

# Monthly Family Newsletter

November 2021

## Be Thankful in November, National Native American Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. This is a time to showcase Native Americans significant achievements and the common history of tribal countries and other communities. Native American cultures share their history, customs, rituals and legends through storytelling. Storytelling is one way a family can practice literacy together, and ties into another observation this month, National Family Literacy Month.

Family Literacy Month encourages families to learn and read together. Literacy is not only knowing how to read but the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and process the material. Even if you aren't necessarily reading a book, creating a story still provides a literacy outlet. Storytelling allows people to get to know one another, it is a "two-way interaction" between the listener and the storyteller. Stories can also teach lessons just like the stories Native Americans shared with their families. Celebrate Native American Heritage Month and Family Literacy Month by reading their stories together as a family.

We wish you and your family a joyous holiday and hope you will join us in gratitude. Let us share the words of "Thanksgiving" with you in that spirit, and may it truly be a Thanksgiving for everyone.

## HEADS UP!

Your Family Engagement Advocate staff will reach out to you in this month to set up a time to complete the 2020-21 Educare Flint Family Interview. This data helps us understand you and your child's needs, figure out if our program is working, and identify what else we can do to keep improving our program. With each child survey you complete, you'll receive a \$25 dollar gift card to Kroger. Don't miss it - your support and participation are greatly appreciated! - American Institutes for Research (AIR)

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## Meet the Educare Family!

EVELYN COLEMAN

Evelyn Coleman is an Early Head Start Lead Teacher, who has been working at Educare Flint for three years! Some of her favorite things are tacos, red and spending time with her family. Ms. Evelyn enjoys discovering insights about children and how to integrate that into her classroom. She loves to read the book *The Pout-Pout Fish* with her students, but when reading alone her favorite novel is *The Fault in Our Stars*. With the snow coming soon Ms. Evelyn is bundling up and awaiting her favorite season, Summer. Ms. Evelyn can see her community is suffering from depression, illnesses, and much more. This is why she would have the power to heal if she could have any superpower. Plus having the power to heal would help her community be a better place.

*"I love working at Educare because of the foundation that Educare has built for the staff, students, and parents. Educare sees love and hope in all families."*

## From Our Executive Director

JA'NEL JAMERSON

Reading together as a family has an immense amount of benefits. It can assist in language development, enhances comprehension, and fosters the joy of reading. But, literacy is so much more! Research shows that when families read together, learning happens and memories are made that last a lifetime. Family literacy is about family members enhancing reading skills with things they do together. Family literacy should incorporate a variety of tools: books with words, picture books, storytelling, dramatic play and more. You can support family literacy at home by providing time, space, and a range of literacy activities for your family to experience.

Need some ideas? Try one of these:

- Visit your local library with your family.
- Play word-based board games
- Donate some books.
- Share the love and joy of reading.
- Write a note or poem.
- Talk about what you've read
- Read, read, and read some more

Family literacy is something we are observing this month, but be sure to keep these habits in mind all year.



# Mark Your Calendars:



## Important Dates

- **November 4th: Virtual Parent Café**
- **November 25th: NO SCHOOL**
- **November 26th: NO SCHOOL**

## From Our Family Engagement Coordinator

MIKE KILDEE

In Native American culture, storytelling is the traditional way of documenting their history, culture, customs, rituals and legends. These amazing tales, often told by the tribal elders to the younger generations, not only explained their history, these stories were also entertaining and preserved their culture.

Each time a story was told, it would breathe new life into the culture and give meaning to the tribe's history. It also taught life lessons about things like love, leadership and honor.

We can all learn something from other cultures and the tradition of Native American storytelling can be a tradition that you can start with your own family. Storytelling is something that can be passed on from generation to generation to keep family history and culture alive.

Storytelling is a part of all cultures, and are shared as a means of education, cultural preservation or instilling moral values. My dad was an amazing storyteller and it is a family tradition that he has passed on to me. I am thankful for my dad passing this tradition on to me, and to our future generations.



## From Our School Director

JODI RAMOS

One of our primary goals at Educare Flint is to assist kids in developing their social communications skills. Gratitude promotes social communication by assisting us in understanding the sentiments of others, practicing empathy, and learning the social power of compassion and gratitude. It also aids emotional growth by allowing us to recognize and focus on what makes us happy.

Every night I go through three gratitudes with my son and husband, something I am very grateful for. Hearing about the various things they are grateful for warms my heart. We often challenge each other to not repeat the same things within the same month, which helps us continue to put things in perspective. This month, I am reminded of my gratefulness for family traditions: The turkey and tamales at Thanksgiving, potluck dinners, and family game nights.

As a parent, it's never too late or early to start teaching your child about gratitude. It may be a long time before kids completely understand the notion, but you can create the framework for a daily gratitude habit.

### How to Build Gratitude into Your Child's Day

- **Model It** - Allow them to see you thanking others and expressing gratitude to a family member or friend.
- **Be consistent with "thank you"** - Children learn to comprehend words before they learn to use them.
- **Make receiving special** - Make it a habit to not buy a small item every time you go shopping.
- **Involve Them in giving** - Allow them to assist you in packing up old clothing and toys for donation. Explain how excited other children will be to receive them.
- **Talk about the things you're grateful for** - Do this in the car, at supper, before bed, or whenever you're not distracted.
- **Work it into younger children's play** - Sprinkle gratitude into pretend play.

Scan this QR code to complete the health check survey each morning.



**THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO BE A PART OF YOUR FAMILY!**