



# Early Learning Center

UNITED DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

May 2017

## From the Director

As always, the end of the school year is rapidly approaching. It is always hard to see the big Prekindergarteners graduate on to Kindergarten and know that we won't get to see many of you, the graduating parents, each day. Each of your families hold a special place in our hearts at the ELC.

Your continued support of the ELC program helps us to grow. For over 40 years, our hearts desire has been to serve God through serving families of young children in whatever way the Lord leads. Each family that attends the ELC is special to us. The bittersweet side of this profession is that all children grow up and move on to the next phase. We are thankful for you in the years that the Lord leads you here and rejoice when time moves you on to the "big elementary school." We hope you will share your stories of the ELC with others and continue the tradition.

As my first year at the ELC comes to an end, I want to thank each of you for making, not only me but also my children feel so welcome. The ELC is a wonderful school because of our creative teachers and our dedicated families. Because of you we continue to be one of the best preschool in Richardson and I am so blessed to be apart of this beautiful family. I look forward to many years here at our awesome little school.

Thank you for a great 1st year as your Director.  
Have a WONDERFUL summer!

Blessings,  
Annabelle Miles



## Calendar Notes

Thursday, May 4  
ELC Shirt Day  
Riding Toy Day

Friday, May 5  
ELC Shirt Day  
Riding Toy Day

Thursday, May 11  
Mother's Day Teas  
TTH classes

Friday, May 12  
Mother's Day Teas M-F  
and MWF classes  
Camp Summershine  
Tuition Due

Tuesday, May 23  
Last day TTH classes  
ELC Shirt Day

Wednesday, May 24  
Last day of M-F &  
MWF classes  
ELC Shirt Day  
Noon: Family Picnic at  
Terrace Park  
6:30 P.M.: Graduation  
for the PreK classes

**Daily classroom lesson plans  
are posted on  
the class bulletin boards in  
the hallway.**

# Upcoming Events

## Mother's Day Teas

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this special event! All mothers (or a grandmother, an aunt, etc) of our two year olds through PreK are invited to attend a special Mother's Day Tea on **Thursday, May 11** (Miss Kathy's 2s, Wendy's 2s, Miss Jill's 3s TTH classes) or **Friday, May 12** (all MWF and M-F classes).

Toddlers do not participate in the Mother's Day Teas. Please come to your child's classroom at **11:15** for a special party to honor you.

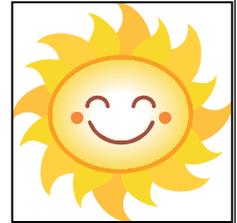


## May Tuition

If you enrolled after school began or if you made changes to your child's enrollment during the school year, you may owe tuition for May. If this is the case, you should have already received a notice with the amount due. **If you have not made your payment yet, please do so by May 12th** so that we may begin to close out our financial records.

## Camp Summershine

**DUE TO LOW ENROLLMENT, we will decide by May 12th, whether we can have Camp Summershine this year. If you have delayed enrolling & would still like to, please come by the office this week.**



Please remember that Summershine Tuition (\$75) is due by **Friday, May 12** if you did not pay at registration..

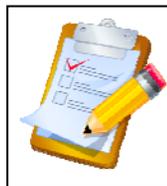
## Graduation

The Prekindergarten children in Miss Ricki's and Miss Laura's classes will be participating in a graduation ceremony on **Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. The children will sing a few songs and receive diplomas. The ELC Committee also has a special gift for them. All parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to attend. We will have a reception immediately after the program in the CLC parlor/gym.



## Parent Surveys

This week, we will send home parent evaluations of our program. We **MUST** have 60% participation in the parent survey in order to meet Accreditation Goals. It is critical that the survey be filled out and returned. There will be a box on the Parent Connections shelf by the ELC office to collect completed evaluations. Your comments and suggestions are very important to us; they serve as a valuable aid in future planning. Please return your evaluations by **Monday,**



## End of Year Picnic

All ELC children and families are invited to attend our annual end of year picnic **Wednesday May 24, at noon, at Terrace Park** (located at the corner of Grove and LaSalle, just north of the ELC). If your child attends school on Wednesday, pick him/her up as usual and proceed to the park. Tuesday/Thursday families meet us at the park. All families should bring their own lunch and picnic supplies to the park at noon. There is no alternate rain date.



## Thank you to our community for helping us get 'Back to our Roots' with our annual auction and fundraiser.

I had a wonderful time with the auction and fundraiser this year. Thank you for stopping by and checking out all our auction items. Thank you to all who took time to bid on your favorite items and to those who donated their time and/or money to help this year's auction be a success. The ELC committee will decide over the course of the next year how the money will be spent. We welcome your suggestions about what improvements can be made at the ELC. You may make suggestions directly at [committee@my-elc.com](mailto:committee@my-elc.com), or through our suggestion box on the Parent Connections shelf by the ELC office.

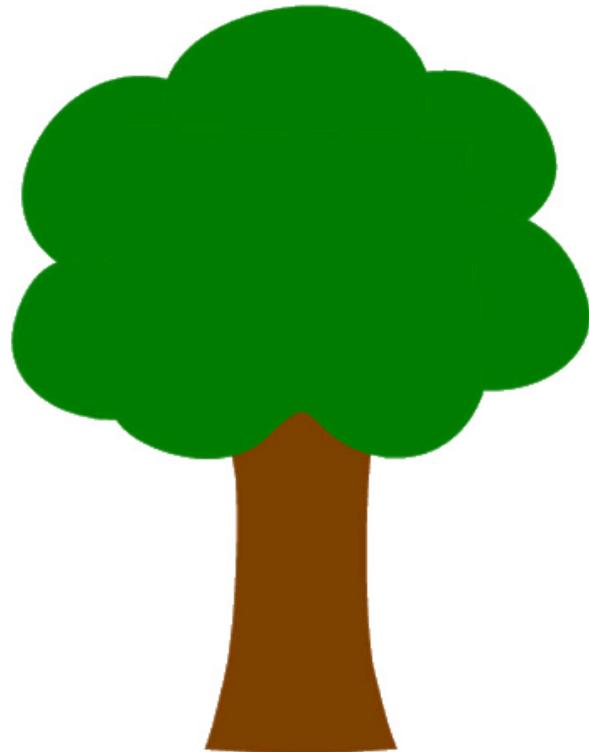
This auction would not be as successful without the help and dedication of our ELC Committee. I would like to sincerely thank all of you who took part in any way. **Extra special thanks** go to our **ELC parent committee member *Kate Morrison* for her hard work on the auction along with help from Karen Wiles and Ricki Slatten**. If you enjoyed this year or have other ideas for fundraising, please consider helping the fundraising committee next year!

There are so many to thank!

- Thank you to the Room Parents, the classroom parents, and the teachers who contributed to the classroom projects. The ideas were very creative and I enjoyed the lively bidding.
- Special thanks go to the ELC teachers who donated their time for our Teacher Treats in the Sealed Bid.
- Thank you to the enthusiastic bidders during the silent auction.
- Thank you especially to our families and friends who visited the auction and generously spent your dollars to benefit the children at the ELC.
- Thank you to the following families for donating items, certificates or their time to our auction:

Hunley Family  
Smith Family  
Hoyt Family  
Morrison Family  
Slatten Family  
Wiles Family  
Dutton Family  
Lewis Family  
Forssell Family  
Ford Family  
De la Rosa Family  
Hill

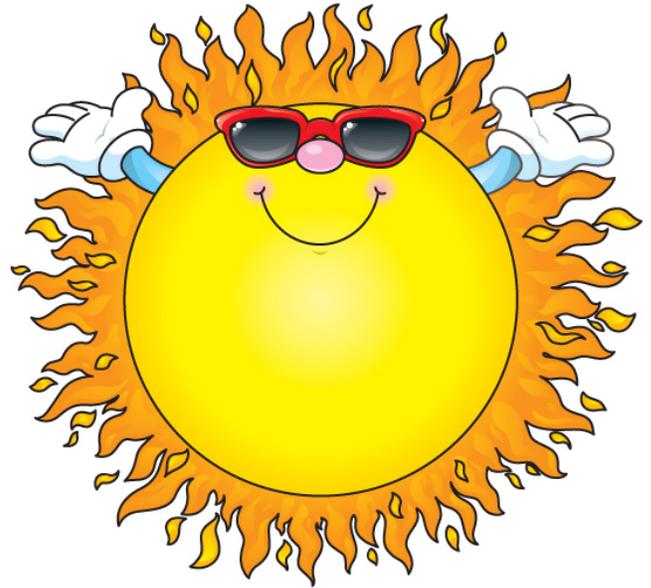
Family



## 2017-18 School Year

If you are registered for the 2017-2018 school year, you will soon be receiving a letter confirming your enrollment. Also enclosed will be the 2017-2018 school calendar and a Health Admission Form. Children will not be permitted to attend school without the Health Admission Form on file; a new one must be completed each school year.

We still have 2 openings in PreK for next year. If you meet any prospective parents, especially newcomers to the area, please tell them about the ELC. They may contact the ELC office at 972-235-8233 or email at [office@my-elc.com](mailto:office@my-elc.com). I will check messages regularly over the summer. Information is also available on our website at [my-elc.com](http://my-elc.com).



### **Substituting at the ELC — a great way to be involved & earn some extra cash!**

There are times when our teachers are unable to be at school. Sometimes it's a family illness, sometimes it's a personal illness, and occasionally it is because their children are going on a field trip or performing at their school. Because of the nature of the job, our teachers cannot miss school without a replacement. That is where we need you! Substituting is fun; it is a great way to see first hand the activities at the ELC and earn a little extra pocket money. Subbing pays \$9/hr.

State Licensing has some basic requirements for teachers in the classroom. Included in these are a TB test (we pay or reimburse), a background check with fingerprinting (scheduled in August and paid by us), a self-paced pre-service training manual, and an orientation to our health and safety measures.

The teacher leaves a substitute folder of the important information for the class, and the office staff is available at a moment's notice for any situation that may arise in the classroom.

If you might be interested in being a substitute for the ELC next year, please let Jessica know as soon as possible so that we can include you in our August plans.

# Summer Vacation

# Specials



## Music

This month we had lots of fun singing about animals and insects. We celebrated spring and nature and all the beautiful sounds that come with them. We will finish the school

year singing songs about the Summer. Music helps kids hear the sounds and syllables in words, which helps kids learn to read. We will also do a mystery bag to allow the children to make the music choices.

Our friends in Miss Laura's and Miss Ricki's classes are beginning to learn their special songs for graduation! I can't believe how fast it is approaching. On the evening of their graduation ceremony, they will sing three songs. It will be a very special evening just for our graduates and their families. Be sure to make plans to attend

## Sand and Water

Yay! The weather is finally beginning to get warmer and we have been able to transition to outside for our Sand & Water activities. The children and teachers love to experience our outside "classroom." We have continued to include activities to help develop large and small motor development, scientific and mathematical discoveries, and so much more. A few of the activities included: playing with insects in the sand box, scooping and pouring birdseed, weighing rocks and nuts, matching and sorting bunny tails and insects, creating bubbles using hand beaters, retelling the Easter story on flannel board, and so much more. We hope we can spend more time outside and use more water as the temperatures warm over our last few weeks of school!



## Bible News

Dear ELC families,

Many of you know that I am leaving United Disciples Christian Church in June, because my family is moving to the Denver, Colorado area. I want to thank the Early Learning Center and your individual families for the chance to lead Chapel twice each week for the past few years. It has been a real blessing for me to share the Bible stories with the kids. Many weeks, the scripture lesson for Chapel is the same one that I preach the following Sunday; and I have frequently brought into the pulpit those insights that the children have shared with me. It is said that the best way to learn a topic is to teach it; and your children have taught me a great deal, by helping me to listen with fresh ears to the Bible, and to see for myself what Christmas and Easter mean when these stories are brand new and fresh in a child's heart.

Two of my own children attended the Early Learning Center. They are bigger kids now, in grade school; but they can still tell the stories the way they learned them in Chapel. Even as I cherish my memories of learning the Bible all over again with your children's classes and teachers, I take comfort and satisfaction from the knowledge that "Miss. Tonia" will be continuing weekly chapel time, passing on the rich legacy of Bible-centered chapel time at the ELC.

Thank you,  
Rev. Joe Harker

