



September 19, 2016

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking

Thank you for another great week. Showing kindness and working together like you did is how we continue to build up our wonderful community. Here's to more of that all year long.

Fine Tuning Pickup and Drop Off

We're continuing to learn how to fine tune pickup and drop off to maximize safety and efficiency. One item that I need to highlight is that the lead car must move past the middle drive (the one near the dumpsters), then all the following cars should pull up as close as is reasonably possible to the car ahead. This will help eliminate backups behind you, and allow more people to participate in drop off. I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation in taking turns getting into position to turn right leaving Cass.

So you have them handy, here is our more complete list of reminders.:

- Please be friendly and cooperative with our volunteers and staff. They are here to help the process be safe and efficient for everyone!
- Always right turns!
- Always use crosswalks (safety).
- Always stay with your car in the pick-up lane.
- Always pull forward, bumper to bumper.
- Go past the mid-block drive on Cass to drop off (this helps avoid the mud collected there, and allows more people access to drop off at the same time).
- On Lafayette, 1st entrance is staff only, 2nd entrance is for families parking on the lower lot.
- The lower lot exit is "closed" until 3:30 (1:25 on Wednesdays).
- We encourage you to arrive between 3:15 and 3:30. This will allow more of a flow to the line.
- Thank you for working together as we form one line to exit Cass.

Afternoon Meeting

Thank you for keeping your student with their class during Afternoon Meetings on Fridays, 3:00-3:15 pm. Being with class is part of the learning experience. Thank you for your cooperation and for understanding this aspect of your child's growth with us.

Explore Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico USA!

This week, see a place millions of years in the making! Fly with thousands of bats, explore incredible formations, and trek by headlamp through a cave. Explore Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico USA! <https://goo.gl/Ymf8rm>

Look for a short video from me for this week later today at this link: <http://goo.gl/VYTYB8>. Have an awesome week!

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

DON'T FORGET!

**Every Wednesday school dismisses at 1:10
Arrival 8:00 AM—Dismissal 1:10 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

Family Team Corner

If you missed extracurricular night last week, there is still time to sign up! A few of our programs are looking for additional coaches/leaders too, if you are a parent who is interested in being involved.

While most programs do charge a per student fee, one of our goals is that no one be prevented from participating due to cost. The Family Team is happy to offer scholarships for students at all levels.

If you would like more information about signing up for an extracurricular, volunteer opportunities, or scholarships, please email us at GRCDCFamilyTeam@gmail.com. Be sure to include the activity you are interested in and your child's grade.

Student Numbers for School Meals Have Arrived!

If you have a new student, we have received most of the student numbers. With these number you are able to set up your mypaymentsplus.com account to pay for school meals. Call or email the office to get your number: 459-0330 harthrac@grcdc.org

Boys Fall Running Program

Finally, a running program for boys! We have teamed up with Let Me Run to host GRCDC's inaugural 5K running season for our 4th and 5th grade boys. Registration is open now! The season runs for 7 weeks, begins September 26th and will culminate in a 5K race on November 12th. Practice is 2 days a week, Monday from 3:30-5:00 PM and Wednesday from 1:30-3:00 PM. The cost of the program is \$100 which is due at registration and \$20 for the race entry, which will be due later on in the season. Don't let the cost stop you from signing up, scholarships are available when you register at letmerun.org and also available through the GRCDC Family Team (see article above).



SEEKING: 1-2 more coaches to join us on Mondays or Wednesdays. Contact Mrs. Rachel for more info.

Movie Night September 30th

Discovery C is hosting a movie night on Friday, September 30. Gym doors open at 5:30 with the movie, "Zootopia" beginning at 6:00pm. Snacks like popcorn, candy, water, fruit juice, baked goods and other savory items will be available for purchase to help us pay for our trip to the Public Museum. We hope you will be able to join us. Wear your pajamas and bring along a sleeping bag or blankets to sit on as well as your favorite stuffed animal!

Sincerely, Mrs. Kaser, Ms. Harmony and Mrs. Schultz

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

9/20	Discovery C & D Info Night, 5:30-6:30 PM
9/21	Discovery A & B Info Night, 5:00—6:00 PM
9/21	Early Release, 1:10 Dismissal
9/23	Afternoon Meeting, 3:00—3:15 PM
9/26	Let Me Run practice begins, 3:30 –5:00 PM
9/27	Discovery E & F Info Night, 5:30—6:30 PM
9/30	Greenspace Dedication and Ribbon Cutting, 3:00 PM
9/30	Movie Night Fundraiser, 6:00—8:00 PM, GRCDC Gym
10/6	School Picture Day

The Philosophy by Sarah Cooper

The Reggio Emilia approach is used throughout the world, but originated in the small town of Reggio Emilia, Italy. It is an education of relationships that first began as an early childhood educational approach constructed after World War II.

The core of the approach is a collection of principles, which the GRCDC uses to inspire and guide our approach to teaching, learning and relating to each other. Of the nine principles, the image of the child, I would argue, is the most important.

Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of the Reggio Emilia approach, describes the fundamentals behind the **image of the child** for teachers in Your Image of the Child: Where Teaching Begins:

Children have a right to a good school — a good building, good teachers, right time, good activities. This is the right of ALL children.

It is necessary to give an immediate response to a child. Children need to know that we are their friends, that they can depend on us for the things they desire, that we can support them in the things that they have, but also in the things that they dream about, that they desire.

Children have the right to imagine. We need to give them full rights of citizenship in life and in society.

It's necessary that we believe that the child is very intelligent, that the child is strong and beautiful and has very ambitious desires and requests. This is the image of the child that we need to hold.

Those who have the image of the child as fragile, incomplete, weak, made of glass gain something from this belief only for themselves. We don't need that as an image of children.

Instead of always giving children protection, we need to give them the recognition of their rights and of their strengths.

Image of the child is a concept that powers all areas of the school community. Our image of children compels us to retire the traditional lecture based approach to education and put in its place opportunities for children to actively engage with materials, their environment and each other. It compels us to design classrooms spaces that meet the needs of children. It compels us to not only document and display children's thinking, but to use it to develop meaningful projects. It compels us to offer children opportunities to find and refine their strengths and voices. It compels teachers to collaborate and engage in reflective practices. It compels the school to prioritize relationships with intentions of supporting all children and families. And we believe this work can provoke the greater community and has the potential to prompt school reform. On behalf of the GRCDC, we are truly grateful that you've entrusted us with your child(ren) and look forward to a meaningful and connected school year ahead.

I look forward to connecting with you,

Sarah Cooper, Pedagogista

coopesar@grcdc.org

Grand Rapids Nutrition Center

The full menu is available on our website: childdiscoverycenter.org/be-connected/link-letters/

Breakfast (\$1.50):	Lunch (\$2.75):
T— Scrambled eggs, muffin	BBQ chicken flatbread
W— Cinnamon French toast	Hot dog, onion rings
Th— Mini pancakes, yogurt	Chicken nuggets
F— Egg, cheese, & sausage slider	Tony's cheese pizza
M 9/26—Cereal	Honey BBQ dippers

Milk: \$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

- STUDENT ID's HAVE ARRIVED—Call or email the office to obtain your students' number—459-0330 or harthrac@grcdc.org
- You may send cash or check with your child to school or you may pay for meals online at mypaymentsplus.com
- Every family needs to submit an application for school meals at grss.mealapp.org even if you do not plan to use the school meals program here at school. Many of the grants we obtain for school funding is based on the percentage of families who qualify for free or reduced price meals.

Important Year Start Info

School Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM-3:15 PM
Wednesday: 8:00 AM—1:10 PM

Building Entrance

To gain entry to the school building during the day, please ring the doorbell on the door off Lafayette Ave.

Breakfast

Breakfast starts at 7:30 am in the Dining Room. Please walk your students into the Dining Room in the morning. The students will stay in the Dining Room until 7:50 AM. At 7:50 AM, the students will be released to the playground for classroom line up. Parents are welcome to stay in the Dining Room with their student(s).

Arrival

Students may arrive starting at 7:45 am. The teachers will be on the playground starting at 7:50 AM. The students will line up by class and the teachers will lead the children to the classrooms. If you arrive after 8:05 AM, please sign your child in at the office and accompany them to the classroom. After 8:05 am, a student is marked tardy in the attendance record. **With the exception of the breakfast students, no student should be on campus with out an adult before 7:45 AM.**

E-Link

The E-Link is the electronic version of the weekly Link Letter that is sent home on the first day of the week. In an effort to conserve paper and to communicate efficiently, we will send the E-Link to families that have provided us with an email address. If you want to be added to the E-Link list, please email Mrs. Rachel : harthrac@grcdc.org
We will send a paper Link Letter home to everyone for a couple of weeks, just to make sure everyone is in the loop. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Rachel.

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