



January 9, 2017

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking

Rising Grinds Penny Drive

We have this week and next week left in our Penny Drive for the Rise Again: Rising Grinds Cafe Rebuild Fund. One of our GRCDC students is connected to the Cafe, and started her own can drive. If you, or your family would like to contribute, now is a great time to get on board. You will find more details about this effort in the Family Team Corner.

Find out more about the community work of Rising Grinds Cafe and the fire here: <http://www.rapidgrowthmedia.com/features/120816-Rising-Grinds-Cafe-will-rebuild-after-fire.aspx>

New Year's Resolution

Thank you for helping us keep our New Year's resolution of great attendance in 2017! "Parents and families are essential partners in promoting good attendance because they have the bottom-line responsibility for making sure their children get to school every day. Just as parents should focus on how their children are performing academically, they have a responsibility to set expectations for good attendance and to monitor their children's absences, so that missed days don't add up to academic trouble" <http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/>

This Parent Handout outlines strategies that you may find helpful: <http://bit.ly/1K6eALS>. You can also refer to my letter from last week here: <https://goo.gl/xhY18J>

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.

Thank You Parents

Thank you parents for another great First Friday Food event. It such a treat for staff to be able to share a meal together, and not have to worry about the preparations or clean up. Thanks for taking such good care of us!

Ukeleles

GRCDC won 40 ukeleles as part of a contest through Kala Brand Music. We're looking forward to the students getting a chance to try out the instruments!

No Name-Calling Week



Next week is No Name-Calling Week. It's a great chance to revisit lessons with your children about not calling people names (and what you can do instead to work through problems and conflict), and what to do if someone calls them a name. One idea for the former

is to teach "I messages" (idea and image from everyonedeservestolearn.com). It goes like this: "I feel (say your feeling) when you (describe the action) because (tell why you feel that way)." Thanks for supporting no name-calling all year long.

Tidbits

Be sure to look elsewhere in this Link Letter for information like the MLK Day of Service, and the School Info Nights this week Tuesday and Wednesday.

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

Coach i

John Robinson, Principal/Executive Director/Superintendent
robinsonj@grcdc.org

Family Team Corner

Please join us in the gym on Tuesday, January 10th at 8am for the Family Team Meeting. Everyone is welcome - little ones too.

Thank you to everyone that brought in something for First Friday Food. Our teachers and staff really look forward to the monthly treat of tasty things that lets them know we're always thinking of them!

We're now in our 2nd week of the Penny Drive for Rising Grinds! Each Discovery has their own collection container. The winning Discovery will earn a pizza party and all monies donated will go to the rebuilding efforts of Rising Grinds Cafe. Please talk to your Discovery teacher, liaison, or email the family team grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com for more information.

There are a few more Mittens on the Giving Tree for the Winter Gear Drive. Each paper mitten on the Giving Tree represents a student in need of snow pants, gloves or a hat. If you would like to purchase an item, take a mitten and return it with the winter item to the Discovery listed on the mitten. Thank you for your time and your generous donation!

Central Office Updates

- **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.
- **6th Grade Information Night** will be @ GRCDC this Wednesday, January 11th at 5:30 PM. Also this week, the GRPS School Choice Expo is tomorrow, Tuesday, January 10th @ Gerald R. Ford (851 Madison SE, 49507) from 4:00—6:00 PM

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

Through 1/20/17	Penny Drive— see article above
1/3—1/11	Girls on the Run Registration (3rd—5th grade girls only) Use this link to register: http://bit.ly/2josw2t
1/9	GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00—8:00 PM
1/10	Family Team Meeting, 8:00—9:30 AM GRPS School Choice Expo @ Gerald R. Ford, 4:00-6:00 PM
1/11	Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM 6th Grade Information Night @ GRCDC, 5:30—6:30 PM
1/12	MAP testing opportunity for 5th grade students Call 819-2150 to register Odyssey of the Mind practice until 5:00 PM
1/13	Afternoon Meeting, 3:00—3:15 PM
1/16	NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King Jr. Day (see page 2 details)
1/17	LAST opportunity for MAP testing for 5th grade students Call 819-2150 to register
1/31 & 2/1	Hearing Screening for K, 2nd and 4th grade Vision Screening for 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade

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

Later this month, Discovery D and F staff and families will begin planning the GRCDC's annual Portfolio Day - March 24th. It is one of the most inspiring events all year as it highlights each child's potential and our Reggio Emilia inspired approach. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend a carefully scheduled, one hour time slot with your child along with a few other children and their families. Together families lay out artifacts representing past and current learning experiences.



Teachers and children are busy preparing portfolios and curating the collection to show meaningful experiences and progress. You may wonder: what goes into the portfolio?

- Work the child is proud of and wants to include
- Work that shows uniqueness
- Demonstration of learning: success or challenges
- Could be an end product or process
- Always has intention, a reason for going in portfolio
- Documentation of Common Core curriculum areas (e.g. Reading, math, etc)
- Documentation of real life experiences
- Documentation of awards and performances
- Work showing a pattern of growth and improvement
- Benchmarks or milestones (e.g. losing a tooth, tying shoes)

How is the Portfolio organized?

The Portfolio work is sorted into two main categories to exemplify who a child is and how a child learns. A portfolio label is filled out by the child and/or teacher to reflect the appropriate category (Who I am or How I Learn), the date and a short description of why the work is important. Looking back at this work will make sense even years later!

Work with a "How I Learn," label typically offers evidence of a child's wondering, exploring, discovering, achieving, mastering, theories, learning styles, problem solving, facing challenges or using languages like paint, wire, clay, drawing materials. My personal favorite is the inclusion of work that focuses on your child's perception of his or her own learning.

Work with a "Who I Am," label typically offers evidence of a child's... growing and changing (physically, emotionally, mentally), relating to the world, building relationships and friends, communicating, habits and traits, values, hopes and dreams and how a child approaches life, learning and relating to others.



Can't wait to share this special day with you!
Sarah Cooper, Pedagogista 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	
T— Scrambled eggs, muffin	Honey BBQ dippers
W— French toast, sausage link	Turkey deli sub, soup
Th— Egg, cheese, sausage slider	Tony's cheese pizza
F— Apple cinnamon toast	Chicken drumstick
M 1/16—NO SCHOOL, MLK Day (see info below!)	
T 1/17—Cereal	Philly Cheesesteak sandwich

Central Office Updates, continued

- **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 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.
- Don't forget that there is **No School next Monday, January 16th** as we observe the federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr (observed) and the MLK Day of Service. The MLK Day of Service was instituted in 1994 to coincide with the observation of Dr. King's birthday and is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service. To find out more information and where you can serve, go to: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday>
 - * To find out more about Dr. King and MLK Day, go to: <http://bit.ly/2iVlyeY>

Community Corner

Girls on the Run Registration for 3rd - 5th girls open through Jan 11 at kcgotr.org! (choose Kent County registration & Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center). Questions? Contact Bethany DeBlaay (b.ackleydeblaay@gmail.com)

The Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) **School Choice Expo and Winter Carnival** is happening on January 10, 2017 from 4:00—6:00 PM at the Gerald R. Ford Academic Center, 851 Madison Ave SE. At the Expo you can learn more about the GRPS school choices for 6th grade and the new and expanded programs that are being offered. You can also enjoy a free dinner, giveaways, music, fun winter games and activities.

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

TAKING BACK THE WHEEL

Putting Parents Back in the Driver's Seat

FREE 11 week parenting series to help parents improve interactions with their children by understanding behaviors better

WEDGWOOD
CHRISTIAN SERVICES
TRANSFORMING LIVES ONE CHILD AT A TIME
3300 36th St. SE, Grand Rapids, 49512
Please use the Wedgwood Institute door (closest to 36th & Shaffer)

*Come for one, come for all,
or come to the topics that interest you!*

JAN 17: Why Can Parenting Be So Tough? You're NOT Alone

JAN 24: Behavior: What is it for Adults and Kids?

JAN 31: 4 Types of Parents: Which Works Best for What?

FEB 7: Why Do We Parent the Way We Do and Expectations

FEB 21: Healthy Communication Part 1

FEB 28: Healthy Communication Part 2

MAR 7: Staying in the Driver Seat with Your Emotions & Why This Works

MAR 14: Getting Back to Basics That Work

MAR 21: Power and Control - Who Has It and How to Get it Back

MAR 28: Balancing Encouragement and Punishment

APR 4: Know Your Rights, How to Advocate, Series Wrap up

Class is 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Questions? Call 831-4646

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