



September 26, 2016

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking

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Welcome to Week 4! I appreciate all of the kindness and community building you all have shown. Here's to another great week! I want to encourage all families to attend the Movie Night Fundraiser this Friday. More details about this event are in the article to the right side of this page.

Safety & Security

We will begin practicing our safety drills this week. We will prepare for things like tornadoes, fires, and lock downs. Please use this knowledge to help get your child ready for these drills and situations. Sometimes they are a bit nervous about these, so it helps to have families talk to them in support.

In connection with that, I want you to know more about our lock down procedures. We use the lock down procedure to help provide further protection for the school. In the case of a lock down, we close our entrances so no one goes in or out. If ringing the doorbell a couple times doesn't work, please return to your car and call us. Please understand that we will ask you to stay if you are in the building when we have a lock down. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

More Pickup and Drop Off Fine Tuning

We are all continuing to learn to work with and within our new system. It is a huge help that you all have shown so much patience and work with the systems we have. Do know that a lot of voices have been heard about our system, both now that it has been implemented, and in advance in the planning. Please know that we have set up everything intentionally. While it may mean a slightly less direct way in order to make right turns, or taking a few extra steps for a cross walk, please know we have set something up that works in everyone's best interest.

If you have other people picking up for you, please help them know about our pickup and drop off procedures. Everyone should know that it typically takes a few extra minutes at any school pickup and drop off.

Finally, if you are wanting to park, please consider using the family parking lot. The school community does not have permission to use the Mary Free Bed lot for pick up and drop off. In the family parking lot, there is no waiting to leave in the morning, and the wait in the afternoon has been usually running quicker than expected (meaning you can get out by 3:30 or earlier).

Thank you for continuing to assume the best, intentionality and reason with our process.

Special Presentation in Afternoon Meeting

We are tentatively having a special Afternoon Meeting presentation this week. Please watch our Facebook page for details: <https://goo.gl/zR3TrB>

Explore Bryce Canyon, Utah USA!

Welcome to the jungle, the stone jungle, this weekend! Gaze up at the night sky, ride horseback through a canyon, and see hoodoos up close. Explore Bryce Canyon, Utah USA!

<https://goo.gl/jZGcih>

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
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Family Team Corner

Fundraising is one of the most important things the Family Team does. The money we raise allows us to help support extracurricular programs, classroom enrichment needs, and to sponsor several free (or very low-cost) events throughout the school year.

One of the simplest things everybody can do to help raise money for the Family Team is to save Box Tops. We have two collection spots: a green bin on Ms. Rachel's desk, and a box on the Family Team bulletin board in the hallway by the Resource Room. Last year, we raised over \$500 in Box Tops, and would love to go beyond that this year. Thank you to everybody who has been sending them in!

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 or harthrac@grcdc.org

Central Office Updates

- **E-Link** Starts this week—that means that most of you will be receiving this communication via email. If you have questions about this, please contact Mrs. Rachel.
- **Change in Math Night**—We originally had Math Night on the calendar for October 11th, but we have moved Math Night to Tuesday, October 18th. Stay tuned for more details.
- Our **Community Potluck** will be on Friday, October 28— save the date, more details coming soon!

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

9/28	Early Release, 1:10 Dismissal
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, 3:00 PM
9/30	Movie Night Fundraiser, doors open at 5:30, movie begins at 6:00, GRCDC Gym
10/6	School Picture Day—flyers with prices were sent home today
10/10	GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00—8:00 PM
10/18	Math Night, evening event
10/28	Community Potluck, lunch time event
10/31 & 11/1	NO SCHOOL, Teacher Records/Conference Day

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

As a school we developed norms to inform how we design our learning spaces. As a Reggio inspired school we consider spaces or the environment to be a Discovery’s third teacher. This means the environment sends messages about how to organize, act and what materials to use. Intention within the environment can ensure that there is a balance between individual, small and large group activities as well as child directed and teacher initiated activity. The following eight design concepts are our norms for designing learning environments. Descriptions have been minimized for this article.

Designing spaces for collaboration

- ◇ Tables and chairs define spaces, rather than rows of desks
- ◇ Collaboration can happen in various settings: tables, on rugs, at easels, in lofts, etc.

Cleanliness

- ◇ Children are active participants in keeping the classroom clean and organized.
- ◇ Furniture is cleaned regularly and kept in good working order.

Natural Light

- ◇ Translucent work in windows can filter light: paintings, study work, identity pieces
- ◇ Lamps can be used instead of overhead lighting

Intentional color choice

- ◇ Children’s work adds color (e.g. calendars, study work and materials explorations).
- ◇ Color is a tool to enhance practice and display studies.

Classroom spaces belonging to children

- ◇ Children’s writing and ideas are visible throughout the room.
- ◇ Cubbies, mailboxes, pictures, job boards, birthdays labeled with names and photos



Discovery C’s job board from a previous year

Bringing the outdoors in

- ◇ Plants are healthy and alive. Creeping plants can act as space dividers.
- ◇ Bring in natural materials for furniture, manipulatives, materials, etc.

Materials beautifully arranged

- ◇ Like materials are arranged by similar color, shape and/or size.
- ◇ Materials are placed with purpose and accessibility for children.

(The Philosophy continued to the right)

Grand Rapids Nutrition Center

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

Breakfast (\$1.50):	Lunch (\$2.75):
Milk: \$0.50	
T— Mini pancakes, yogurt	Philly cheesesteak sandwich
W— Turkey bacon, egg & cheese	Chicken fajita
Th— Belgian waffle stick	Chicken patty
F— Breakfast wrap	Double stuff cheese pizza
M 10/3—Turkey sausage bites	Minh’s orange chicken

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.

(The Philosophy, continued)

Defined Areas:

Teachers redesign classroom spaces frequently to meet children’s needs. The following six areas represent purposeful areas for teachers to consider. Typically, 4-5 areas are suggested to support learning in a variety of domains, but can be switched out as needed throughout a school year.

- ◇ **Lab’s** purpose is to grow understandings through observation and experimentation.
- ◇ **Manipulatives** intends to use small objects to explore concepts, solve problems and represent rules.
- ◇ **Performance** allows children to experience various identities and to present new learning.
- ◇ **Mini-studio** supports the use and exploration of visual languages to express theories and concepts.
- ◇ **Media** is dedicated to building and understanding rules and processes related to communication.
- ◇ **Construction** is a space set up for children to construct and deconstruct with materials. Typically this area supports younger children, using blocks, animals, recycled materials and natural materials.

Established norms guide us as educators, holding us accountable to what we know to be part of beneficial learning environments. But, they require constant reflection and re-evaluation. Discovery D teachers have included the children in this important work this year, creating a renewed sense of ownership over the space. I encourage you to look at your child’s classroom through these norms and discuss with your child’s teacher.

Sarah Cooper, Pedagogista
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