



March 6, 2017

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking

Welcome Ms. Harwick to Discovery E!

Ms. Harwick is joining us in Discovery E in the teacher role. She comes to us with a wealth of experience teaching at different levels, and in different settings. She was here once before, and we are lucky to have her back and help us finish the year strong. She will be joining us in a guest capacity as a long term substitute teacher. She very much believes in relationships, and helping students reach their full potential. Please welcome her when you see her, and see the other great news in Community Corner.

Help as Easy as 2-1-1

Do you need information or resources such as

- Housing and utility issues
- Finding shelter
- Food bank
- Tax prep
- Support groups and counseling

If so, try dialing 211. It is a service designed to get you the help you need. So keep 211 in mind the next time you need resources.



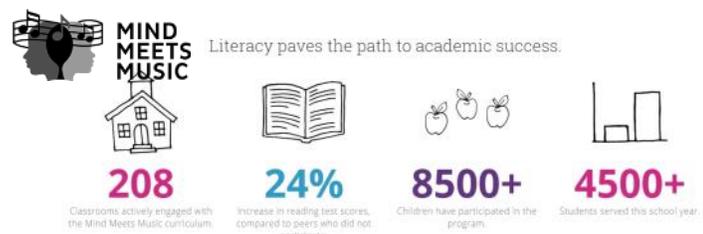
Lottery

We have enough new applicants that we will need to hold a lottery at certain grade levels. This won't affect current students and their siblings, however. I share it with you in case current families know any new families that applied. Everyone affected should have heard from us by now regarding the lottery date and time.

Mind Meets Music Tomorrow

For families that have Mind Meets Music in their rooms (Discoveries A-D) and RSVP'ed by February 28th:

Don't forget! Mind Meets Music is hosting a free Music Mania night for CDC families on Tuesday March 7th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Dinner, games, activities and a free book! Held at Child Discovery Center gym. Can't wait to see you there!



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
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Family Team Corner

Harmony Hall is hosting a GRCDC fundraiser on Sunday, March 19th! Come and eat as 10% of all food sales and \$1 of every beer sold will go towards the Family Team's fundraising efforts! You do not need to bring in anything, just tell your server you're there to Eat for GRCDC! Harmony Hall opens on Sunday at 12pm & is located at 401 Stocking Ave NW, Grand Rapids. Please pass this along to friends & family - we're looking forward to sharing a meal with our school community!

The GRCDC staff enjoyed the Chili lunch last week! Thank you to those who prepared food for the March First Friday Food event.

The Family Team is happy to announce that Janelle Gaudet has signed on to be a Co-Steward for next year! As this is Natasha & Jessie's last year as Co-Stewards, the Family Team is looking for another Co-Steward to join Janelle. If you're interested or have questions about this volunteer position, please email grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com.

Literacy Celebration Details—Please join us March 8!

- Discovery A—8:30-9:30, in the gym
Reader's Theater & Chicca, Chicca Boom Boom performances
- Discovery B—12:45—1:05, in classrooms
Students are reading to their families and sharing their writing
- Discovery C—12:30—1:10, in classrooms
Sharing the opinion/review writing with families
- Discovery D—12:00—1:00, in classrooms
Writing letters with families and reading poems to families
- Discovery E—12:15—1:00, in classrooms
Presenting WWII posters and persuasive commercials
- Discovery F—12:15—1:00, in classrooms
Celebrating the work of information writing

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

2/27—3/30	Family Team T-Shirt Sale—see handout that was sent home today
3/6	Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM
3/7	Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM Music Mania w/ Mind Meets Music (for those who RSVPed) 5:30—7:00 PM in the GRCDC gym
3/8	Literacy Celebration during the school day (see details above) Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM Lottery Drawing for 2017-2018 Openings & Wait List ,5:45 PM
3/9	Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM Minecraft Club, 5:30—7:00 PM
3/10	Afternoon Meeting, 3:00 PM Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM
3/13	GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00 PM
3/14	Family Team Meeting, 8:00—9:30 AM
3/18	Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament
3/19	Harmony Hall Family Team Fundraiser, 12PM—12 AM
3/24	Portfolio Day, Parents attend with students for a 1 hour pre-scheduled session
3/31—4/7	Spring Break—NO SCHOOL

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

Our public, Reggio Emilia inspired school is a very rare organization. We are continually refining our educational approach to uphold the requirements of American, public schools and Northern Italy's Reggio Emilia approach: one that is steeped in relationships, children's interests, projects and the use of materials. Each Reggio Emilia inspired school throughout the world elevates these values in slightly different ways. Though they often feel at odds, these two approaches work collaboratively, emphasizing an equitable education for all students. We strive to use the Reggio Emilia inspired principles to address state and federal, public school requirements every day. Consider the approach we take from each and note how these two cultural perspectives each address equity in education:

As an American, public school in Michigan, the GRCDC...

- Receives state and federal funding based on student count and additional funds for those at-risk or with special needs
- Uses Common Core curriculum as the foundation for content taught
- Hires highly qualified staff
- Follows a common calendar as established by our local leadership
- Participates in standardized testing (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP assessment for grades 3-5 and WIDA for English Language Learners)
- Carries out annual, school improvement planning focused on continuous improvement for all students
- Upholds all state and federal laws, including the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)
- Is governed by its own Board of Directors
- Must uphold standardized testing progress among all students as agreed upon within our charter

As a Reggio Emilia inspired school, the GRCDC...

- Keeps children in the same Discovery for 2 years because relationships among peers, teachers and families are important to learning
- Believes that all children can learn and have rights to a quality education
- Highlights children's thinking in hallways and on bulletin boards because children learn best when their thinking is valued
- Creates Discoveries to ensure teachers work collaboratively to best support learning
- Establishes weekly collaborative planning time for the full staff and teaching teams
- Designed a Studio and Studio Coordinator role to provide small groups of children opportunities to express their learning through materials
- Plans unique, long-term projects each year to honor children's thinking and curiosities
- Arranges furniture and classrooms to elevate the role of collaboration
- Assesses student learning through portfolios, observations and projects

We are continually refining how to maintain focus on both the public school requirements and the Reggio Emilia principles. There is no rule book for this innovative work and so your feedback is highly valued and used to influence our strategic planning. Please share your thinking, if you haven't already, via this this online, anonymous survey no later than Wednesday, March 8: <http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/2274288>. Computers seem to support this software rather than mobile devices.

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

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|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Breakfast (\$1.50): | Lunch (\$2.75): |
| T—Egg & cheese sandwich | Chicken nuggets |
| W — Scrambled eggs | Turkey sandwich |
| Th—Egg, cheese, sausage slider | Chicken fajita |
| F— French toast sticks | Double stuff pizza |
| M 3/13—Cereal | Italian pasta bake |

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

Community Corner—

Congratulations to Sarah DeVries, our Special Education Resource Teacher, on the birth of her baby boy last week!



And please join me in giving a warm welcome to Miss Shannon, who will be filling in for Mrs. DeVries while she is on maternity leave.



Skating Party Fun!



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