



Elizabeth's Early Learning Center

Discover, Learn & Shine Newsletter — Spring 2017

*A nurturing community
where every child can discover, learn, and shine.*

A CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE EELC'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

EELC is celebrating our 20th Anniversary in 2017! To commemorate this milestone, we are kicking off an ambitious campaign to expand EELC by adding four infant and toddler classrooms, plus a conference room!

Twenty years ago, Elizabeth Forsyth realized that there was a shortage of high-quality, affordable child care in Lynchburg - so she did something about it. She donated a beautiful facility to the Lynchburg community and established EELC, offering the opportunity for excellent early childhood education to children from all backgrounds. Our student body includes children of different races, religions, nationalities, socio-economic backgrounds, and abilities. Thanks to Elizabeth Forsyth and other generous donors in our community, scholarships are available and every child is welcomed, nurtured and included at EELC. Children graduating from EELC and entering kindergarten consistently score above the state average in tests measuring skills needed for reading success in kindergarten and beyond.

EELC has received national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Only 8% of preschool programs in the nation and no other preschools in Central Virginia have received NAEYC accreditation, which is awarded to schools that meet the highest standards in early childhood education.

EELC can currently serve 145 children from infants to 5-year-olds. We consistently must maintain a waiting list (currently over 60 families), with the most critical need for infants and toddlers. With completion of this project, EELC will be able to serve an additional 24 children, further meeting our commitment to early education for the children of our community. This will include fourteen infants and toddlers and ten two-year-olds.

The estimated total project cost is \$750,000, which includes \$675,000 for design, planning and construction, \$25,000 for furniture and classroom equipment, and \$50,000 for contingencies. We are currently raising this funding in our community from foundations, businesses, and private individuals. If you would like to make a gift to the 20th Anniversary Classroom Project, please do so in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you!



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WINTER & SPRING FUN AT EELC!



*Snow Ball Painting & Art!
Playground Fun! Flying Kites!*



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CLASSROOM PROJECT!

INDIVIDUALS

Jaime Bamford
Charlie & Marcy Catalano
Denise Fenton
Linie Frankfort
Elizabeth & Ben Giles
Gary Harvey
Alice & James Hirvonen
Helen Holt
Marjorie Houck
Jessica Hubert
Joan Jones
Dr. Loretta Jones
Ann Miller
John & Laura Morgan
Ed Polloway
Jennifer Smith Ramey
Mark & Linda Russell

Vince Sawyer
Marc Schewel
Stella Tanner
Christine Terry
Kent Van Allen

IN HONOR

In Honor of Connor Cabigas
Guanzon
Cesar Guazon

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

Campbell Insurance
Carrington Family Foundation
Church of the Covenant
Old Dominion Wood Products

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

JANUARY 1, 2016—DECEMBER 31, 2016

INDIVIDUALS

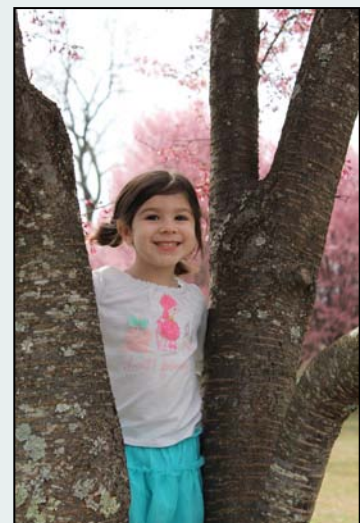
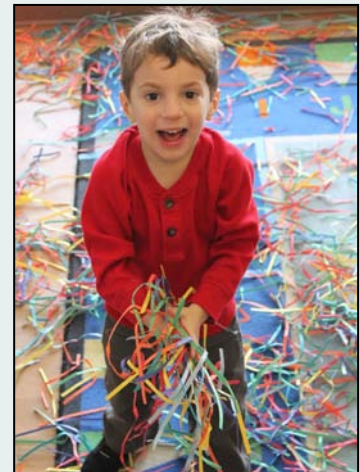
Anonymous (3)
Sharon & Lee Ainslie
Carol & Rick Anderson
Jaime Bamford and Reggie Reynolds
Carolyn & Alex Bell
John Blanks
Mary Morris Booth
Ashley & Jason Botterill
Karen & Jeff Brown
Glenn Buck
Nancy & Sam Cardwell
Karen & Drake Covey
Gena & Bill Davidson
Gretchen & John Evans
Max Feinman
Jennifer & Watt Foster
Cary & Ed Fox
Linie Frankfort
Edgar Garrard
The Gowen Family
Verna & Matt Guazon
Alice & James Hirvonen
Marjorie Houck
Ed & Susan Hume
Bette & Larry Hynes
Joan Jones
Angela LaFon
Catherine & Mike Madden
Robert A. McCowen
Ann Causey Mendenhall
Jennifer Wills & Javaun Moradi
Peggy & Bill Nolley

Carolyn & Ed Polloway
Mr. & Mrs. R.G. Porter
Ida & Bill Powell
Jennifer & Steve Ramey
Betty Roberts
Carole Royer
Linda & Mark Russell
Elaine & Christopher Russo
Vince Sawyer
Elliot & Rosel Schewel
Marc Schewel
Dr. & Mrs. Han K. Song
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Stuart Turille
Paul Whitehead, Jr.

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

Campbell Insurance
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Dodson Pest Control
Ed Fielding
Fleet Laboratories
Gerdy Construction Co., Inc.
Greater Lynchburg Community Trust
KVA Foundation - *In memory of Elizabeth Forsyth*
Old Dominion Wood Products
Selective Insurance Group Foundation
Sun Trust Foundation

EELC CUTIES!



**EELC FIELD TRIPS &
THEME DAYS!**



Dr. Seuss Birthday Party!



Lynchburg Humane Society!



Lynchburg Grows!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

JANUARY 1, 2016—DECEMBER 31, 2016

IN HONOR

In Honor of The Rev. & Mrs. Kirk Brown
Anonymous

In Honor of Tish & Erv Brown
Anonymous

In Honor of Ann & Doug Carpenter
Anonymous

In Honor of Elsie Chambers
Anonymous

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Forsyth
Anonymous

In Honor of Mrs. Jack Fox
Anonymous

In Honor of Mr. Jamie Howard
Anonymous

In Honor of The Rev. & Mrs. Lloyd Lipscomb
Anonymous

In Honor of Mrs. Raymond Slaughter
Anonymous

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sackett
Anonymous

In Honor of Frank Vest
Anonymous

In Honor of Mrs. John Williams
Anonymous

In Honor of Stella Tanner, Kami & Tanner Weeks
Susan & Frank Adams

In Honor of Grady & Henry Sales
Jo & Barry Brown

In Honor of Clinton, Marisa, Carmine, Lona & Sicily Jones
Marcy & Charlie Catalano

In Honor of Bibee, Doremus & Gerdy Families
Connie & Steve Crank

In Honor of Agee Cook
Margaret Dillard

In Honor of Stella Tanner
Cathie & Jed Brown
Albert Kemper
John Richards

In Honor of Jane Gerdy & Staff Kenna and Chuck Doremus

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Harris
Elizabeth Logan Harris

In Honor of Laura & Luck Sackett
Mr. & Mrs. George R. Harris

In Honor of Harper Addison
Sandra & David Jordan

In Honor of Betty & Billy Harris
Karen & Randy Nelson

In Honor of Landon & Hannah Nunley
Dr. Wally & Donna Nunley

In Honor of Sloane Turek
Joan & John Turek

In Honor of Marie Harris
Jessica Ward

IN MEMORY

In Memory of Dick & Charlie Raddin
Ted & Lib Colcolough

In Memory of John Morton Flippin
Charlynn Flippin

In Memory of Elizabeth M. Forsyth
Albert Kemper
Dr. John Risher
Stella Tanner

In Memory of Larry McCauley
Geeta Rakheram

In Memory of the Drinkard Girls
Sandy Underwood



APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

April is National Autism Awareness Month. Advocates and nations from around the world come together to help increase understanding and acceptance of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASD is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges for children. It is called a spectrum because the learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely intellectually disabled. Some children with ASD need a great deal of individualized care and many others fit well into a regular classroom with their typically developing peers.

According to estimates from the Center for Disease Control, 1 in 68 children have been identified with ASD. This includes children from all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. Appropriate screening can determine whether a child is at risk for autism as young as one year. Studies have shown that one-third to half of parents of children with ASD noticed a problem before their child's first birthday, and nearly 80-90% saw problems by 24 months of age. Early diagnosis is important because early treatment improves outcomes.

Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder in young children include:

- Not responding to their name by 12 months
- Lining up toys or objects
- Not gesturing (such as waving bye-bye)
- Not playing "pretend" games
- Delayed speech and language skills
- Preferring not to be held or cuddled
- Repeating actions over and over again
- Having trouble adapting to a change in routine
- Not pointing to objects to show interest or express wants
- Repeating or echoing words or phrases in place of normal language
- Self-stimulatory behaviors such as hand-flapping, rocking, spinning
- Having unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound



Children with ASD are included in our classrooms each year at EELC. Our teachers are trained to recognize the characteristics of children with ASD and to implement strategies to help them to learn social skills, communication skills, and cognitive skills so that they can succeed throughout their school career and life. EELC partners with The Infant and Toddler Connection of Central Virginia and Lynchburg City Schools to provide specialized support and services for our students with ASD. Eight of our staff members are Certified Autism Specialists. EELC staff members that are Certified Autism Specialists are Sue Damer, Mary Beth Doss, Jane Gerdy, Fely Isidro, Angie McFadden, Jennifer McKinney, Mary Rucker, and Lori Strickland. Parents with questions or concerns about their child's development should contact Jane Gerdy, EELC Executive Director.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ed.S, LPC

L. Vincent Sawyer, Jr.

Stella Thomas Tanner

W. Eric Thomas

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OUR MISSION

Elizabeth's Early Learning Center provides every child with affectionate and personalized care in a safe environment. We focus on providing for the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive developmental needs of children in an age-appropriate manner.

CONGRATULATIONS ANTHONY ANDREWS & SARAH KASS—EELC'S MOST RECENT CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE GRADUATES!



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