



Summer 2022 Newsletter

Grace Education Ministries

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Summer Building Hours

Effective Monday, June 6, 2022, GEM's new building hours will be 7:00-5:30. As you know, we have struggled with staffing and hiring qualified staff. We have tried ways to continue to work with our challenges while accommodating families and meeting ratios. We have monitored our morning arrivals and believe this slight change is the best for the center at this time.

Water Days

All children **MUST come dressed** in swimsuits under regular clothes on water days as it is easier for the staff if all children are ready to go.

- Infants: No specific day, suits not required
- Toddlers: Every Friday
- Hurricanes: Every Wednesday
- Sunshine Kids: Every other Thursday starting on June 10th
- Raindrops: Every Thursday
- Thunderbolts: Every other Friday starting on June 17th

Face Masks

Effective Monday, June 6, 2022, GEM will be mask optional for all staff and children. We request that you continue to monitor your children's health. The teachers will use disposable masks if they feel it necessary. If our numbers rise or we have positive cases in the building, we will have to take the proper steps for isolation. If you prefer to have your child continue to wear a mask, please let us know. Please note, for now this will be our only protocol change.

NAEYC Survey Results

Thank you to all the families that returned the NAEYC survey. We have been reviewing the results and thought it was a suitable time to share and communicate details regarding the results. We had 10 surveys returned. We received about 50% that marked us at 100% yes for all questions. We understand that the pandemic has not allowed for all

Upcoming Events

6/3: Dora Wilbur, Author Storytime (Book Order Form attached)

6/3: Brain Freeze Ice Cream truck

6/6: Summer Session Starts/New Class assignments begin

6/8: Dress like a Farmer

6/19: Happy Father's Day

6/20: Bring a White T-shirt/item for Tie-Dye

6/20: Kona Ice Visit

7/1: Wear Red, White & Blue

7/4: GEM CLOSED

8/5: Last day of Summer

8/8: 2022-2023 session begins.

Staff Celebrations

Happy Anniversary to the following:

7th Ms. Marquita 1st Ms. Elly

27th Mrs. Julie 1st Ms. Tiffany

4th Ms. Sydney

Happy Birthday to the following:

Ms. Marquita & Ms. Maddie

Playground Update for 2022-2023

We have been researching and accepting bids for playground updates. We wanted to reach out and see if any of our families had interest or the ability to help with our project and especially with potential mulch removal.

families to mark us positively as newer families may not know the history of our program pre-pandemic. Therefore, I want to communicate and clarify the questions in the survey.

How do we share information between teachers and families? Parents complete a getting to know you form upon registration to help us familiarize ourselves with your family and your family traditions.

How can you communication with your teacher? Currently, our ProCare app, telephone calls and carline are the best way to communicate with your child's teacher. Never hesitate to reach out to us. Together we build the partnership for your child's success.

How am I welcomed or involved in the classroom or center? We hope you feel welcomed at pick up and drop off daily. We have had opportunities for parents to share careers, donate for special activities, complete monthly family engagements as well as join us for our family night this past April.

How does GEM help with transitions and Kindergarten transitions? We work closely with families when a child transitions to kindergarten by sharing student evaluations and our program prepares them for an easy transition. We share updates and information from the school corporations, we assist families with development and growth such as potty training, infant feeding, developmental needs, social emotional growth and new classroom transitions.

How does GEM offer and make families aware of community resources? We share the Just Kidding Magazine on ProCare, which highlights all the family fun available in our community monthly or as sent to us from the editor. We share the Macaroni Kid events, activities from our local library, parenting workshops from our local childcare resource network and child development studies from Purdue on our Facebook page, Television announcements at carline, our monthly newsletter and messaged in ProCare.

How is confidentiality kept? We do not share names of children or parent information with other families as stated in our parent handbook. We make every effort to keep privacy when sharing pictures on social media and in ProCare.

How are families invited into the classroom and asked to participate in activities? Obviously, the pandemic has not allowed families to enter the building. We have tried to keep families engaged through our monthly family engagements, donations needed, pictures and lessons shared through ProCare, as well as our first event since the pandemic began, our family night at hole in one!