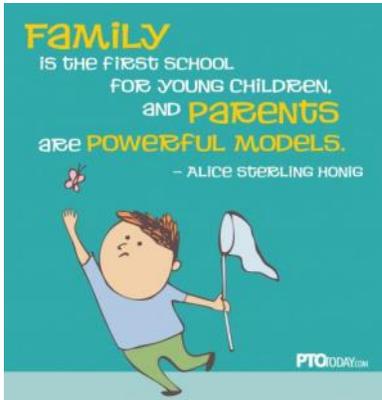


# Link Letter

## Principally Speaking

### Welcome Back!

Welcome back, everyone. I hope you had a wonderful time away, and lots of great memories to energize you in the days to come.



### Beautiful Weather

This time of year brings some beautiful weather and great opportunities to be outside. It also brings lots to do here at school. Full attendance at school is always important, and this time of year is no exception. We have state testing, our own assessments, and wrapping up the year as a community. So, please be sure to protect school time. Enjoy those beautiful weather moments after school and on weekends.

### Growth Mindset

M-Step testing begins this week. All year, including this time of testing, you can help by praising effort over achievement. By working through challenges (such as those on tests and assignments) and sustaining effort, your student grows and gets smarter. So, please keep up your praise of their persistence and hard work. See Central Office Updates article on the right side of this page for more ways to help.



The Beauty in Change is Growth  
Portfolio Day 2017

As I wrap up this article, here's a link to a video from Portfolio Day: <http://bit.ly/2oYVJ1t>. Thanks to Ms. Carolyn for making it.

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](mailto:robinsonj@grcdc.org)

## Family Team Corner

Mark your calendars for the First Friday Food for our GRCDC Teachers & Staff for Friday, April 14th (later because of Spring Break). April's Theme is Salad Extravaganza!

<http://signup.com/go/cwhj7w>

The Family Team is having a Plant Sale! We have a wonderful assortment of plants for your Mother's Day needs or for just around the house. This is the same greenhouse we partnered with last year so expect great quality! Order forms went home in folders the week before break and we have additional order forms in the Office. The Family Team can take cash, check or Visa/Mcard for your order.

The Family Team is hosting our First Annual Family Dance on Saturday, April 29th from 4-7pm! The dance is free but we are asking for a small donation at the door. We'll have a photographer, refreshments and a band! Your family can have their caricature done for a small fee too!

We would like to have an idea of how many people we can expect, so please email the Family Team at [grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com](mailto:grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com) to let us know if you will attend. Family can include but is not limited to; parents, step parents, grandparents, siblings, step siblings, aunts, uncles, etc. We hope to see you there!

## Central Office Updates

- See the important Discovery Care Summer Camp announcement on page 2! You also should have received a paper handout of this information in the home/school folder.
- **M-Step testing for 5th grade students** begins Monday, April 10th. Fifth grade students will be tested in 3 content areas. They will test for an estimated total of 8 hours over a 3 week period of time. **Looking for ways to support your test taker?** Check out the Link Letter article by Sarah Cooper from March 20th (page 2) <http://bit.ly/2odlKZI> and this resource from the Michigan Department of Education: <http://bit.ly/2oXQF05>

## Calendar

The calendar also available at [grcdc.org](http://grcdc.org)

Thru 4/14	Spring Flower Sale Fundraiser: <a href="http://bit.ly/2nvDjY2">http://bit.ly/2nvDjY2</a>
4/10—5/26	M-Step Testing Window for all grades 5th grade students start this week
4/10	Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM Girl Scouts begins at 6:00 PM GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00—8:00 PM
4/11	Family Team Meeting, 8:00—9:30 AM Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM
4/12	Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM Art Club until 2:30 PM
4/13	Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM Minecraft Club, 5:30—7:00 PM
4/14	First Friday Food: <a href="http://signup.com/go/cwhj7w">http://signup.com/go/cwhj7w</a> Last day for Flower Sale: <a href="http://bit.ly/2nvDjY2">http://bit.ly/2nvDjY2</a> Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM
4/17	4th grade students start the M-Step
4/29	Family Dance @ GRCDC, 4:00—7:00 PM

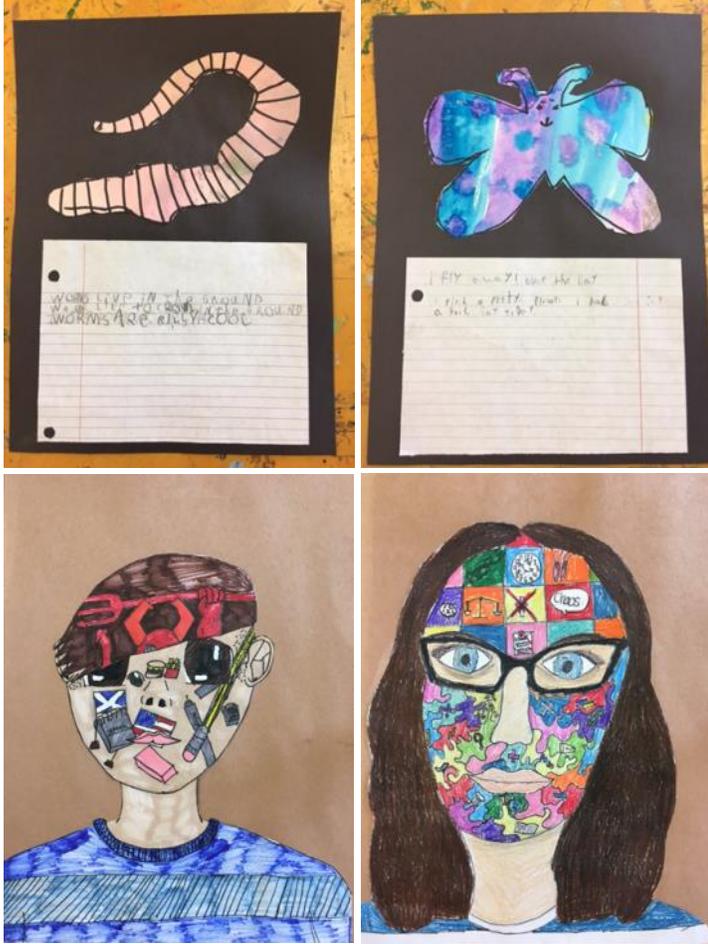
Please arrange for your child to **arrive at school between 7:45—8:00 am**. Please sign your child in at the office if arrival is after 8:05 am.

Dismissal is 3:15 pm M, T, Th, F and 1:10 pm on Wednesdays

## The Philosophy by Guest Writer, Kay Waterson

### Portfolio Day from the Studio's Perspective

Portfolio day is a school-wide, annual celebration of each student's learning. Preparing work to go into portfolios is a part of my role as the studio coordinator. The idea is to showcase growth creatively throughout a variety of academic subjects. We want to show parents how hard their children have worked to refine their spelling and drawing abilities along with improvement in other academic and expressive areas.



Teachers are encouraged to meaningfully select quality work that highlights student identity, strengths, and areas of interest. From my perspective it can be sometimes difficult to decide on which studio work to select to feature in portfolios. Each year the studio contributes 2-3 pieces of artwork to each student's collection. My goal is to include work that combines fluency with a specific art material or technique, along with a demonstrated understanding of learning material (be it poetry, history, or informational text).



Discovery B students (see above) studied fictional story elements. We created original characters, and designed settings for the characters to interact in. Students explored storytelling using dramatic play.

Kay Waterson, Studio Coordinator [watersonk@grcdc.org](mailto:watsonk@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	Turkey, ham & cheese	
W — Pillsbury mini pancakes	Chicken fajita	
Th—Sausage gravy breakfast	Chicken drumstick	
F— Pancake wrap	Nacho bites	
M 4/17—Pillsbury cinni minis	Chicken nuggets	

## Discovery Care Summer Camp

We are happy to announce that the Grand Rapids Early Discovery Center will be offering a full-day Discovery Care Summer Camp program for children ages 5 (who have completed Kindergarten) through age 12 at the Child Discovery Center.

### Schedule of Operations:

Summer Camp will start on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> and run through the end of summer break for the CDC (closed the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>). *\*The first day of school for the CDC is still to be determined.* The hours of operation will be 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday-Friday. Breakfast, lunch and snack will be provided. Part-time and full-time enrollment options available.

### Enrollment Process:

Priority enrollment is given to children through April 21<sup>st</sup> to children who attended the Child Discovery Center during the 2016-2017. After April 24<sup>th</sup>, siblings of children enrolled at the Early Discovery Center and children of the EDC or CDC employees will be given priority enrollment. After May 15<sup>th</sup>, enrollment is open to the community.

### Rates and Fees:

\$170/week or \$35/day (10% Sibling Discount for multiple children enrolled in summer care)  
\$25 Registration Fee & \$50 Materials Fee

### Questions?

For more information, contact Jamie VandeVusse or Megan Dillingham by calling (616)459-0110 or emailing [jamievgredd@gmail.com](mailto:jamievgredd@gmail.com) or [megandgredd@gmail.com](mailto:megandgredd@gmail.com).

## Back to School! Possible August 28 Start

We have applied for a waiver with the Michigan Department of Education to start school on August 28 next school year. Our request is based on some of the following reasons:

- Our authorizer Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) is already approved to start the same date we are proposing (August 28, 2017). We don't want a different date to cause a hardship to our families.
- We are listed on the GRPS website and also have generally tried to align our calendar with GRPS.
- We want to be able to line up other major dates with GRPS like the end of the school year and major holidays.
- Similar to the beginning of the year, we don't want differences in end dates to be an additional hardship. We also recognize that families and students are ready for a break once the summer hits and want to minimize the number of days students spend in school in the month of June.
- It aligns us with other districts throughout the county as well.
- It helps to accommodate the additional instructional days per year that are required by the State of Michigan.

For now, please do not book any vacations or camps the week of August 28. If this waiver is granted, please plan on starting on August 28 and attending school that entire week. That will be our expectation as you might otherwise lose your spot on the class roster. We have a deep waiting list and want to be fair to the students attending, as well as the many families we have had to turn away.

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