to relax. A pile of soft pillows, a quilt over a card table, a sleeping bag may give your child a safe refuge from too much stimulation. Books and quiet music on a tape player are additional modes of relaxation.
6. Paper and drawing material can offer a means of expressing a child's feelings. Asking your child to draw how he/she is feeling can be therapeutic.
7. Aggressive and over stimulated children can find relief in a warm bath tub. Bubbles, soap crayons, and containers for pouring assist in stress reduction. Adults may find they need these outlets too. Having children bathe before dinner can turn conflict into fun!
8. An outdoor easel on the deck, in the yard, hooked to the fence, or located on the driveway can give an overly-stressed child a creative release. Mix tempera paint with liquid dish detergent for easier clean-up.
9. Dough or clay offers a way to air frustrations. A simple recipe for homemade play dough follows. Cookie cutters and round blocks are all that is needed for uninterrupted play. In our climate, try this outdoors!
10. Limit sugary foods. Many children become more active or aggressive when high sugar levels are present in their bodies. This can be a challenge to parents at holiday time. Sugar is best offered in small amounts and on infrequent occasions. Alternatives include fresh fruit. Texas is famous for wonderful citrus products.
11. Set aside time for family. Even in the busy holiday season, take one night each week for an at-home family time. Concentrate on each other. Sing, play special music, read meaningful stories, play family games, hug, kiss and tell each other, "I love you". Time and love always work wonders!



A Note From Your ELP Board

As part of the ELP Board, there is a named subcommittee member who serves as the Parent Liason. This subcommittee member is here for you to help represent you, the parent, and serve as a communicator. Should you have any questions or concerns that you would like to be brought to the Board's attention, please contact Christina Kraatz at Christina.kraatz@gmail.com. The board also has a direct email: Elpboard@gmail.com

*let your
light
shine.* Matthew 5:16

A special packet is going home this week in backpacks!

We hope you will join us as we make this very intentional effort to ENJOY the holiday season and keep Jesus in the center of it ALL! Come learn many great ideas!

You are invited for a coffee and cookies on

November 15 at 10:15,
hosted by Rita Van Sickle .
Childcare is not provided, but they are welcome. Meet us in Fellowship Hall, and afterwards you can head over to The Big Picnic!



It's that time of year when we need jackets in the morning, but shed them in the afternoon. Please put your child's name on his/her jacket so we can get them back to you. Lost and found collections have started, stop by the office to make a claim.

Also, did you lose a stroller? A black umbrella style stroller was found near car line on Oct. 10. Please come claim it if it is yours.

Donations



Are you thinking about cleaning out the garage or yard toys at home? WCPC has a playground behind the CHEB building that is used for Sunday School and many other church activities. They are in need of playhouses, preschool sized bikes and riding toys of all kinds, and any other yard type toys for children. If you have any items to donate, please contact Susan Duncan at: sduncan@wcpc-tx.org. It would be greatly appreciated!

And ELP is also looking for backyard style soccer goals as well to add to our side yard for friends and fun classes! Please let us know if you ever know of anyone selling or donating them.



Need a Tax Break?

As apart of WCPC, ELP is a non profit 501c3 organization . Please consider us if you or your company are looking to make an end of year donation!

ELP could benefit greatly from additional funds to provide more staffing and development resources for our children with special needs. Funds would also be helpful for all of our teacher training and educational programs.

Please have check made out to WCPC (Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church) and earmarked for ELP.

Thank you for your generous consideration.

