



October 10, 2016

John Robinson
Principal & Executive Director
robinsonj@grcdc.org

Sarah Cooper
Pedagogista
coopesar@grcdc.org

Rachel Harth
Administrative Assistant
harthrac@grcdc.org

Link Letter

Principally Speaking

Thank You!



Thank you all who participated in the First Friday Food event this past Friday. Your caring for our staff is so greatly appreciated. If you'd like to be involved in our next one, please come to our next Family Team meeting, or see a Family Team Steward.

Thursday Parking Change!

If you have been using the Mary Free Bed lot, please read this. This Thursday, Mary Free Bed is having a special event. As such, their lot will NOT be available to us. Even if the gate is up, please do not park there. They will need every available spot for their big event.



Longer term, they will have to close off their lot except for special events. With that, please get in the habit now of parking in our visitor lot on the south end of our property (or on nearby streets). If you have any questions about how to plan your route and/or parking, please let us know.

Pickup Starts at 3:20 PM

Please keep in mind that school lets out at 3:15 PM. As such, it will take a few minutes for us to get down to you. So please plan on pickup being 3:20-3:30 PM (and 1:15-1:25 PM on Wednesdays).

Family Team

Please join us tomorrow night at a special time (6:30 PM) for our Family Team meeting. All parents are automatically a part of our Family Team, so come and connect with other families in support of our school.

Fish Tank

Our office fish tank needs some help. Do you know anyone in or out of our community that could help? Volunteer or a minimum of expense is preferred.



New Round-A-Bout Configuration

There is a new configuration for the round-a-bout at Wealthy and Jefferson. If you would like more information, please click here: <https://goo.gl/A8iojt>

Have an awesome week!

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

Family Team Corner

We are happy to announce that we are selling beautiful holiday wreaths from Vormittag Tree Farm. The Family Team does make a small profit on each purchase, so we hope you will consider buying your wreaths from us this year!

While many of our fundraising dollars come from small sales like this, our primary intent is to offer a convenient way for families to support the Family Team while purchasing something they might have already planned to buy. Although you are welcome to spread the word to neighbors and extended family, we do not expect or encourage GRCDC students to participate in these sales. Please look for order forms in your child's folder.

Central Office Updates

- **Picture day** was last Thursday. If you missed ordering pictures, do not worry. You will receive a proof of your child's photo in a few weeks. You may order directly from that proof or you may have your child participate in Picture Make Up Day on November 10th.
- Our **Community Potluck** will be on Friday, October 28— save the date, more details coming soon!
- **Conference** information and scheduling for your parent/teacher conference is coming home in the student folders today.

Family Math Night

Tuesday, October 18

5:00—7:00 pm in the gym

Come learn about how math is taught at the GRCDC, play games with your family and pick up some strategies for addressing math concepts at home. Families are encouraged to pop in at anytime between 5-7pm.

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

10/10 - 10/14	Discovery D- IMMERSE Program @ the Public Museum
10/10	Math Club begins—5th grade meets on Monday at 3:15-4:30 PM and on Wednesday 1:10— 2:30 PM; 4th grade meets Tuesday and Thursday at 3:15—4:30 PM.
10/10	GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00—8:00 PM
10/11	Family Team Meeting, 6:30—8:00 PM
10/12	Art Club after school, 1:30—2:30 PM (must pre register)
10/12	Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM
10/14	Afternoon Meeting, 3:00—3:15 PM
10/18	Math Night, 5:00—7:00 PM
10/22	GRCDC Outing: "Holes" @ Civic Theater, 1:30—4:00 PM—ticket order was due 10/10
10/28	Community Potluck, 12:00—3:15 PM
10/31 & 11/1	NO SCHOOL, Teacher Records/Conference Day (look for your child's conference schedule form in their folder today)
11/12	Let Me Run 5K—The community is welcome to participate—sign up here: http://bit.ly/2dRRKRK
11/23-11/25	Thanksgiving Break, NO SCHOOL

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 guest writer, Kay Waterson

The Reggio Emilia Inspired Studio

The Studio (or Atelier in Italian) is a room available for all children and teachers. It is dedicated to the exploration of ideas through materials like clay, wire, paint, drawing materials, paper, technology, etc. The Studio, in our Reggio inspired school, functions as a model for a collaborative way of working, to refine abilities to listen and observe children and express learning with a variety of material choices.

All children visit the Studio weekly in small groups. The Studio coordinator (or Atelierista) facilitates carefully designed experiences to explore classroom concepts through materials. Other schools would consider this art class, but our school sees it not as a separate part of the curriculum. The Studio's use of materials is an integral part of symbolic expression and the learning process. Our **Studio Coordinator** is Kay Waterson, an art educator and graduate of Kendall College of Art and Design. Ms. Kay received her Bachelors of Fine Arts with a focus in painting, along with a K-12 teaching certification.



Studio Schedule

We encourage you to ask your children about their weekly Studio work or view it outside the 3rd floor Studio. The Studio materials should not stain clothing and children wear aprons while working; however, you may not want to send your child in their nicest clothing on Studio days: Discovery A (1st graders on Tuesday, Kindergarteners on Thursday), Discovery B (Friday), Discovery C (Wednesday), Discovery D (Monday), Discovery E (Tuesday) and Discovery F (Thursday).

How does the Studio connect materials to classroom studies?

Every other week the Discovery teachers, Studio Coordinator and Pedagogista hold *reflective meetings*. Classroom and studio work is examined to determine student interests, wonderings and which material(s) would best support learning. In Reggio Emilia student responses to provocations direct the course of classroom studies. Consider Discovery A's provocation. The teachers asked: "Who are you when you are in nature?" Students responded with statements and collected artifacts: feathers, rocks, animal skulls, and other interesting natural materials. Students began asking deep and meaningful questions about Earth cycles, plants, animals and other students' personal connections with the objects. Because this provocation sparked so much excitement and interest, we planned to further explore natural materials in Studio.



Discovery A students explore different animal bones, seashells, coral, and starfish with drawing materials. Children observed skeleton attributes (size, color, shape and texture) illustrated the differences! Reggio teachers strive to create cross-curricular lessons that include multiple subjects, incorporating science into visual arts is not uncommon in this practice.

Kay Waterson, Studio Coordinator, watersonk@grcdc.org



Grand Rapids Nutrition Center

The full menu is available on our website:

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

Breakfast (\$1.50):	Lunch (\$2.75):
Milk: \$0.50	
T— Egg & cheese sandwich	Italian meatball sub
W— French toast sticks	Breakfast for lunch
Th— String cheese, muffin	Cheesy chicken quesadilla
F— Egg, cheese, sausage slider	Double stuff cheese pizza
M 10/17—French toast	Fiestada pizza

Breakfast time: 7:30AM—7:50 AM

Discovery A & B

Lunch 11:55 AM—12:15 PM Recess 12:15—12:40 PM

Discovery C & D

Lunch 10:55 AM—11:15 AM Recess 11:15—11:40 AM

Discovery E & F

Community Corner

Calling all 5th grade parents—The applications for GRPS Theme Schools and Centers of Innovation for the 2017-2018 School Year are now available on the GRPS website. The due date is January 31, 2017.

This is for any student who hopes to attend the following schools for 6th grade: Blandford, CA Frost, Center for Economics, Gerald R Ford, GR Montessori, GR Public Museum School, North Park Montessori, Sherwood Park, Southwest Community Campus, University Prep Academy, and Zoo School.

To apply, please visit: <http://apply.grps.org/>

To qualify to attend Blandford, Zoo, or the Center of Economics (City Middle 6th grade), students must take the MAP test. We do not offer the MAP test at GRDC, so you must register to take the test with GRPS. The first opportunity to take this test is December 8th and registration is required. Here are the testing details:

NWEA (MAP) TESTING DATES

GRPS will be offering the following NWEA (MAP) testing dates:

- Thursday, December 8, 2016
- Thursday, December 15, 2016
- Thursday, January 12, 2017
- Thursday, January 17, 2017

All testing will take place at City High/ Middle School from 4:00-6:00 pm. Please contact the GRPS Student Services Department at (616) 819-2150 if you need to register for this test.

Let Me Run Update

We have 2 weeks of the 4th and 5th grade running club under our belts! We have 11 boys on the team. The team is working on building their cardiovascular endurance and on how to work as a team. This season will culminate in a 5K race on November 12th. It is a community race that is being put on by the Let Me Run team out of Kenowa Hills' Alpine Elementary. The Let Me Run organization is just getting a foothold in the West Michigan area. We would love for the program to spread and become as big as the Girls on the Run organization. Please spread the word about this race and the program to all your runner friends. The community is invited to participate. More info and sign up can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2dRRKRK>
Need more info? Please contact Mrs. Rachel.



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