



December 19, 2016

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking

Re-enrollment Time Again

Our annual enrollment process is here! Thanks to those of you who have gotten your enrollment form back to us. We'd love to get as many as possible postmarked before break, so looking forward to receiving yours! (And guaranteeing your spot.)

Growing and Searching

As I shared last week, Mrs. Haslacker (Discovery E) has accepted the opportunity to be a dean of students at another school in the area. We congratulate her and wish her well on this new adventure! She will always be a part of our GRCDC family. Meanwhile, Ms. Gabby has agreed to be our Guest Teacher as we complete our search for our new teammate.

That leaves us with the need to conduct a search to find a new member of the team. It takes a careful search, and time, to find the best match we possibly can. The process includes a certain amount of time making sure that the position is posted and has as much of a reach as we can to find quality candidates. Then there are important steps in screening to ascertain best fit. So to help us with the time needed to have a rich process, Ms. Gabby will be in place. Also, we will wrap our arms around the Discovery in support. We have every intention of finding a quality match by the end of January, and sooner if possible. The main factor will be finding quality candidates.

That is where you can help. Please spread the word about this opportunity: grcdc.org/about/employment-opportunities/. The more we spread the word, the better chance we have of finding our next community member. Thank you!

You Can Learn Anything

A great resource for catching up on learning, and moving on to new learning, is KhanAcademy.org. With the break coming, this is a great time to check it out. It can be used both by children and by adults. Topics range from early math, to computer animation, to grammar, to music. (If you'd like a little extra dimension of fun with the site, add me as your coach using code WCYEMQ.) For more about how we can all find success through effort, see this video by the entertainer John Legend: <http://bit.ly/YCLAjLgnd>



Have a Great Break

As 2016 comes to a close, I thank you all for your part in making our community magical! Speaking of magical, thank you to Discoveries E and F for decorating our hallways. Be sure to take a look if you haven't already. I hope you all have a wonderful break. We'll see you in 2017!

Coach i

John Robinson, Principal/Executive Director/Superintendent
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Family Team Corner

What is First Friday Food?

First Friday Food is a teacher appreciation lunch that we serve for the staff on the first Friday of each month. These events are very popular with staff, but we need your help to make them successful! Our intent is to feed the entire staff of 30+ people, but we are finding that we fall short many months and our hardworking paraprofessionals (who eat last) are often left out. Here's how you can help:

1. Look for the SignUp page that is posted in the Link Letter, on Facebook, and sent via email toward the end of each month.
2. Sign up for an item to bring. Whether you love to cook, would rather pick up some K-Cups at the store, or are available to help with set up or clean up, there is something for everyone!
3. If the list is full, please feel free to bring something that fits with the theme and/or a duplicate of a main or side dish that is already full (for example, an extra crock pot dish or salad. Fruit and veggie trays are always popular additions too).
4. Drop your item(s) off in the Resource Room before 10:45 on the day of the event.
5. Pick up your dish at the end of the school day.

Huge thank you to everyone who has contributed so far this year! The next First Friday Food is right after break on 1/6/17. Look for the SignUp link after Winter Break!

Central Office Updates

- **Attention Parents of Siblings** who will be new students at GRCDC in the Fall of 2017. Please make sure to submit the "2017-2018 Application for Enrollment" along with the following documentation:
 - Certified Birth Certificate (original, not a copy)
 - Copy of all immunizations
 - Request for records (if applicable)
 A PDF of the application is attached to this week's email.
- **Open Enrollment for the 2017-2018** school year began December 1, 2016. By law in Michigan, charter school families must indicate their intent to re-enroll for the coming school year. **NEW this year**, each family will be receiving a personalized "Intent to Enroll" application in the mail. You must return this document to the school by February 24, 2017 in order to have a spot on the class roster next year. If you do not return this document, your student may lose his or her spot at GRCDC. The letters have been mailed out. Please contact us if you did not receive a letter.
- **Attendance letters** are being mailed home to families of students who have missed, or are close to missing 10%, or 6 days, of the school year so far. If you are not sure how many days your child has missed, please contact your child's teacher or the school office. Please be mindful when making decisions about keeping your child home from school or taking vacations on school days. We would be happy to help you figure out solutions if there is an issue with transportation.

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

12/19	Girl Scouts, 6:00 PM
12/19—1/20	Penny Drive—see flyer that came home today for more information!
12/21	Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM
12/22	Odyssey of the Mind practice until 5:00 PM
12/23—1/2	NO SCHOOL, Winter Break
1/6	First Friday Food—See article above

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

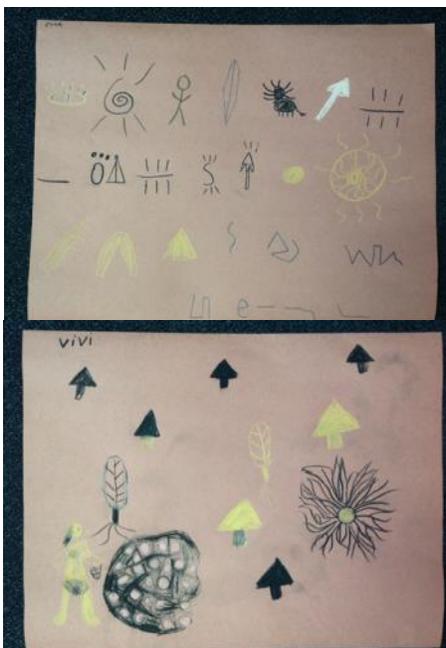
The Philosophy by guest author, Kay Waterson

A Timeline of Social Studies and Art History

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my role as *atelierista* (studio coordinator) is the opportunity to design lessons that integrate visual art and other academic subjects (in this case social studies). While Discovery D teachers facilitate lessons around regional history and social studies in the classroom, the studio focuses on the creative processes that took place within different cultures throughout history. One of the more ancient cultures we looked at were the Paleo-Indian people that used to inhabit Michigan over 12,000 years ago. In their work the students showed an interest in the way this culture survived, specifically in how they hunted mastodon and other large land dwelling mammals. Discovery D students were challenged to try their hand at crafting arrowheads from clay. We studied examples of arrowheads that were carved in the Early Archaic period, and talked about how form and function are a component in design and have been since ancient times!



Discovery D artists used charcoal to create illustrations that tell stories using *symbolism*. These drawings are reactions to ancient petroglyphs and other forms of primitive cave drawings. Art has always been a universal language-even before the development of written language!



Kay Waterson, Studio Coordinator
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 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):	Lunch (\$2.75):
Milk only: \$0.50	
T— Egg & cheese sandwich	Italian meatball sub
W— French toast sticks	Turkey, mashed potatoes
Th— Cereal	Cheesy chicken quesadilla
F— NO SCHOOL—Winter Break	
T 1/3/17— Berry crunch bar	Chicken strips
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

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

Central Office Updates, continued

- School Closings:** In the case of inclement weather, we will make a decision to close school as early as possible. We will send an email blast out to our E-Link list and inform the news agencies (television and radio) if we decide to close. **Look or listen** for our school's name 'Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center' or 'GR Child Discovery Center'. We will also **change the voice mail** to indicate that school is closed for the day. If you have any questions about this policy, please let us know. If you are not receiving email notices, please send an email to Rachel at harthrac@grcdc.org to be added to the E-Link list.
- As we head into **cold and flu season**, it's time for a reminder about when to keep your child home from school. If your child had a fever (100 degrees or higher) or has vomited in the last 24 hours, you must keep him/her home from school. In addition, your child must be fever free without the aide of fever reducing medicines (Tylenol, Ibuprofen).
- Winter and Recess:** At GRCDC, we go outside for recess every day, including the winter months. Students should bring snow pants, hats, gloves and boots each day to school during the winter. If your child does not have winter gear, we do have some extra items available in the office. Please note: If the wind chill is at or below zero, the students will stay inside for recess.
- Winter Break** is shortened this year due to the state mandated increase in the number of school days and another state mandate for schools to follow the common calendar that is set by our area intermediate school district (Kent ISD). Please be aware and plan family trips to coincide with the planned days off from school. This is a reminder for you as we made efforts to get the word out about this as early as June of this year via a letter that was mailed home, in the Link Letter and in the printed school calendar.

Community Corner

Some perspective as we approach this holiday gift giving season:

The most precious gift we can offer anyone is our attention. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers.

Thich Nhat Hanh

