



# Elizabeth’s Early Learning Center

Discover, Learn & Shine Newsletter — Spring 2016

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



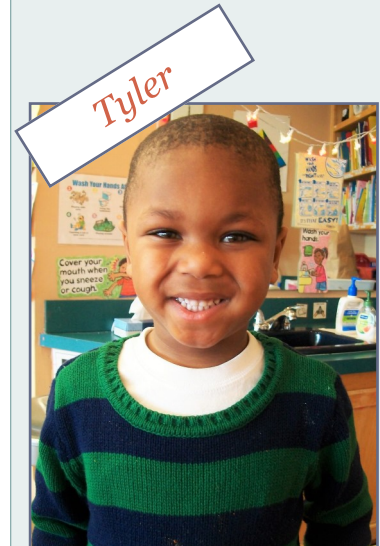
## SPOTLIGHT ON TYLER

Tyler has been a student at EELC since he was six-weeks-old. At the time of his birth, his mother Tabitha was living in Miriam’s House. She had been evicted from her apartment because she did not earn enough money to pay the rent. There were times when the only place she had to live was in her car. Miriam’s House provided shelter for her and her new baby. Elizabeth’s Early Learning Center provided Tyler with care so that Tabitha could go back to work as a hairdresser. Within a few months, she earned enough to rent her own apartment and was living independently. Tyler remained a student at EELC.

In January of 2015, Tabitha suffered from a stroke. In the past year, she has been hospitalized five additional times due to complications from the stroke. She is now disabled and unable to work. She still manages, with the assistance of family and friends, to get Tyler to school every day. He is a friendly, kind, and intelligent four-year-old now, and he lights up the room when he arrives each morning, so eager to learn.

Tabitha is thankful to EELC for being there when she needed help and for providing Tyler with nurturing care and a quality education. She stated, “It is like a second home to him. He has been here his whole life.” She is amazed at how much he has grown, changed, and learned. He is an only child and she is appreciative that he has learned to get along with others and that he has an opportunity for positive social interactions with his teachers and classmates. She is also thankful to the teachers who have been so patient with her and have taught her to be a better parent. They have taught her so many strategies to help her support Tyler both socially and academically.

Tabitha is also so grateful to the donors of Elizabeth’s Early Learning Center. Through the Scholarship Program, Tyler has been able to attend EELC from the time he was born into a homeless situation and through the trying times caused by his mother’s illness. A secure, stable environment is so important for a young child and, because of the legacy of Elizabeth Forsyth, EELC is always able to do whatever is best and is needed for the good of each child. THANK YOU, DONORS, FOR MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A VERY SPECIAL LITTLE BOY.



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*The Outdoor Learning Classroom Under Construction*

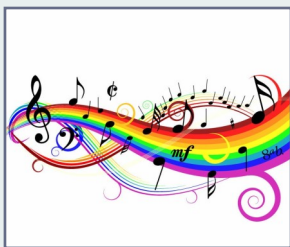


*“We can become more aware of how blessed our children can be—biologically, cognitively, and spiritually—through positive physical connection to nature.” Richard Louv*

## MELODY MAKERS MUSIC CLASS

EELC students participate in weekly music classes led by Melody Makers.

Children are introduced to classical composers and music theory as they sing songs and finger plays, play musical games, use rhythm instruments, beanbags, streamers, and puppets.



## THE MARIE HARRIS OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Elizabeth’s Early Learning Center has received a generous gift from The Easley Foundation in honor of its retiring Board of Directors member, Marie Harris.

This gift is being used to construct the new **Marie Harris Outdoor Classroom** at EELC. An Outdoor Classroom is an outdoor educational facility that is developed into a natural study ground for students and a tool that encourages teachers to adopt a hands-on approach and move their educational curriculum outdoors. It allows children to learn through exploration of their environment. It also helps them to develop an appreciation of their world so that they will grow to be good stewards of the Earth.

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods* has coined a term “nature deficit disorder” to describe what is happening to our children. “At the very moment that the bond is breaking between the young and the natural world, a growing body of research links our mental, physical, and spiritual health directly to our association with nature.”

The Marie Harris Outdoor Classroom will bring our students into a new world where they will learn about art, science, math, music, and much more by interacting with nature. Some of the learning aspects of our Outdoor Classroom include: fruit bushes and trees, vegetable and herb gardens, flower gardens, climbing plants, a butterfly garden, bird feeders, an art area, outdoor musical instruments, water areas, sand area, climbing equipment, a trike path, a construction area, weather instruments, a dramatic play area, and a covered amphitheater.

More details will follow about the Marie Harris Outdoor Classroom Grand Opening and EELC Open House in June. All are welcome to come and enjoy this wonderful gift for the children of our community.



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MARIE HARRIS OUTDOOR CLASSROOM!

## INDIVIDUALS

Karen & William Collier  
Connie & Steve Crank  
Paddy Dougherty  
Bailey Evans  
Shera Finn & Waltus Gill  
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Gisele Hubert  
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Jeff, Michelle & Lauren Rudisill  
Heather, Cary & Nora Lee Tichenor

## IN HONOR

### In Honor of EELC Teachers & Staff

Anonymous  
Jane & Tom Gerdy  
Louise, Addison & Maggie Morgan

### In Honor of Virginia & Brantley Blair

Carol & Rick Anderson

### In Honor of Elsie Chambers

Edgar Garrard

### In Honor of Asynith and Lynn Essenmacher

Caroline Frankfort

### In Honor of Austin & Gabe Friedman

Lynette & Steve Browder

### In Honor of Ian Gold Frye

Ellen Saunders

### In Honor of Marie Harris

Mary Morris Booth  
Albert Kemper  
Stella & Calvin Tanner  
Stuart Turille

### In Honor of Carmine, Lola, & Sicily Jones

Charlie & Marcy Catalano  
Marisa and Clinton Jones

### In Honor of Caleb, Jamie, & Jethro Milcetch

Donna & Rich Rota

### In Honor of Gabriel Moss

Patti Moss

### In Honor of Landon & Hannah Nunley

Donna & Wally Nunley

### In Honor of Barbara Otey & Jane Gerdy

Vickie Dowell, Mike & Sloane Turek

### In Honor of Andrea Owuor

Robynne & David Garrard

### In Honor of Grady & Henry Sales

Joe & Barry Brown

### In Honor of Amelia and Luck Stroud

Laura & Luck Sackett

### In Honor of Stella Tanner

Cathie & Jed Brown

### In Honor of Olin & Lars Walker

Melissa McEwen & Bryce Walker

### In Honor of George Weeks, Mamone & Said Families

Talia & Spencer Pollok

### In Honor of Sloane Turek

J.R. & J. Turek

### In Honor of Nicholas Wills-Moradi

Jennifer Wills & Javaun Moradi

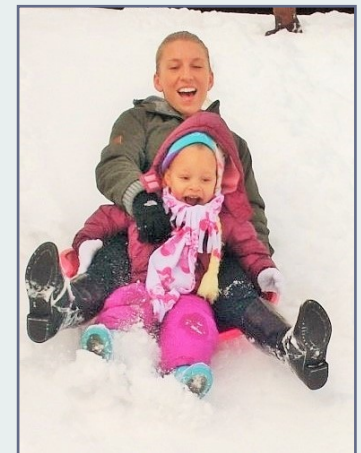
## CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

Carrington Family Foundation  
Dodson Pest Control  
The Easley Foundation  
The Junior League of Lynchburg



*Dragons for the Chinese New Year!*

## WINTER FUN AT EELC!



**DONATIONS TO THE  
STELLA TANNER  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
IN MEMORY OF  
CHARLENE RADDIN**

Frank & Susan Adams  
Earl & Winnie Agee  
Laura & Michael Beasley  
Cathie & Jed Brown  
Ted & Lib Colcolough  
First Presbyterian  
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Martha & Buddy Gettys  
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Anna Stratton  
Tracy A. Sutley  
Beth & Frank Tanner  
Stella & Frank Tanner  
Sandy Underwood  
Steve & Joan White  
Jim & Robin Winters



**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!**

APRIL 15—DECEMBER 31, 2015

**INDIVIDUALS**

Anonymous (2)  
Jaime Bamford & Reggie  
Reynolds  
Carolyn & Alex Bell  
Karen & Jeff Brown  
Glenn & Linda Buck  
Karen Covey  
Gina & Bill Davidson  
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Joan Jones  
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Becky & Greg Porter  
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Alice & John Risher  
Carole Royer  
Rosel & Elliot Schewel  
Dr. & Mrs. Han K. Song  
Jessica Ward

*Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!*

**IN HONOR**

In Honor of Bette & Bob Bibee  
Connie and Steve Crank  
In Honor of Elsie Chambers  
Betsy and Edgar Garrard  
In Honor of Blair Dawson  
David Thomas  
In Honor of Kenna & Chuck Doremus  
Connie and Steve Crank  
In Honor Jane & Tom Gerdy  
Connie and Steve Crank  
In Honor of Betty & Bill Harris  
Elizabeth L. Harris  
Randy and Karen Nelson  
In Honor of Marie Harris  
Carolyn and Ed Polloway  
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert McDaniel  
Betty Roberts  
In Honor of Anne McKenna  
Betty Roberts  
In Honor of Jennifer Ramey  
Joanne and Stephen Smith  
In Honor of Stella Tanner  
Frances and Al Kemper  
John Richards  
Judy and Vince Sawyer  
In Honor of Kent Van Allen  
The Honorable and Mrs. Paul Whitehead

In Honor of EELC Teachers & Staff

Kenna and Chuck Doremus  
Angela LaFon  
Christine and Stephen Terry

**CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS**

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The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust  
Harry D. Forsyth Foundation  
KVA Foundation  
Old Dominion Wood Products  
United Way of Central Virginia

**IN MEMORY**

In Memory of Elizabeth M. Forsyth  
Alice Jeffries  
Al & France Kemper  
Stella Tanner  
In Memory of Francis P. Malloy  
Anne & George Harris  
In Memory of Joni Smith  
Christine Terry  
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Price  
Mr. & Mrs. James Hirvonen  
In Memory of Deborah Womack  
Angela McFadden



*Meredith (L) and Claire Experiment with Mixing Colors and Snow*

## THE PROJECT APPROACH

Children are, by nature, very curious. They love to explore and investigate to learn more about their world. At EELC, our curriculum is taught and learning happens every day through the Project Approach.

The Project Approach is based on the interests of the children. Children choose topics they want to investigate, with some guidance from the teacher. The projects have three phases.

**Phase 1: Beginning the Project** – Children discuss a new topic and teachers ask questions to determine what the children already know. Teachers also help children develop questions that their investigation will answer. This information is displayed on a bulletin board in the form of a web.

**Phase 2: Developing the Project** – The teacher helps the children collect information about the topic by setting up materials and opportunities for them to explore and by providing books, computers, experts, and field trips. Children report what they are learning through discussions, drawings and pictures. These are added to the bulletin board to answer the questions on the web. New ideas or questions that develop during this process are also added to the bulletin board.

**Phase 3: Concluding the Project** – Children discuss the evidence they found to help them to answer their original questions. They summarize their findings and display their drawings, photographs and quotes to share with others. Projects might also conclude with a special project, event, or field trip.

The Project Approach makes learning meaningful to children. Young children are curious but lose interest quickly if teachers direct all of the activities and don't connect to the real world of the child. All of the developmental skills in the curriculum, including math, science, language and literacy, can be taught within the Project Approach.

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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.

## EELC WINS BEST CHILDCARE FACILITY!

Elizabeth's Early Learning Center is extremely proud to be voted the best childcare facility in the area in the annual *Lynchburg Living* Best of Lynchburg Contest! Thank you to everyone that voted for Elizabeth's Early Learning Center! We are so thankful for our friends and supporters. Thank you again!



### Elizabeth's Early Learning Center

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE