PARENTS' POST

ELP of The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church **Feb. 2018**

From the Director

Dear ELP Families,

We hope you know how much we love you and your children! In the past few weeks, our teachers have been preparing for a very special time where they will meet with you to discuss your child's growth and development. This is such a joy! Just like a proud parent, ELP teachers love to reflect and talk about their students. We are honored to share our experiences with you and express the many ways we love your child! We know your child well by this time in the year; it may even surprise you a bit!

"Love One Another" (1 John 4:7) As we celebrate our friends and the ones we love this February with Valentines, our children at ELP will be engrossed in multiple opportunities to share and experience their LOVE for each other. Everything we do focuses on love; the way we work, play, and even resolve conflict. Giving your child these precious opportunities in these preschool years is so valuable! Thank you for allowing US at ELP to share Jesus' love with your child!

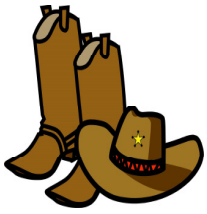
Cindy

Register for 2018-19

The Registration Packets for ELP 2018-19 have already been distributed to our in-house students and are encouraged to be returned as soon as possible. The deadline for in-house registration is **Friday, February 9, Noon.**

Class Confirmations and Admission Forms will be distributed by backpack in March.

Current WCPC members can register February 11 &12.
Alumni Registration will be Wednesday, February 14
Public Registration Lottery will be held Thur., February 15, 6:30 P.M.
Tours are offered every Wednesday at 10:00 AM, or by Appt.
Tell your Friends!



RODEO WEEK!!!

February 27, 28, & March 1.will be Texas Rodeo Week. We will have a hootin,' hollerin' good time with Miss Shelley. She brings the Rodeo theme to life on the side yard. We will be milking the cow, branding the bulls, lassoing and lots of other fun Rodeo activities.

Miss Shelley will have rodeo *motor movement* classes on the side yard and the ELP Rodeo will be in full swing!

Dress Go Texan on your
Motor movement day!

Mark Your Calendar

Thur. Feb. 1
All Ears! Family Night, 6 PM

Tue.-Thur., Feb. 6-8
Parent Teacher Conferences-
No Regular ELP class

Fri., February 9, Noon
2018-19 In House Registration
Forms Due !!

Feb. 11 & 12
WCPC Early Registration

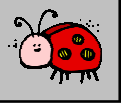
Wed., February 14.
Alumni Registration

Thur., Feb. 15, 6:30 PM
Public Lottery Registration

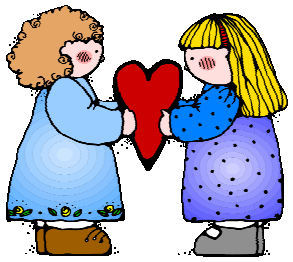
February 27, 28, & March 1
Go Texan —Dress Western

March 12—16
Spring Break

March 20, 21, & 22
Road Rally



February Bible Verse
"Love One Another"
1 John 4:7



Valentines

Don't forget your valentines! Classes are sharing valentines, February 13-15. Watch for notes from your child's teachers. It is not too early to have your start making cards!

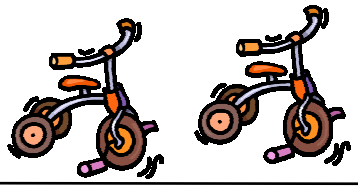
ELP Road Rally

ELP Road Rally is coming up in **March**.! (3/20-3/22)

Children need to bring their bike, trike or favorite riding toy, and helmet.

We will rope off part of the parking lot so that the children can Go, Go, Go!

Watch backpacks for a schedule. Don't forget, we also post schedules on Facebook. Friend Us! (at The Early Learning Program)



ALL EARS!
LISTENING & LANGUAGE CENTER

FAMILY NIGHT

Everyone, please join us at Family Night on **February 1st at 6:00 in** the CHEB building. Childcare is provided, by reservation.

The author of *Out of My World, Into Theirs: A Memoir on Overcoming Deafness,* Susan Langlois will be sharing her journey to hearing.
This event is not just for families who have children with hearing loss. Everyone can benefit from learning more and hearing her story!
RSVP: meleesa@allearscenter.org

Conferences

Due to so many overlapping classes and schedules, it is necessary for **ELP to close our doors for three days, Tues-Thurs. Feb. 6-8.** This will allow us time to meet with each of you. Classes will meet on Monday, Feb. 5 and Fri., Feb. 9, but will be out for conferences mid week. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding with this schedule.

We thank you for setting this important time aside to discuss your child's development with us. Your children and their well-being are important to us. Please do not forget to come prepared with any specific questions or concerns you may be having.

A Snack Time Prayer to our Heavenly Father

By: Abby Marquis, Transitions Toucan "Prayer Leader," Jan. 25

"Thank you for our food
Thank you for making Jesus
Thank you for the school."

CHAPEL TIME!

This month we will begin our springtime, school wide chapel theme of the Fruit of the Spirit, as outlined in Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Every week for the next 9 weeks using stories, games, and music, we will explore each aspect beginning with love and ending with self-control. It just makes my heart smile when I see how each year God has blesses this particular theme throughout our school. Without a doubt, the Fruit of the Spirit is flourishing with abundance at ELP! Through the years these kids have truly embraced and internalized what it means to have a bountiful harvest of our Lord's fruit.

But, maybe you're wondering, "What is the Fruit of the Spirit?" You see, all believers of Christ already have this fruit available to us. We don't even have to ask God for love, joy, or peace, etc… we already have it! However, as we mature in our walk with the Lord, our yield of fruit becomes more and more plentiful. I mean, seriously, who wouldn't want more peace and patience in their life? While some of these attributes are easier to achieve than others (even at 54, I'm still working on that self-control one!) it is impossible to experience a full yield without knowing and trusting that God has our backs, fronts, sides, tops, and everything in between. Moms and Dads of precious little ones, I encourage you to embark on a journey to nourish your mind, body and soul with His wisdom. Let our Heavenly Father guide your steps along the path that He has ALREADY set for you. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future..."-Jeremiah 29:11. I promise your life will reap a harvest rich with blessings, just as God intended.

Unplug Your Children

Is the TV or computer constantly in use or background noise in your home?

Does your child sit hypnotized in front of the "TUBE" or the computer?

Do you use one of these to keep your child occupied so you can do something independently?

These questions are important because televisions and computers have become surrogate parents and teachers for millions of American children.

There is much to be learned from televisions and computer games but there is concern about the excessive amount of usage and the developmental stages of children exposed.

Marie Wimm, author of The Plug In Drug – Televisions; believes that while TV viewing makes life easier for parents, it is disadvantaging their child.

These children do not learn to use their own time effectively, they do not learn to be active doers, and even do not learn how to work.

Instead they are passive observers and become hyper focused, learning by watching someone else rather than directly and personally acquiring new skills and relationships.

When children sacrifice playtime for televisions, they miss out on the make-believe play that is an outlet and resolution for anger, jealousy and fear.

There is no social involvement, or problem solving practice, or team work when viewing TV or computer programs.

Televisions and computers may substitute for genuine family companionship, the reading aloud of storybooks and sharing of ideas and experiences, some families manage a type of togetherness because there is only one TV in the house.

On the other hand, so many families own more than one set that it isn't even necessary to negotiate or engage in compromise which programs are watched. The family splits up and each person chooses his or her own program.

To stop the alienation that excessive TV and computer usage promotes, parents must agree about a television viewing and then vigorously set rules for themselves and their children.

LET'S START LEARNING AND HAVING FUN!!

Right from Wrong

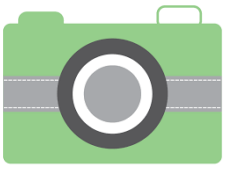
Developmentally, a child under 3 has no real ethical ability. In one study, psychologists made an interesting discovery. When they told toddlers to sit in a room alone but not peek at the toy behind them, they were *not* able not to peek. What I find really fascinating is this: When they asked each child, "Did you peek?" none of them were able to lie!

By age 5, however, most children would not admit they peeked. Now aware of the rules and the repercussions of knowing right from wrong, they often chose to do "wrong" and say they hadn't.

What does this mean to a parent? It means that building a conscience takes years. No child was ever civilized by one well-chosen phrase of correction. No child was ever civilized without many, many repetitions of both words and deeds by his parents, who set the tone and expectation of knowing right from wrong.

The single most important way a parent can raise a principled child is through example. In parenting we call this *modeling*. Although this sounds obvious, sometimes in practice it may be harder than we think.

From Big Lessons for Little People by Lois Nachamie Quoteworthy



Check it Out

Don't forget to check your child's classroom blog/ Shutterfly on a regular basis. Teachers post classroom happenings, upcoming events and well as great photos!

Why Is Early Childhood Education So Important?

At ELP, we are especially passionate about SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, and feel that it is one of the main reasons why preschool is so important.

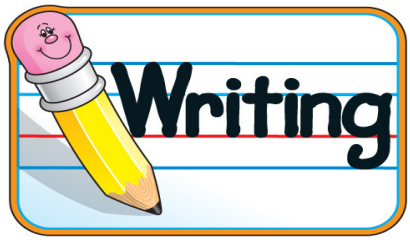
Many parents will be asking as they take tours of our program and visit us in conferences, "what are your teachers doing to get our child ready for Elementary school?" We love this question, so please ask!!!

Here's one of the many answers you are sure to hear:

Our preschool offers children many diverse opportunities to communicate and interact. Today, many children are not prepared in this area of development and research shows a direct correlation between academic success and social and emotional development.
Children at ELP build self confidence in a child-directed, play based program. Curiosity and confidence is developed by your child taking interest in others and in the world in and outside of his home. Our children learn self management skills and the ability to cooperate and communicate with their peers in our classrooms settings and our large outdoor classroom!
According to Libby Ethridge, President of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, children who attend early-learning programs demonstrate higher levels of school achievement and better social adjustment than those who have no formal early education.
When you choose to place your child in in a language rich preschool that is full of play based experiences, you are making a decision that will last a lifetime!

Every Day I have My Child To Raise Over Again

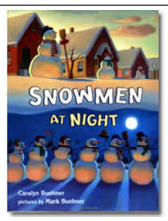
Every day I have my child to raise over again.
I will build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I will finger-paint more, and point the finger less.
I will do less correcting and more connecting.
I will take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.
I will care to know less and know to care more.
I will take more hikes and fly more kites.
I will stop playing serious, and seriously play.
I will run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
I will do more hugging and less tugging.
I will be firm less often and affirm much more.
I will model less about the love of power, and more
about the power of love.



Parents, YOU can teach your preschooler **prewriting** and **writing skills**! Don't wait for *only* the teachers to do it because it's quite simple!

Writing your child's dictated sentences has a huge value! You are teaching them that written print has meaning and that it is important. You are modeling writing and are actually "teaching" prewriting and prereading skills, try it!

Once your child gains confidence, you can then have a "shared pen" experience next! Oh the possibilities!!!



REAL SNOWMEN SIGHTINGS!

The Woodlands, TX.

This was a unusually lucky yea because many of our children actually experienced building their own mini snowmen in their own backyards!

Listen to what some of our 4's in the Penguin class said when asked:

"What do you think your snowman does at night?"

Randi: "He would eat plants, he would play with dinos at the beach."

Parker: "walk away with my dogs, they would go to jail."

Avyukth: "would make snowballs and it would hit the other snowman and his carrot nose would fall off."

Rona: "He would walk to Walmart."

Violet: "play games like Minecraft and eat candy."

Nora: "Run around my house, then melt."

Anna: "Go to McDonald's for me and Isaac."

Here is what Our imaginative All Ears! Toucans said when asked,

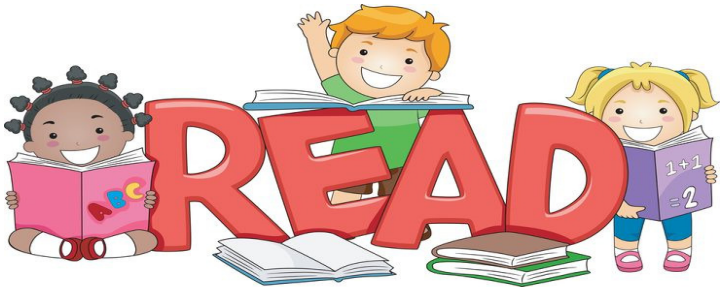
"Why did your Snowman melt?"

Carson: "The robot made him melt."

Ethan: "It was hot water."

LITERACY CONNECTIONS YOU CAN DO AT HOME!

Thank you for the positive feedback from last month's article about Reading Wordless Books. Our parents, grandparents, and classroom teachers alike have all been enjoying this rich experience! We have purchased several new wordless books and would happy to check them out to you from our ELP library if you would like. Stop by!



How To Read An E-Book With Your Child

(Reading Rockets.org)

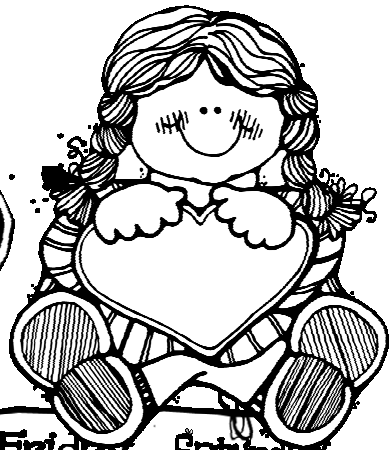
E-book enhancements consist of a range of things, but often include listening to music that complements the story, playing story-related games, completing coloring pages, and more. Most children find interactive e-books fun and engaging. But do they help develop important early literacy skills such as letter names and letter sounds or more complex skills such as comprehension?

The e-book market is too young to have enough solid research on the topic to know for sure yet, but researchers have spent lots of time watching families with young children engage with e-books. These observations suggest that it's easy for kids to get carried away with the digital nature of the e-book. Parents can help keep the focus on reading and the story by following three simple suggestions:

- **Recognize the novelty factor.** The first few times your child is interacting with a new e-book, allow time for exploration of the features. Once your child has spent some time exploring, set out to read or listen to the story without too many non-story related interruptions.
- **Enjoy the features, but don't forget to focus on the story**. See if you can help your child find a balance between having fun with the games and sticker books and really enjoying and understanding the story. As with all books, engage your reader in conversations about the story. "What do you think will happen next? What is your favorite part of the story?"

Stay present with your child and the book experience. It's tempting to let the device do the work — read the story, play a game and interact with your child. But there's no substitute for quality parent-child conversation. Keep talking, commenting on interesting words and ideas, and sharing your love of literacy with your child.

February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Parent/Teacher Conferences
No Classes

Registration Due at Noon

Public Registration 6:30 PM

Holiday No School

ELP Rodeo
Dress Go Texan