

# PARENTS' POST

The Early Learning Program of The Woodlands Community Presbyterian

October 2018

## From the Director

We have just about completed our 1st month of school together, and the Fall Season is in the air! The children are feeling more comfortable each day, and the teachers are enjoying getting to know each and every one of them! At ELP we really love getting to know your children very personally, and we pay close attention to how they each individually think, feel, and learn best. Your child is our passion! Please always remember that you can reach out to us for anything, we are not only here for your child, but here for you as parents too. Parenting is truly the best, but toughest job in the world! We hope you feel comfort in knowing how much we care for you and your family!

This month our Bible verse is Our Bible verse is "Treat Others The Same Way You Want Others To Treat You", Matthew 7:12. We often call this life's "Golden Rule," and it is a special verse that we put in our hearts and apply all the days of our lives. We see new friendships blossoming at ELP and it is such a joy to provide the opportunities where even the youngest children can begin to care and love each other. Perhaps these friendship between the children (and even the parents) will be ones that will last a lifetime! There's no denying that these are the years where our children are soaking in every aspect of relationship building, empathy and trust. It is now, in the preschool years, that they truly learn the most about what loving one another really looks like and just how we treat others.

Thanks for bringing your children to ELP! We are blessed you are a part of the family here!

Cindy

## Book Fair

ELP's Annual Fall Book Fair has been scheduled for Tues - Thurs. October 9-11. The book fair will be open at all three car line times. 9:00, 12:00 and 3:00. (We will need volunteers at these times and each class has been sent a sign up link from our room mom coordinator through their class Shutterfly) Thanks so much for considering to volunteer! Book Fair will also be open during our evening Open House. The fair will have a variety of books and other great gift items



## Reading: A little item, a big payoff

Reading aloud is a simple habit that takes only 10 minutes a day but has a positive effect throughout your child's life.

When reading aloud, your child will develop an enjoyment of reading that can last a lifetime. It's not just the reading – the time spent with you also makes it wonderful. Here are some tips:

- Find a special time each day when you can relax and enjoy reading together.
- Get cozy with your child on your lap or close beside you.
- Read slowly so he can think about what you're saying and look at the pictures.
- Run your index finger under each line of print. Your youngster will realize that words have meaning.

## Mark your Calendar

**October 9, 10, 11**  
Scholastic Book Fair

**October 10, & 11 6:30-7:30**  
Family Night—Open House  
(see notes in backpack, Shutterfly or Facebook for your class!)

**October 15**  
Mom Group Drop & Go  
**October 22**  
Mom Group Yoga

**October 17, 18, 19**  
Marsha's Petting Zoo  
(check backpacks for your class schedule, Shutterfly, or hall postings)

**October 22, 23, 24**  
Fall Festival  
(check backpacks for your class schedule, Shutterfly, or hall postings)

**Friday, Oct. 26 6:00-8:00**  
WCPC Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival!  
Hope you can come! Flyer on Facebook and in hall.

**ELP Photo days: Oct. 29-Nov. 2** Photo this year will be fun, natural and outdoors!



**Don't forget  
to check us out on  
Facebook**

*The Early Learning Program of  
the Woodlands Community  
Presbyterian Church*

Private page—ask to be our friend!

## God Shines His Light

"...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12.

Flashlights are pretty handy, aren't they? Not only do they help you see where you're going in the dark, but they allow others see you, too. It doesn't take much light to guide your steps, either....just the right amount of glow to keep you on your intended path, alert you of danger, and help you safely get to where you're going. It doesn't matter that the light isn't encompassing enough for you to see what's going on all around you. It provides all you need where you need it. That's kind of the way God works as He guides us through our time here on earth. He shows us just what we need, at the time that we need it, never revealing everything there is to see. "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." - Psalms 119:105.

Just for a second, compare your relationship with your Heavenly Father to the one you have with your own children. Your kids don't know everything you know, right? In your parental wisdom you realize that the time is not right for them to see everything you see because emotionally and mentally they simply can't handle it. Right now you just need them to trust that you know what's best for them, and as they grow, you'll gradually illuminate their knowledge of the world. Well, this is how God cares for us. Despite being the smart, strong, capable adults that we are, our minds are not equipped to handle knowing what all is lurking around the corners and in the crevices of our life stories. If He showed us everything upfront, perhaps we'd be so paralyzed with anxiety over what's yet to come, our minds would shut down. Or maybe we'd be filled with such over-confidence that we'd make reckless decisions and have inflated opinions of ourselves. Hmmmm....that last statement sounds suspiciously like how a teenager's mind behaves.

Our Father never intended for us to rely solely on ourselves for answers either. Rather, The Lord is calling us to dig deeper into His word for guidance, cling to His promises, and sink into His arms for comfort and protection. You see, God yearns for an intimate, parent/child relationship with us and wants us to seek Him, rely on Him, and share our burdens and our joys with Him. Actually, as we enter into this kind of fellowship, one of the rewards we receive is a more secure knowledge of who God is...and guess what happens? Our guiding light glows brighter, allowing us to walk this earth with joy, peace, and confidence like we've never known before. I like the way that works, don't you? **Melinda**

## ELP Family Night

Our ELP Family Night (Open House) will be: **October 10 and 11, 6:30—7:30.** This is a casual open house evening for your child to share his/her classroom with the family. Cookies and Lemonade will be served. We hope you can come and see your teachers and enjoy your child's classroom together! When you walk the classroom with your child, remember to use this experience together to grow your child's confidence and expressive language! Ask him open ended questions in the centers, like "tell me what you do when you come to the \_\_\_ center?" Or "tell me why is this your favorite activity?" Our hope is that your child will eagerly and proudly show off his classrooms! Have him do the talking and you may hear about something he has forgotten to tell you!

## All About Fall Festival

Our culminating Special Event for October will be a school-wide Fall Festival. We will have lots of autumn activities out in the side yard! The **Festival will be Tues, Wed. & Thur. October 23-25!**

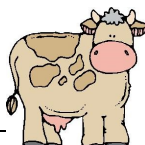
You are welcome to join us with your child's classroom visit!

Each class will visit the festival for 30 minutes and enjoy the fall activities and games with their class! The teachers will of course be taking lots of photos and post them on their class Shutterfly sites!



## Petting Zoo

Marsha's Petting Zoo will be coming to ELP on Oct. 16, 17, & 18 for all of the children and families to enjoy. We will be having chickens, goats, pigs, and other assorted farm animals for petting. Watch the backpacks for a schedule to come home. Feel free to join us and bring your family. Please remember that for many of the children it is still early in the year and hard to say good bye to visiting family in the middle of the class time. Please be sensitive to this and consider a quick and happy goodbye after the festival. Usually once all the parents are out of sight and the children have moved on to another activity with friends, the sadness ends.



## PVO News

All ELP Parents are members of PVO! PVO stands for Parent Volunteer Organization. Our Parent Volunteer Coordinator is Jennifer Samford.

Parent volunteers will be needed during the month of October to help with the Book Fair, October 10, 11, 12 & 13. Also each classroom has a "room mom" who helps coordinate class play dates, celebrate teachers, and organize any class events or activities that the teachers may need help with.

Thanks for your help and support!!!

## Peanut Free

ELP is a Peanut Free school. When packing lunches, please be aware of lunchables, Several of them are prepackaged with candy containing peanuts.

Thanks for your continued support and attention to **ELP's No Peanut**



## For Safety.....

Please remove hand sanitizer from backpacks! This can be extremely dangerous in little eyes and mouths.

Also, please note that ELP staff will not be permitted to place your child in a car without a car seat. In a case where a car seat is not in the car, ELP staff will ask you to exit car line, park your car, and come in to sign out your child.

## VIP And Snacks

Parents, ELP has a healthy Snack Policy. We are doing our best to meet all the needs of children while they are in our care. Nutrition is important in children's development and their health now and in the future.

ELP is working with families to provide more nutritious snacks. We are also working with families who have children with allergies.

On your child's VIP snack day, please send your child's favorite fruit or vegetable and dip. No dessert and cookie type baked goods please. Birthdays will be celebrated in the class with a birthday crown, singing and the child will be made to feel extra special on their extra special day! If you want to send a birthday treat, please bring fruits or vegetables or another nutritious snack. Save birthday treats at home for the birthday party! **KEEP IT SIMPLE** at school and have fun modeling healthy snacking.

Thank you for working with us and we appreciate your help and cooperation.

Also we ask that alternative snacks for your child not be sent to school. You would be amazed what positive habits can begin when friends are all around eating and enjoying something new or considered "disliked."

Our Snack menu is posted in the hallway each month on the large bulletin board. And don't forget to always eat a healthy, protein rich breakfast before school too!

## Is It Really "JUST" Play?

No, it really is a child's work! At ELP we are proud to truly offer a developmentally appropriate curriculum. This means that we are intentional about offering play based activities! To someone casually passing by it may seem like "just play," but it is actually so much more! If you pay attention closely you'll recognize the children learning socially, emotionally, and cognitively. Our classrooms, chapel, motor movement, and playground classrooms all offer very rich activities that foster the growth and development of each child. You may often see several teachers sitting on the floor playing with the children, sitting with them at snack and circle times, or simply dancing and running around on the playground in full dramatic play mode! Please know that we are actually "working" and so are the children! This time is our best time to naturally model deeper thinking, problem solving, and appropriate social responses. During this "play" we not only talk with the children and ask open ended questions to foster language, but we also listen carefully! There is no greater method to assess the children than authentically listening!

So next time you think we are JUST HAVING FUN, do not be fooled by the huge smiles, energy, or the noise! **PLAY** is a child's work and they are

## ELP School Zone

For safety reasons, please consider the church parking lot as "ELP's School Zone" and refrain from any cell phone use. Thank you for your cooperation.



## Vision/Hearing/Speech Screening

Texas Law requires ELP to have vision and hearing screening information on file for all four year old's. These screenings will be offered here at ELP this Fall class hours for all PreK students. Look for a note with details and sign ups in the backpack soon!

If you should have any concerns for your three year old, screening will be available as well, just stop by the office for a form. Transition students will not need to rescreen again as a 5 year old. All of the children will be rescreened in Kindergarten.

## How Does Your Child See Herself?

Self-concept or self-image is how a child thinks of herself in relation to the people and things in the rest of her world.

What is your child's concept of herself? Is she a very important person in her own eyes? Or does she think she's not too good of a person?

It is important that a child have a genuine feeling that she matters in the world.

Psychologists have developed several ways to measure self-concept. Research about school-aged children shows that a child's self-concept is directly related to later achievement in school.

Children who have a poor self-concept tend to do poorly in school learning tasks. Those who feel good about themselves generally do well in school.

Parents can influence their child's self-concept development. Here are three general principles, which will help your child develop a good self-concept.

1. Let your child know that you love her. A child needs to know that she is important to you, that she has your love – even when she has engaged in some unlovable activities (“I love you, but I don't like what you have just done”)
2. Help your child handle her failures. What messages are you giving her when she fails? She needs to know that you're on her side, that you accept her – win or lose – for who she is. Your corrections should deal with what she's done, not what she “is”.
3. Don't be dishonest. Your child knows when she hasn't done well, when she has failed. If you acknowledge that you know this but that it isn't the end of the world, your child gains confidence in you to reflect an honest value to her.

As a child grows, she tries to find her place in the world. She experiments with different ideas and concepts, looking to you from time to time for guidance and support.

Make sure you give her the room she needs to learn and make mistakes. But also make sure she knows you're on her side – win or lose.

Help to develop a positive self-concept is one of the most important things any parent can do for a child.

## Releasing Your Child to Another Person at ELP...

When another person is picking up your child other than your usual parent or carpool, please notify the office and the teacher by letter or phone call. Include: the person's name and relationship to the child.

Note: If an emergency has occurred during school hours - your child can only be released to a person on your emergency contact list. I.D.s will be checked of any new or unknown persons picking up your child. Please be assured that if you are stranded or an emergency has taken place while your child is at school we will take care of him/her until you can reach us. We are aware that these procedures require a little more paperwork and time on your part but it is for the safety of your child, which is first and foremost in our mind. Thank You.

## Letting Children Choose

Have you ever thought why do we as adults pursue hobbies such as golf, crochet, or gardening? We spend time in such an activity because we find it enjoyable, we have some control over the activity, and we see it as offering some probability of success. We choose what we will sew, plant or paint; we decide where, when, and with whom we will play golf or tennis.

Children, too, learn best when they have some control over their learning, when activities are meaningful and relevant, and when they can make choices in the materials they will work with and how they will use them.

Children thrive when they have opportunities every day to make choices in their learning. We facilitate children's choices within a carefully –planned environment. We create the environment to allow each child to choose activities that are developmentally appropriate for his or her age. The children choose the peers with whom they will work and play and usually determine how they will use the available materials.

These choices empower children to take control of their own learning. Children use materials and equipment in far more creative and innovative ways than we could ever plan, and they use the materials in ways that meet their own developmental needs.

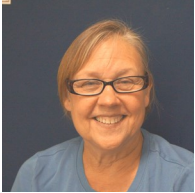
Research indicates that intrinsic motivation – when we work on a task primarily because we find it satisfying – is the most effective and engaging way to learn. In this program we make an effort to provide materials and activities that provide choice and interest for the children. That's a key reason that you'll see busy, involved children when you visit the classroom.

Rita Van Sickle  
October 2016  
Parent Post





## Spotlighting some of our Friends And Fun Staff



I am **Debbie Olson** and I will be one of your Friends and Fun teachers

on Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings. I am so excited about this year. This is my tenth year at ELP. I started as a substitute and moved into the Friday Friends & Fun program.

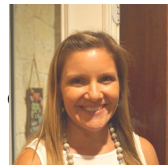
Before I came to ELP I worked for Conroe Independent School District in various positions both on and off campus.

I have been married for 36 years; have two daughters who have blessed my with three grandsons. I also have lived in the area for 37 years. I am happy and excited to be a part of your child's life. creation.



Hi! My name is **Erin Sanchez** and I will be one of your child's teachers in the Friends and Fun Class on Fridays! This is my fifth year teaching at ELP. I have taught twos, toddlers and PreK previously at ELP. I have a Masters Degree in Elementary Education and several years experience teaching Kindergarten.

I have been married for 14 years and have two children, my son Brady (9) and daughter Ryan (7), who are both ELP alumni! We enjoy reading together, going on family bike rides (when it's not so hot!) and playing catch or attending whatever sporting event (tennis, baseball and soccer) the kids are enrolled in at the moment. I look forward to a great year with your kids in Friends and Fun!



Hi! My name is **Joi Morse**, and I am excited to spend my afternoons with the friends & fun kids on Thurs & Fri! I really looking forward to sharing the love of our Heavenly Father with these kiddos and exploring the world with them! I love how everything is new in the eyes of a child. I

have been married to my husband, Pete, for 15 years, and we are raising our four daughters (Noelle 13, Kaleia 11, Skylee 8, and Makenna 6) over in Magnolia, along with our beautiful black lab, Jack Bauer. Yes, he is a boy. Two of our daughters are ELP alumni, and I absolutely love ELP's philosophy on early learning. Our days are full, but with our youngest starting kindergarten this year, I was ready to start working again. Obviously now that I don't have a preschooler, I just had to start working at a preschool. I love this age!



My name is **Toni Hyde** and I am excited to be teaching science and friends and fun!

I have previously taught at ELP for eight years, before leaving to pursue a retail career. I am a mom to three adult children. My first child, now 29, was in one of the first years of ELP as a four year old. I'm so happy to dig back into science, and play in friends & fun with the kids this year!



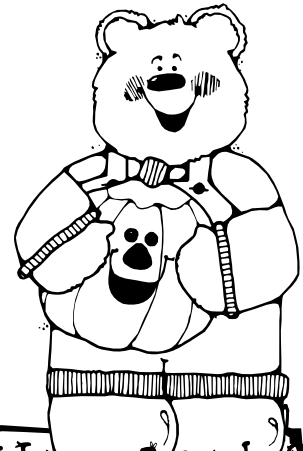
I am **Alisa Wilkanowski** I have always wanted to be a teacher! I used to give my family church lessons at home starting at 8 years old, writing step by step lesson plans every Monday night.

Later I fell in love with babysitting! I grew up in Dallas and I majored in elementary education at Brigham Young University. I have taught 4th and 5th grade for 8 years, taking 10 years off in the middle to be a stay at home mom. My Husband and I have been married 15 years. He is a research scientist and we have two amazing daughters who are 9 and 12 years old. I am thrilled to be at ELP and continue in this wonderful new opportunity of teaching preschool children at such an amazing school!

Treat Others The Same Way You want them to treat you. Matthew 7:12



# OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Holiday No School	9	10 Family Night 6:30-7:30	11 Family Night 6:30-7:30	12	13
<b>Book Fair</b>						
14	15 Moms Group  Drop and go	16 Cardinals 10:15 Flamingos 10:45 Owls 11:15 Bluebirds 11:15	17 Ducks 9:15 Robins 9:45 Owls 11:15 Bluebirds 11:15 PM Peng. 12:15 Toucans 12:45	18 9:15 Robins 9:45 Ducks 10:15 AM Peng 11:15 Owl, BB, AllEars	19	20
<b>Petting Zoo</b>						
21	22 Moms Group YOGA	23 Cardinals 10:15 Flamingos 10:45 Owls 11:15 Bluebirds 11:15	24 Ducks 9:15 Robins 9:45 Owls 11:15 Bluebirds 11:15 PM Peng. 12:15 Toucans 12:45	25 Robins 9:15 Ducks 9:45 AM Peng. 10:15 Owls 11:15 Bluebirds 11:15	26 WCPC Trunk or Treat 6:00—8:00	27
<b>Fall Festival</b>						
28 Moms group Tomorrow Drop and Go	29 Photos All Week 9:15 Flamingos 10:15 Cardinals	30 Photos 9:15 Owls 9:30 Bluebirds 10:15 Ducks	31 Photos 9:15 Owls 9:30 Bluebirds 10:15 Robins 12:00 Toucan 12:45 Penguins	Nov. 1 Photos 9:15 Owls 9:30 Bluebirds 10:15 Ducks	2 Photos 9:15 Am Penguins 10:15 Robins	