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# Link Letter

## Principally Speaking

### Spring, Growth Mindset

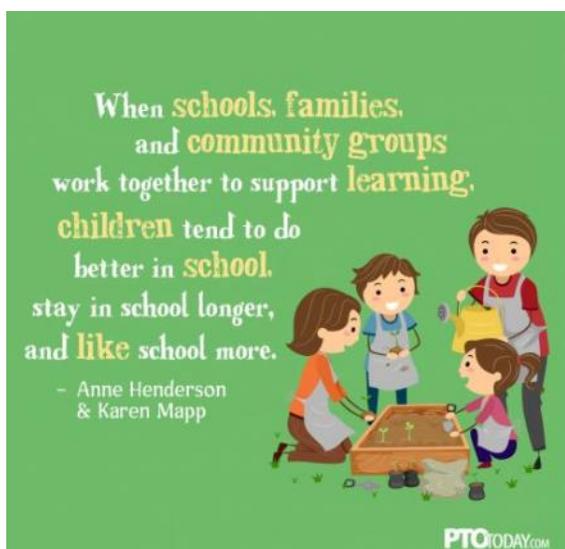
Between the state testing which gives a chance to check progress, and the beautiful spring weather which reminds us of growth, it's a great time to continue the conversation about a growth mindset. Students have a role to play as mentioned in previous Link Letters. Parents also play a part by examining their own belief systems. Do you have a growth mindset? Do you believe that with effort, persistence, and motivation your children can achieve their goals?



Dr. Carol Dweck, an education researcher states,

“Parents should not shield their children from challenges, mistakes, and struggles. Instead, parents should teach children to love challenges. They can say things like, “This is hard. What fun!” or “This is too easy. It’s no fun.” They should teach their children to embrace mistakes, “Oooh, here’s an interesting mistake. What should we do next?” And they should teach them to love effort: “That was a fantastic struggle. You really stuck to it and made great progress” or “This will take a lot of effort-- boy, will it be fun.”

Some we parents/adults need to work at having a growth mindset. It takes time and practice, but it is well worth it when you see the difference that it makes in your children! (Reference: Mindsets in the Classroom, Ricci)



### We Need Your Help!

As you probably know, we are looking for two wonderful individuals to join our teacher team. Do you know of anyone in your circle or extended circle that can help us find good candidates? Please give them this link (<http://grcdc.org/about/employment-opportunities/>) or have them contact me ([robinsonj@grcdc.org](mailto:robinsonj@grcdc.org)) for more information.

That's all for this week. As always, thanks for reading, 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

Thank you families for providing such a stellar salad bar lunch for our Teachers & Staff last week! It was so appreciated!

We have submitted the Family Team Tshirt order to the shop. We should have the Tshirts in 2 weeks. We'll let you know when they are in. Thank you for your orders!

The Plant & Flower Sale orders have been submitted to the nursery. Delivery of the plants & flowers will be the week of May 8th. Please look for updates and announcements when they come in. We will post a pick up date & times and we appreciate your order!

The Family Team's First Annual Family Dance is Saturday, April 29th from 4-7pm in the Gym. There are no tickets to purchase but we are asking for a donation at the door. We'll have a band, refreshments, free family photos & more! Family can include but is not limited to; parents, step parents, grandparents, siblings, step siblings, aunts, uncles, etc. We hope to see you there!

You may find the link to the minutes from the April Family Team Meeting here: <http://bit.ly/2pe2CMw>

## Central Office Updates

- **Discovery Care Summer Camp** is a great child care option for the summer. Priority enrollment for current GRCDC students is being offered through Friday, April 21st. For more details, follow this link and go to the article on page 2: <http://bit.ly/2p9OGqj>
- **M-Step Scheduling oops!** Our 4th grade students were prepared to begin testing this week, however, we found out that they can not start testing until May 1st. We are re-working the testing schedule and will share more details on Monday, April 24th.
- **M-Step testing continues for 5th grade students** today. 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/2odIKZl> and this resource from the Michigan Department of Education: <http://bit.ly/2oXQFo5>
- We have **applied for a waiver** with the Michigan Department of Education to **start school on August 28th** next school year. For more information about the reason we are requesting this, please follow this link and go to the article on page 2: <http://bit.ly/2p9OGqj> For now, please do not book any vacations or camps the week of August 28th.

## Calendar

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

4/10—5/26	M-Step Testing –5th grade continues testing this week
4/17	Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM
4/18	Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM
4/19	Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM
4/20	Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM Minecraft Club, 5:30—7:00 PM
4/21	Afternoon Meeting, 3:00 PM Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM
4/22	Girl Scouts, Daisy's only @ Human Society, 11:30 AM
4/24	Girl Scouts, Brownie's only today, 6:00 PM (no Daisy's)
4/29	Family Dance @ GRCDC, 4:00—7:00 PM
5/29	Memorial Day Break— NO SCHOOL
6/7	End of Year Celebration, 5:00—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 Sarah Cooper

**Documentation**, as defined by our school, is a collection of information, observations and learning. It can be in the form of photography, video, conversation transcripts and/or visual mediums like paint, wire, clay or drawing materials. Teachers use documentation to identify strengths, challenges and next steps to support learning. In its final form, **documentation** explains a Discovery's yearlong study and is typically displayed on a large panel or panels. This year, as we further refine our practice, I anticipate a few Discoveries will use digital ways of communicating project work.



**Discovery D's 2012-13 panel was digitally prepared and printed in one large sheet. Other layouts and sizes can be found throughout the building's hallways.**

Final documentation explaining this year's projects is in its infancy right now and will be completed the first week of June. The teaching team, Studio Coordinator and I will organize the Discovery's project work to tell a story. Adults sift through the work to find the perspectives, turning points and/or the relevant Reggio principles to tell the project's story. Some work tells a linear, timeline like story where other work can best be explained through reoccurring concepts or stories.

Reggio educator Filippini asserts that documentation's purpose is more than tracing the history of a project. But rather, **"Our goal is to make the culture of childhood visible, not just for the school - the children and the families - but also to create dialogue inside the community with other colleagues and other citizens in order to strengthen and ensure the rights of the children."**

With purpose in mind, the team discusses the visual layout of the final documentation. It is critical that it communicates the work clearly for families, children, fellow educators and community members. The team intentionally selects work to use, organization and titles to communicate purpose. Based on our own reflections, the GRCDC staff is reminded to use large inspiring photographs, simple layouts and appropriate height to easily read content. Each panel will include academic standards, all children and titles to guide readers.

Discovery projects and learning will be represented within all final documentation presented at our End of Year Celebration on June 7. Mark your calendar and join me in honoring each Discovery as they share a window into your child's learning this year! New families are also encouraged to attend and connect with staff and families! Each Discovery will share work about the following concepts and the corresponding products:

- Discovery A - Ecosystems as Need-fulfilling Spaces (Garden Boxes)
- Discovery B - Collaboration in Oceans and Rainforests (Interactive Canvas Paintings)
- Discovery C- Interconnectedness of Families and Ecosystems (Informational Text Publication)
- Discovery D- Modeling the Water Cycle and Role of Rain Gardens (Video)
- Discovery E - Universal Emotions, Problems and Coping Strategies (Field Guide of Strategies)
- Discovery F - Uncovering Identity: Be the Best Version of You (Website)

I look forward to connecting with you!  
Sarah Cooper, Pedagogista [coopesar@grcdc.org](mailto: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—Egg & cheese sandwich        | Chicken quesadilla        |
| W — French toast sticks        | Waffle, turkey sausage    |
| Th—Scrambled eggs, muffin      | Italian meatball sub      |
| F— Egg, cheese, sausage slider | Double stuff cheese pizza |
| M 4/24—Pillsbury 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** Lunch 11:25 AM—11:45 AM  
Recess 11:45 AM—12:10 PM

## Community Corner

**Early Childhood Resource Fair @ the Kent Career Tech Center**  
April 29th, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM—Your one stop for Childcare, Preschool and Family Services. At this event parents can meet face to face with childcare providers and preschools, discovery the benefits that community resource and service agencies have to offer, get free vision and hearing screenings for babies and toddlers, and registration for FREE 4 year-old preschool will be available. There are children's activities that will include Clifford the Big Red Dog, Daniel Tiger, a dress up station, puppet shows, fire trucks and a petting zoo. There are also door prizes awarded through the day and the first 400 families receive a goodie bag. The Kent Career Tech Center is located at 1655 East Beltline NW and you may park in Lot 1.

## Arbor Day Fun

There is also a free tree giveaway on Saturday, April 29th. Find out more info here: <https://www.friendsofgrparks.org/event/residential-tree-giveaway/>

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