



October 17, 2016

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking

Come Join the Fun!

Come join the fun tomorrow night! It is our Family Math Night. Learn how to have fun as a family and at the same time help your student's math skills. Everyone should feel comfortable participating, whether math is your favorite or not. Hope to see you there!



Parking Change

If you have been using the Mary Free Bed lot, please read this. Longer term, Mary Free Bed 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.

Also, when leaving our visitor lot, be sure to turn right. It is much safer for you and others, since the one way flow goes to the right. Thanks for helping with this safety measure.

Community Potluck

Join us later this month as we further build relationships between children, staff and families. We will come together as a community in celebration through food, relationships and music. We look forward to celebrating with you on October 28!



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
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Family Team Corner

Save the date for our first Family Team movie night! We will be showing *The Nightmare Before Christmas* in the gym on Friday, November 18. Doors at 5:30, movie starts at 6:00. Concessions will be available for purchase, and all money raised will help support the Family Team.

We had a great turn out at our October Family Team meeting. Thank you to everyone who came! This year, in response to our parents who are unable to attend morning meetings, we are trying a new schedule which alternates between morning and evening meeting times. Our goal is to encourage and allow a more diverse variety of people to be directly involved with the Family Team, and we were pleased to see so many new faces at our first evening meeting.

Here is a link to the minutes from the October Family Team meeting. We hope you will take a moment to check them out: <http://bit.ly/ze7roly>

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.

Central Office Updates

- GRCDC Community Potluck**—Discovery B and E staff and parents are planning a fun filled day for the GRCDC Community! When: Friday, October 28th, 2016—Time: 12:00- 3:15 pm Purpose: To come together as a community and celebrate each other through food, relationships and music. We look forward to celebrating with you! Please look for additional information regarding this event in your child's school folder.

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

10/17 - 10/21	Discovery C- IMMERSE Program @ the Public Museum
10/17	Math Club until 4:30 PM (5th grade) Let Me Run until 5:00 PM
10/18	Math Club until 4:30 PM(4th grade) Math Night, 5:00—7:00 PM
10/19	Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM Art Club, 1:30—2:30 PM (must pre register) Math Club until 2:30 PM (5th grade) Let Me Run until 3:00 PM
10/20	Odyssey of the Mind until 5:00 PM Math Club until 4:30 PM
10/21	Afternoon Meeting, 3:00—3:15 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
11/12	Let Me Run 5K—The community is welcome to participate—sign up here: http://bit.ly/2dRRKRK
11/18	Movie Night, Doors open at 5:30, Movie begins at 6:00
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

The **Role of the Teacher** is one of the philosophy's nine principles that guides practitioners of the Reggio Emilia approach. Teaching and learning are impacted through the depth of the teacher's varied capacities. Teachers in this view are:

- ⇒ **Co-constructors: partners, guides, nurtures, solves problems, learns, hypothesizes**
- ⇒ **Researchers: learns, observes, revisits**
- ⇒ **Documenters: listens, records, displays, revisits**
- ⇒ **Advocates for children: involved in the community, politics relating to children, speaks for children and presents work to other educators and community members**

These roles can and should honor each teacher's identity, strengths and curiosities as they plan and document learning. Our teachers are incredibly talented and are continually pushing themselves to find innovative ways to partner with children as they learn. Last week Sara Dailey and Elly Cotton implemented a new strategy (personal goal setting) and a tool (Rocket Math) to help children achieve basic fact fluency. In this instance the teachers have researched a new approach and partner with students to address a problem. As documenters, they will continually revisit the work to show progress. Well done Discovery F!

In past years our staff designed a tool that sparks dialogue about the Role of the Teacher and imparts common language across Discoveries. The checklist shown below represents some of the practices a Reggio inspired teacher or environment may exhibit.

The teacher's strong image of the children:

- Body and verbal language expresses that children are capable and competent
- Children's thinking is visible on holding boards; evidence of recent work
- Planned work is developmentally appropriate and relevant to the child
- The children are well represented in the room even when not present

The Environment:

- Furniture is arranged to intentionally support collaboration
- Space is clean, organized and free of clutter
- Spaces are self-explanatory, intentionally prepared and invite children to learn
- Photographs of all children (e.g. identity panel, birthday chart, here/not here board, etc) are present
- Schedules and groups are visible through flow of the day charts
- Current and child created resources support work (Calendar, procedures, references like number lines)

Documentation as a Cycle of Inquiry:

- Children's theories are captured and visible on holding boards (work, drawings, dialogue, etc)
- Classroom holding boards are updated and organized with titles, dates and objectives
- Teacher prepares work for reflective meetings.
- Project work is documented throughout the year and made visible.

The Use of Materials

- Evidence of intentional planning to use languages to support academic work
- Documentation of languages is visible in the classroom.

In my role I have the pleasure of observing in all of the classrooms. Each time I do this I am reminded of the many different ways our teachers honor children and the Reggio approach.

(The Philosophy continued to the right)

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— Kolache, yogurt	Chicken strips
W— Turkey bacon, egg & cheese	Turkey burger
Th— Mini pancakes	Teriyaki dippers
F— Breakfast wrap	Chicken fajitas
M 10/24—Egg & cheese sandwich	Cheeseburger

(The Philosophy, continued)

As I set out to use this checklist this week, I am eager to partner with teachers for the purpose of growth, dialogue, feedback and collaboration among teaching staff and support roles. I share this checklist with families as it helps to explain the intentions behind the teachers' actions, work and environment.

If you have questions or are curious about something you see, let's connect!

Sarah Cooper, Pedagogista

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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 GRCDC, 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.

**Please be aware that this is a process that you will do on your own, as a family. GRCDC does not apply to GRPS schools on your behalf or schedule your student for the MAP testing.

Let Me Run Update

You are invited to run with our 4th and 5th grade boys running team! The Let Me Run 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.

