



October 24, 2016

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking

Attendance Counts

Hopefully you know how much we as a school care about your student and your family. We work to support your child as a whole. Part of what we do to that end is focus on attendance.

As you may know, good attendance is a key to school success. Often, students and parents may not realize how quickly absences, both excused and unexcused, can lead to academic problems. You probably have heard about truancy before, however you may not have heard about a newer category, chronic absenteeism.

Chronic absence, missing 10 percent of the school year (just 2-3 days a month on average), can lead to third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing courses, and night-graders dropping out of high school (from work by Hedy Chang and Mariajose Romero).

As a school, we want to work with you to make sure your child is successful across the board, including attendance. While chronic absenteeism is a national problem, let's work together to make sure at GRCDC that absences don't add up. Please see the following video (<https://vimeo.com/101425388>, in Spanish <https://vimeo.com/130556839>), then let us know how we can help.

Be Kind to End Bullying

We are working to be proactive about bullying, and part of that being proactive is writing to you about that today. We believe practicing the 3B's (Be Kind to self, others and the environment) goes a long way toward the type of environment we want. We work hard at building a kind, inclusive community. However, if you or your child ever need additional support, please talk to me or your child's teacher. We do have a policy to deal with bullying, and I want you to know about that in advance in case you ever feel an investigation is warranted.

Give Back to Schools

When you shop at Office Depot/Office Max, you can designate GRCDC as your school. Doing so will give 5% in credit for FREE supplies from your qualifying purchase. Look us up, or use our school ID: 70119316.

Have an awesome week & see you Friday at the Community Potluck (see below)

John Robinson, Principal/Executive Director/Superintendent



Family Team Corner

Is your child missing anything? Our lost and found is overflowing! Unclaimed items are periodically donated, so please take a look next time you visit the school.

We are looking for a few outgoing parents to help facilitate conversations and introductions while we enjoy coffee and dessert during the parent portion of this year's Community Potluck. If you would like to help, please email Natasha at GRCDCFamilyTeam@gmail.com

Central Office Updates

- Don't forget, **No School** next Monday (10/31 and Tuesday 11/1)
- **Conferences** are coming! Do you know your conference day and time? If not, check with your teacher or call Mrs. Rachel @ 459-0330.
- **School Photos and ID Cards** came home today! All students in attendance on Picture Day had their picture taken.
 - * If you did not order pictures, you will be receiving a proof with complimentary bookmarks, Kid Safe ID Cards, and photo calendar. If you choose, you may follow the instructions to order more prints. You may also pick up a new order form from the shelf outside the office.
 - * For those of you who ordered pictures, you should have received your picture package home today. If you love the photos, keep them. Nothing further is needed. If you need a retake, re-take day is November 10th. Bring back your entire picture package (don't cut any photos out) and you will receive a new package with the new photo.
 - * If you ordered a class photo, we usually receive those in February. We will notify you when we send them home in your child's home/school folder.

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

10/24	Math Club until 4:30 PM (5th grade) Let Me Run until 5:00 PM Girl Scouts, 6:00 PM
10/25	Math Club until 4:30 PM (4th grade)
10/26	Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM Math Club until 2:30 PM (5th grade) Let Me Run until 3:00 PM
10/27	Odyssey of the Mind until 5:00 PM Math Club (4th grade) until 4:30 PM
10/28	Community Potluck, 12:00—3:15 PM YOU are invited!
10/31 & 11/1	NO SCHOOL, Teacher Records/Conference Day
11/2	Wreath order forms are due
11/4	First Friday Food http://signup.com/go/A3fxUb
11/8	Family Team Meeting, 8:00—9:30 AM
11/10	School Picture make up / re-take day
11/12	Let Me Run 5K—The community is welcome to participate—sign up here: http://bit.ly/2dRRKRK
11/17	Wreath pick up day, 3:00—3:30 or 5:00—6:00 PM
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 Reggio Emilia philosophy engages teachers and learners in a process called the **Cycle of Inquiry**. It is how they work together at the school and it is applied often to all subject areas, teacher observations and questions from children. It combines wonder, listening, documenting and new understandings about learning.

The Cycle of Inquiry includes the following steps:

1. A framing question or a provocation (child or adult instigated)
2. Teachers observe, record and collect children’s work
3. Teachers collaboratively reflect on children’s work to arrive at new theories, inform planning and new framing questions.
4. The cycle continues to spiral as projects emerge and learning occurs.

How does the cycle of inquiry impact your child?

GRCDC teachers look for commonalities, anomalies, opportunities for exploration, research and wonder. As educators we ask ourselves questions and try to uncover who children are in order to craft meaningful learning experiences. It means that your child has input into his or her learning. The same experiences, materials and projects are not pulled out each year. Instead, your child’s teachers align the academic curriculum with what they know about your child, children’s interests, instructional best practices and their own research questions. GRCDC teachers are researchers alongside your child.

Let’s take a look at the first step, framing questions, by peeking into Discovery A. **Framing questions** refers to the initial action that jumpstarts learning. The framing question could be an experience, conversation, observation or question.

In Discovery A, teachers wanted to set up a lab space in the classroom where children could engage in scientific observation, conversation and explore natural phenomena. The framing question was twofold: 1) They organized classroom space to support observation and offered children natural materials, paper, pens and magnifying glasses to start. 2) Teachers asked children: What do you want the next person [in this space] to learn?



Children organized materials by attributes and shared interests in rain, bugs, soil and sand. They requested collection boxes to help find bugs at recess. Words emerged like bacteria, specimen, ocean and raindrops. Children naturally began making books about these topics and requested new, informational texts to support their interests.

Honoring these theories keeps learning relevant and engaging for both children and teachers. The cycle of inquiry highlights our school’s potential and differentiation from traditional public schools.

Sarah Cooper, Pedagogista coopesar@grcdc.org

Photo Credit: Molly Parker

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— Scrambled eggs, muffin	Chicken quesadilla
W— Cinnamon toast, turkey sausage	Hot dog,
Th— Egg, cheese, sausage slider	Chicken nuggets
F— Bagel, cheese stick	Community Potluck
M 10/31—NO SCHOOL	
T—11/1—NO SCHOOL	
W 11/2—Egg & cheese sandwich	Cheeseburger

Community Corner

Food Pantry Resource:

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.

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