



March 13, 2017

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

We had some excitement last week. Thank you for those of you who helped make the Mind Meets Music event such a success. We had a great turnout and tremendous interest in the event.



We also had some unwanted excitement with the high winds and power outage last Wednesday. Thank you for those parents who had to work quickly to make other after school arrangements! For those of you who were looking for ways to get in touch with us during a situation like last Wednesday, please see the article in the next column.

Good Luck, Odyssey of the Mind

Best of luck to our families and staff involved in Odyssey of the Mind state finals this weekend. You are our first team to participate at the state level. Enjoy the journey!



(For details on the tournament, see this link: <http://www.miodyssey.com/state-finals-schedule.html>. You can find our team in Catch Us If You Can, Div I.)

Family Team Fundraiser

Check out our Family Team's fun fundraiser this coming Sunday. See details under Family Corner.

Enrollment

We had an usually high level of interest and applications this year. If you, or someone you know, have questions about the process, please get in touch with us through the main office.

MobyMax

I sometimes get questions about what families can do at home to help their student. Well one great resource is MobyMax.com. It has engaging activities across multiple subjects meant to meet children where they are at, and encourage them on in growing their knowledge. Try it sometime this week and see what you think. (The site seems to be down right now, but try it later today or this week: <https://www.mobymax.com/>)

State Testing

State testing is coming right after break. Some great ideas for anytime, as well as to begin now for testing, including making sure sleep and eating routines are optimized for your child feeling their best. Also, you can share daily positive affirmations with your child each day. If you have any questions, please give us a call.

That's all for this week. As always, thanks for reading, Be Kind, Keep Discovering, and have a great week!

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

Family Team Corner

Harmony Hall is hosting a GRCDC fundraiser on Sunday, March 19th! Come and eat as 10% of all food sales and \$1 of every beer sold will go towards the Family Team's fundraising efforts! You do not need to bring in anything, just tell your server you're there to Eat for GRCDC! Harmony Hall opens on Sunday at 12pm & is located at 401 Stocking Ave NW, Grand Rapids. Please pass this along to friends & family - we're looking forward to sharing a meal with our school community!

Our T-shirt sale is open all month long! If you need to place an order but don't have an order form, that's ok - just check in the Office or email us at grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com. We take checks or you can pay with a Visa/Mastercard.

Please save the date for the GRCDC Family Dance, Saturday April 29th, 4-7 pm! It will be at school in the Gym. Details will be out soon!

School Closings & Text Alerts

In the case of inclement weather or other extreme situations (like power outages!), we will make a decision to close school (and Discovery Care) as early as possible. First, we will send an **email blast** out to our E-Link list. Second, we will inform the news agencies (television and radio) if we decide to close. **Look or listen** for our schools 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. We will also utilize the "Friends of GRCDC" Facebook page to spread the same information that we sent via email. If we lose power, as we did last Wednesday, we will not be able to communicate via telephone, so we will rely on you to look for this information through the other avenues of communication that are listed above.

If you do not have access to your email or the TV/Radio during the day, consider signing up for text alerts through woodtv.com or wzzm13.com. Once we notify the stations that we are closed, they will send you a text. To do this, scroll down on the home page of woodtv or wzzm13 and click the text alerts icon. You will enter your phone number and search for or choose our school from a list. While this is not the fastest method to be informed, we are grateful that the news agencies offer this service!

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

2/27—3/30	Family Team T-Shirt Sale— Order form available here: http://bit.ly/2nm4m5l
3/13	Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00 PM
3/14	Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM Family Team Meeting, 6:30—8:00 PM *Note time change!*
3/15	Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM Art Club until 2:30 PM
3/16	Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM Minecraft Club, 5:30—7:00 PM
3/17	Due date to return the Portfolio Time confirmation slip Afternoon Meeting, 3:00 PM Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM
3/18	Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament
3/19	Harmony Hall Family Team Fundraiser, 12PM—12 AM
3/24	Portfolio Day, Parents attend with students for a 1 hour pre-scheduled session
3/31— 4/7	Spring 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

Literacy Day!

Last week the Discoveries invited parents in to help celebrate the progress of our readers and writers. Each Discovery offered different ways to showcase learning and share children's progress. For example, parents, grandparents and siblings viewed reader's theater and choral reading performances in Discovery A. Here Atticus, Alice, Isabella, Brielle, Carly and Zoe perform **Animals, Animals!** to a gym full of families.



The purpose of Literacy Day extends to offer families simple ways to increase children's literacy skills at home. As educators, we encourage you to read to or listen to your child for 15-20 minutes daily. But, you may want to change up your routine occasionally and these 15 minute ideas can work for children of all levels.



- Lights out, talk on:** After your bedtime story, turn the lights off and talk about new endings to the story you just read together.
- Surfing Snacks:** Go online together to find out how your favorite foods are made. Can you make the recipes together at home?
- Find A-B-C:** Have an alphabet scavenger hunt to look for things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. If you can't find some letters, go outside or try looking in books and magazines.
- A Course of Course:** Build an obstacle course through your family room, and draw a map of how to go through it from beginning to end. You must label all items on your map.
- Snow You Tell Me:** Use emptied dish soap bottles filled with water and food coloring to write messages and draw in the snow or use a cotton swab and write on paper outside in the summer.

[Check out 10 more 15 minute ideas!](#) Enjoy time with your child while boosting literacy skills!

Sarah Cooper, Pedgaogista
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—Turkey sausage bites	Chicken strips
W — Turkey bacon boat	Tasty turkey burger
Th—Breakfast burrito	Teriyaki dippers
F— Mini pancakes	Cinnamon toast

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 Lunch 11:25 AM—11:45 AM Recess 11:45 AM—12:10 PM

Community Corner—

Roosevelt Park Ministries Spring Break Camp

Spring Break Camp runs Monday, April 3 through Friday, April 7 from 8:30am-5:30pm. Camp lessons will include activities facilitated by community partners such as the Mental Health Foundation of Western Michigan and MSU extension. There will be field trips to Calvin College and as well as lessons by RPM staff and volunteers. This program is free but you do need to register. For more information, please contact:

Roosevelt Park Ministries
 1530 Grandville Ave SW
 Grand Rapids MI 49503
 616-475-5881

<http://rooseveltparkministries.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/rooseveltparkministries>

Portfolio Day Update

Please check your child's homework folder today for the time that is scheduled for you and you child (or children) to come to school on Portfolio Day. Please return the confirmation slip by Friday, March 17th so the teacher will know that you are planning to attend! We look forward to this time together to honor the work of all GRCDC students.



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