



June 12, 2017

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking Graduating 5th Grade Students

Congratulations to our 5th grade students and families! You've worked hard to get to this point. I hope you have many fond memories from the journey. Thank you for everything you have given to the school during your time here. As you start your new chapter, please know you are always part of the GRCDC Family. We are proud of you and hope you'll keep in touch!

New Playground Equipment

Our new Parkour structure is in! This is the first part of our Wellness Adventure Yard (WAY) from Junior League Grand Rapids. Their members worked hard this weekend helping the installation crew. Consider giving them a thank you on their page (<https://www.facebook.com/JuniorLeagueGR/>). Also, a big thank you to the GRCDC families that came out to offer their support. We appreciate all of you.



Summer Learning

"Summer learning loss, the phenomenon where young people lose academic skills over the summer, is one of the most significant causes of the achievement gap between lower and higher income youth and one of the strongest contributors to the high school dropout rate. For many young people, the summer 'opportunity gap' contributes to gaps in achievement, employment and college and career success." (<http://www.summerlearning.org/>) Help avoid summer learning loss, and still have fun, with some of these opportunities below:

- [MobyMax.com](http://www.moby.com) is a great way to advance skills online, anytime. Many of our students have already used Moby Max in school and can continue using it throughout the summer. We will be sending more information in the mail this week.
- StoryTime in the Park, is on Tuesdays, 7-8 PM at Garfield Park. Details are on page 2 of this Link Letter.
- Summer Learning with the MeL.org (Michigan eLibrary). Check out their getting started video <http://bit.ly/2s8lkZs>, and the MeL Kids link <http://kids.mel.org/>.
- Summer Art Camps: <http://www.artmuseumgr.org/sac/> Scholarships are available.
- Meijer Free Days at the GRAM <http://www.artmuseumgr.org/visit/meijer-free-days/>.

Thank You

Thank you to Jessie Hammond and Natasha Nyberg for all you've done leading the Family Team these last two years. You've created wonderful opportunities for families to support GRCDC, and we've all benefitted from what the Family Team has done. On behalf of everyone at GRCDC, please accept our deepest gratitude!

That's all for this week and school year. Be on the lookout for our summer communications. As always, thanks for reading, Be Kind, Keep Discovering, and have a great summer!

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

Family Team Corner

The last Family Team Meeting of the school year is Tuesday, June 13th at 8am in the Gym. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend Family Team Meetings. Young children are welcome too. There will be coffee & we'll go over the year's fundraising accomplishments and summer plans.

The 13th is also the Yearbook & Popsicle Party. We'll be passing out Yearbooks and Popsicles at lunch recess for all classes. Every student will get a popsicle and free yearbook!

The Family Team would like to welcome two new Co Stewards- Janelle Gaudet and Sarah Marie Cooper! Janelle is mom to Olivia in Discovery E and Kyle in Discovery B. Sarah Marie is mom to Alex in Discovery F and Laura in Discovery B.

We would like to say thank you for having us as your Family Team Co Stewards! We've had so much fun getting to know the families of the GRCDC! We hope you have enjoyed the events, fundraisers and volunteering with our school community as much as we have these past two years!

Sincerely,
Jessie Hammond & Natasha Nyberg

Keep in contact over the summer:
grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com



Central Office Updates

- **THANK YOU!** Kate Hall-Sabo for the flowers for graduation; and hair stylists Jenny Clauson, Katie Fredricks, Caroline Kampfschulte, and Kashia LeSane for pampering our graduates. And to Ms. Amash, who helped to organize these special touches to send our 5th grade students off with honor and love.
- **The 2017-2018 Calendar** was shared last week. All of the events have been added to the school's Google calendar. You will find the Google Calendar and a link to a PDF version of the calendar here: <http://bit.ly/2zscsoVJ> For more details about the calendar changes, see page 2.
- **Report Card** information will be sent home this week or mailed by June 21. For more info, see Sarah Cooper's article on page 2. **Class List** information is also available on page 2.

Calendar

The calendar is also available at grcdc.org

COMING UP THIS WEEK:	
6/12	Fifth Grade Graduation, 2:00 PM GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00—8:00 PM
6/13	Family Team Meeting, 8:00—9:30 AM Yearbook Distribution & Popsicle Party @ lunch recess
6/14	Last Day of School, Early Release, Dismissal 1:10 PM
EVENTS COMING UP NEXT WEEK AND BEYOND:	
6/21	Last day for teachers to mail report cards
6/24	GRCDC Park Party @ Wilcox Park, 2:00—4:00 PM
7/12	GRCDC Park Party @ Cherry Park, 12:00—2:00 PM
8/15	GRCDC Park Party @ GRCDC playground, 6:00—8:00 PM
8/23	Orientation for all students, 2:00—7:00 PM
8/28	First Day of School, 8:30 AM—3:20 PM
9/1 & 9/4	NO SCHOOL, Labor Day Break

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

Grand Rapids Nutrition Center The full menu is available on our website: <http://grcdc.org/be-connected/link-letters/>

Breakfast (\$1.50):
 T— Cereal
 W— Cereal

Lunch (\$2.75):
 Mini pancakes (Muncher bag lunch)
 Sunbutter sandwich (Muncher bag lunch)

Milk only: \$0.50

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

ALL ACCOUNTS MUST BE PAID IN FULL by the end of the year!

You may send cash or check with your child to school or you may pay for meals online at mypassmentsplus.com

The Philosophy by Sarah Cooper

Naturally, as this school year draws to a close, families often have questions about this year’s conclusion and what to expect next year. Here are a few updates to help ease the transition into next year.

Student Learning: Teachers will send home a final report card with all academic standards formally assessed. Teachers will send these report cards home with your child this week or will pop them in the mail no later than June 21, 2017. Reports cards include a summary of your child’s academic progress as well as social and emotional development. The comments share current levels, progress made and growth opportunities for summer learning at home. Those children with special education goals will also receive an additional report that summarizes growth on specific goals developed within the Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Transitioning to a New Discovery: If your child plans to return next year as a 2nd or 4th grader, he or she will join a new Discovery. Many factors are considered to create equitable class lists that best support the child as an individual and the Discovery as a whole. Factors that are considered in your child’s placement include the: 1) number of children within each grade, 2) remaining number of children in the Discovery, 3) demographics, 4) current academic and behavioral needs, 5) special education plans and requirements, 6) peer groups, and 7) teacher and parent recommendations. Many parents requested a teacher or Discovery as part of the enrollment process. If you did not and would like to share your preference, please notify me by June 14 via coopesar@grcdc.org. Your request is highly valued, but not guaranteed. All families will be notified of their new or returning Discovery by August 1, 2017 by mail. A sneak peek at class lists will be available at the July 12th GRCDC Park Party @ Cherry Park + Splashpad! Join us from 12-2pm.

Revised Calendar: We made significant changes to our 2017-18 school calendar to prioritize **student learning, staff feedback and family survey results**. Our school calendar is required to have 180 school days, at least 1098 hours and to abide by the common calendar established by the Kent Intermediate School District. This common calendar dictates our winter and spring breaks. Here is a brief rundown of the key changes for next year and our thinking:

Why was early release on Wednesday removed? Strong instructional practice requires consistency and routines. Our early release presented challenges in scheduling and providing consistency for students throughout the week. Teachers were not able to teach all subject areas each early release day. Most families had to make other arrangements on Wednesdays.

Why is the start time each day 8:30 a.m. and not 8:00 a.m.? An 8:30 a.m. start time is common among other elementary schools, especially within GRPS. The later start time offers teachers regular, protected time to have collaborative meetings focused on instruction and behavior.

Why isn’t there a mid-winter break in February? We aligned days off to academic needs so they are between cycles of instruction and will now be used so teachers can prepare progress reports. This is a new practice starting in 2017-18. If we add days off in February, we would extend further into June. Historically when we are in attendance past Grand Rapids Public Schools in June, our attendance rates drop; this drop has the potential to impact our funding sources.


I will continue to share our thinking as we transition through summer into our 2017-18 school year and give this calendar a try. These changes require each of us to adjust and I am so grateful for your flexibility and support as we make intentional decisions that positively impact teaching and learning. If you have questions about any of these topics, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly! May your summer be filled with great happiness, health and lots of reading!

Sarah Cooper, Pedagogista coopesar@grcdc.org

Help Wanted:
 Here are some upcoming opportunities in which you can volunteer your time or talents to the school:

- Lunch servers** are always appreciated. We could use help every day from 10:40—12:30.
- Are you a runner?** Volunteer to coach Let Me Run in the fall! Contact Mrs. Rachel for more information: harthrac@grcdc.org

Community Corner
CREATE is a week long art camp put on by The Branch Church. The camp will be here at GRCDC the week of June 19-23, 6:30-8:30pm. There are a variety of classes offered including baking, show choir, recycled art, photography, video and more! Any child entering Kindergarten through 8th grade is welcome! Register at thebranchonline.org/create. The cost is \$30 per student and scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Bethany DeBlaay: b.ackleydeblaay@gmail.com or Becky Degraaf: bekdegraaf@gmail.com



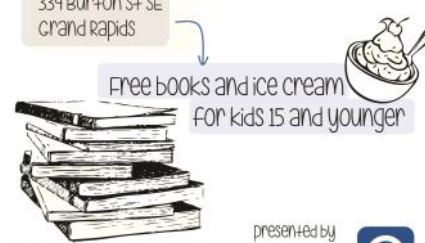
Community Corner, continued

Story Time in the Park
 ↳ Tuesdays in June, July, and August
 7:00-8:00pm


Gather your kids and join us for story time!

Garfield Park
 334 Burton St SE
 Grand Rapids

Free books and ice cream for kids 15 and younger



presented by **steelcase foundation**



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