



January 17, 2017

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# Link Letter

## Principally Speaking

### No Name-Calling Week

This is No Name-Calling Week. We always promote kindness, and the focus this week helps us be that much stronger with our efforts to Be Kind. Schools around the country are getting involved. Here's a link to a video from a school with their take on this week and kindness: <https://youtu.be/8LQkjuHzmVE>. Some of our students have started their own Kindness campaign in support of Be Kind. (See their image below.) As Discovery F says, "Be the Best Version of You!"



### Rising Grinds Penny Drive

We're in the last week of our Penny Drive for the Rise Again: Rising Grinds Cafe Rebuild Fund! One of our GRCDC students is connected to the Cafe, and helped inspire our Penny Drive by starting her own can drive. If you, or your family would like to contribute to either effort, now is the time. The Discovery with the most funding for the Penny Drive gets a Pizza Party. Find out more about the community work of Rising Grinds Cafe and the fire here: <https://goo.gl/eIDKRT>

### New Year's Resolution

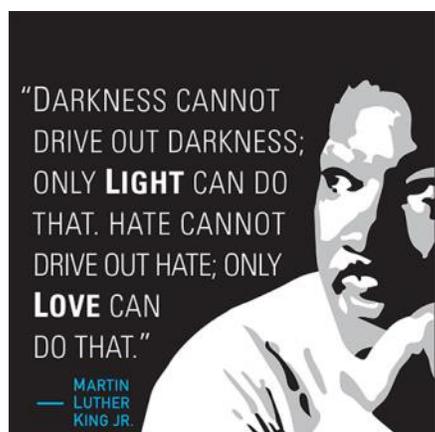
Thank you for helping us keep our New Year's resolution of great attendance in 2017!

### Enrollment and Re-Enrollment Forms

Do we have your re-enrollment form yet? We'd love to have yours asap! Thanks to everyone who turned theirs in already.

### Mr. Trevor's Invitation/Challenge

Mr. Trevor invited/challenged students in last Friday's Afternoon Meeting to memorize a Martin Luther King, Jr. quote. Participating children should share their memorized quote with him. If you and your child are into social media, you may want to video the quote and tag us on social media (Facebook and/or Twitter) using the hashtag #MLK.



That's it for this week. As always, I invite you to Be Kind, Keep Discovering, and have a great week.

*Coach*

John Robinson, Principal/Executive Director/Superintendent  
[robinsonj@grcdc.org](mailto:robinsonj@grcdc.org)

## Family Team Corner

We're in our last week of the Penny Drive for Rising Grinds Cafe! Each Discovery has a collection jar and the winning Discovery of the Penny Drive will win a Pizza Party!

All of the Mittens on the Giving Tree have been picked up and the items have been purchased! Thank you to everyone that helped to make our Winter Gear Drive a success!

The Family Team will be hosting a Movie Night on Friday, February 3rd. Come join us for The Secret Life of Pets! Doors open at 5:30, movie starts at 6pm. Bring a blanket, pillow, something to make yourself comfortable. The movie is free but we will have popcorn and treats for sale.

As always, the Lost and Found is overflowing with coats and mittens. Please take a minute to check the Lost and Found. You might find that lost glove you've been searching for!

## Central Office Updates

- The **Mobile Dentist** will be at GRCDC on Thursday, February 9th. This is an opportunity for your student to receive dental services at school. A state licensed dentist will check your child's mouth and teeth, as well as provide a cleaning and x-rays as needed. The Mobile Dentist will work with your dental insurance. If you do not have insurance, you may still participate. If you want your child to see the dentist, please fill out the form that came home today in your child's folder. Please return this form by Monday, January 23rd. Thank you!
- Attention Parents of Siblings** who will be new students at GRCDC in the Fall of 2017. Please make sure to submit the "2017-2018 Application for Enrollment" along with the following documentation:
  - Certified Birth Certificate (original, not a copy)
  - Copy of all immunizations
  - Request for records (if applicable)
- Intent to Enroll forms for the 2017-2018** school year are due February 24, 2017. Please contact us if you did not receive this form in the mail or if you can not find your form.

(More Central Office News on page 2)

## Calendar

The calendar also available at [grcdc.org](http://grcdc.org)

Through 1/20/17	Penny Drive— LAST WEEK!
1/17	LAST opportunity for MAP testing for 5th grade students Call 819-2150 to register
1/18	Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM
1/19	Odyssey of the Mind practice until 5:00 PM
1/20	Afternoon Meeting, 3:00—3:15 PM
1/23	Mobile Dentist forms due
1/31 & 2/1	Hearing Screening for K, 2nd and 4th grade Vision Screening for 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade
2/3	First Friday Food—10:45 AM Movie Night hosted by the Family Team: "The Secret Life of Pets" Doors open 5:30, Movie @ 6:00
2/9	Mobile Dentist @ GRCDC
2/20-2/21	NO SCHOOL—Mid Winter Break
2/22	GRCDC's Annual Open House, 5:00—7:00 PM

Please arrange for your child to **arrive at school between 7:45—8:00 am**. Please sign your child in at the office if arrival is after 8:05 am.

Dismissal is 3:15 pm M, T, Th, F and 1:10 pm on Wednesdays

## The Philosophy by Sarah Cooper

### School Improvement

Throughout the year GRCDC engages in collaborative school improvement planning; members of the School Improvement team are staff members from various grades and roles as well as parents. Michigan schools use this required planning process [as pictured below] and the resulting plan to continuously and strategically improve education for all students. Our 2016-17 goals include incremental improvement among state testing (M-STEP) proficiency scores and specifically address elevate our commitment to improving learning outcomes for children from all demographic subgroups. Current goals include:

- 70% of all students will demonstrate proficiency in local reading and writing assessments in English Language Arts by 06/13/2018. Your child's reading level is evidence of this proficiency.
- 65% of 3rd-5th grade students will demonstrate proficiency on the Language Arts M-STEP by 06/15/2018.
- 65% of Black or African-American, Asian, White, Economically Disadvantaged, Gifted and Talented, Hispanic or Latino, Students with Disabilities, English Learners, Two or More Races, American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students will demonstrate a proficiency of 80% or higher in mathematics by 06/09/2017 as measured by grade level assessments.
- 46% of 3rd-5th grade students will demonstrate proficiency on the Math M-STEP assessment by 06/30/2017.
- 32% of 4th grade students will demonstrate proficiency level 2 or higher in science by 06/09/2017 as measured by 4th grade Science M-STEP.
- Collaborate to increase parents' abilities to help their children learn at home by 06/16/2017 as measured by parental participation at school events, surveys and student achievement.
- Increase student growth by utilizing strategies to maintain attendance at 95% or higher and decrease student tardies to ensure student readiness to learn and academic success by 06/15/2018.

All year our staff has met monthly to review various types of data (attendance, academic and behavior) to help identify areas of need. Each year, we work in teams to revisit the school's annual goals, gather feedback and analyze instruction within math, reading, writing and science. Clear, measurable objectives are set and teams identify research-based strategies to carry out during the following year. Each team's recommendations are reviewed by the school leaders and budgets are aligned. The final plan is submitted to the GRCDC Board of Directors for approval in early June and the final School Improvement Plan is due to the State of Michigan's Department of Education no later than June 30, 2016. Michigan Department of Education shares a continuous cycle, one process informing the next:



Our teams are forming and the research phase of our process is beginning soon! If you are interested in joining our work, please contact me right away! I'd love for you to join!  
Sarah Cooper, Pedagogista [coopesar@grcdc.org](mailto:coopesar@grcdc.org)

## Grand Rapids Nutrition Center

The full menu is available on our website:

<http://grcdc.org/be-connected/link-letters/>

Breakfast (\$1.50):	Lunch (\$2.75):
Milk only: \$0.50	
W— Turkey bacon, egg & cheese	Chicken fajita
Th— Waffle Stick	Chicken patty
F— Breakfast wrap	Double stuff cheese pizza
M 1/23—Turkey sausage bites	Homemade chili

## Central Office Updates, continued

- **Girls on the Run** still has room on the Monday/Friday team. Registration is still available for any interested 3rd-5th grade girl! [www.kcgotr.com](http://www.kcgotr.com) Contact: [b.ackleydeblaay@gmail.com](mailto:b.ackleydeblaay@gmail.com)
- Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend **GRCDC's 17th Annual Open House** on Wednesday, February 22nd. This will be a time to build relationships with other families, engage in a math experience with your family and meet some new families who are hoping to attend GRCDC next school year. It is also a good time to turn in the Intent to Enroll form, if you have not done so already. Join us on February 22nd, from 5:00—7:00 PM.
- **School Closings:** In the case of inclement weather, we will make a decision to close school as early as possible. We will send an email blast out to our E-Link list and inform the news agencies (television and radio) if we decide to close. **Look or listen** for our school's name 'Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center' or 'GR Child Discovery Center'. We will also **change the voice mail** to indicate that school is closed for the day. If you have any questions about this policy, please let us know. If you are not receiving email notices, please send an email to Rachel at [harthrac@grcdc.org](mailto:harthrac@grcdc.org) to be added to the E-Link list.
  - \* The decision to close school will be made by 6:00 AM that morning. In extreme weather situations, the decision to close school might be made by 11:00 PM the night before, however, this will be a rare occurrence and you can always plan to check by 6:00 AM to be sure.

## Community Corner



The **Grand Rapids Public Museum School** is holding an Open House on Tuesday, January 24th from 5:00—7:00 PM. You can meet the principal and teachers, experience the school's location and learn about the innovative curriculum, community engagement, and plans for expansion. Rotating presentations and Q & A every 20 minutes beginning at 5:00 PM. There will be free parking in the Grand Rapids Public Museum ramp and free admission to the Museum that evening (does not include special exhibits or the Planetarium.)

### Free Parenting Class Series (click photo for more info):

The first class in the series is scheduled for January 17th from 6:00—7:00 PM at Wedgwood, 3300 36th St SE

Please arrange for your child to arrive at school between 7:45 - 8:00 am. Please sign your child in at the office if arrival is after 8:05 am. Dismissal is 3:15 pm M, T, Th, F and 1:10 pm on Wednesdays