



May 8, 2017

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking

Help Needed for Tuesday, May 9

The planter boxes in front of the school have served us well. The time has come, however, for us to remove and replace them. The Junior League of Grand Rapids has generously offered to help us with the task of removing the old boxes late afternoon on Tuesday, May 9. With that in mind, we need some help with some materials.

- several drills and drill bits
- crowbars
- hammers
- rakes
- a couple shovels
- extension cords and power strips
- a magnet like the one roofers use

If you can help provide any of these items, please drop them off to Mr. Robinson's office by 3:30 pm Tuesday. Thanks for your help beautifying the school! Read the article on page 2 to find out more about Discovery A's new Garden Box Building Project.

Communication with Teachers

To keep our focus on children's learning, staff are asked not to check email or phone messages during instructional time, but will respond to phone or email communications within 48 hours (on school days). We also ask you to refrain from communicating with teachers through their personal cell phones (voicemail and text messages) as we aim to provide equal access and streamlined communication

Kindergarten, It's Not Just for Play Anymore

Kindergarten is a very important step in the academic lives of your children. It's a time that sets up basic skills, understanding routines, and building relationships. With that, good attendance matters and it starts with Kindergarten. For our new parents joining us, please be prepared to have regular attendance next year. For all our parents, please see attendanceworks.org for more information about matters around good attendance.

Alternate Parking May 22-23

Our next step with the greenspace is coming May 22-23! With that, our family lot will be closed during those days for rain garden installation. Stay tuned for more details about parking options those days.

That's all for this week. As always, thanks for reading, Be Kind, Keep Discovering, and have a great week!

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

Family Team Corner

Please join us on Tuesday, May 9th 5:30-7:30pm to help clean out the old garden boxes in the front of the school! The Jr. League will be bringing volunteers and we'll be moving plants, digging up dirt and removing the old wood. This event will replace our usual Family Team Meeting scheduled for the evening.

The Family Team T-Shirts from the fundraiser sale are in! If you haven't picked up your order, or made arrangements for delivery, please email grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com.

The Flowers & Plants from the Family Team Plant Sale will be ready for pick up after school on May 10th. Please come to the Gym Door on 5/10 from 12:30—2:45 pm or on 5/11 from 2:30—4:00 PM to pick up your order.

It is also yearbook Shout-Out and Sponsorship time! For only \$10 you can include a personalized shout-out in this year's yearbook for your special student(s)! There are more Shout Out Forms in the Office. Shout Out Forms are due by Friday, May 19th. Larger spaces like \$50 for a 1/4 page, \$100 for a 1/2 page & \$200 for a whole page are available too! Please email the family team, grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com, to place your order. Every student will receive a yearbook at no cost. We are able to do this with the money generated from the shout outs and sponsorships. The Family Team will host a popsicle & yearbook party on June 8th at recess.

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

ONGOING EVENTS:	
Thru 5/26	M-Step Testing – 2nd, 3rd & 4th grades are testing 5/8-5/12
COMING UP THIS WEEK:	
5/8	GRASP enrollment forms are due (see page 2) Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00—8:00 PM Girl Scouts, 6:00 PM
5/9	Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM Family Team Meeting, 5:30—7:30 PM (see article above)
5/10	Flower & Plants ready for Pick Up, 12:30— 2:45 PM Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM Art Club until 2:30 PM
5/11	Flower & Plants ready for Pick Up, 2:30—4:00 PM Girls on the Run T/Th Team until 5:00 PM Minecraft Club, 5:30—7:00 PM
5/12	Afternoon Meeting, 3:00 PM Girls on the Run M/F Team until 5:00 PM
5/13	Discovery A Garden Box Building, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:	
5/16	Bake Sale for Girls on the Run, 3:00-3:30 PM
5/17	Booth Reservations for Craft and Rummage sale DUE
5/19	Yearbook Shout Out and Sponsorships DUE
5/20	GRCDC Craft and Rummage Sale, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM
5/22 & 23	Rain Garden Installation — no parking in family lot for 2 days. Stay tuned for more details about parking options
5/23	IMMERSE Family Night @ Public Museum, 6:00—8:00 PM
5/29	Memorial Day Break— NO SCHOOL
6/7	End of Year Celebration, 5:00—7:00 PM
6/9	Fifth Grade Camp Out (overnight at Camp Rockford)
6/12	Fifth Grade Graduation, 2:00 PM
6/14	Last Day of School, Early Release Day, Dismissal at 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

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—Mini pancakes	Philly cheesesteak	
W— Turkey bacon, egg & cheese	Chicken nuggets	
Th—Cinni minnis	Chicken patty	
F— Breakfast wrap	Double stuff cheese pizza	
M 5/15—Apple cinnamon toast	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

The Philosophy by the Discovery A Team

Discovery A Kindergarten and first-grade students formed learning groups, each one focused on four specific animals: bats, birds, worms and butterflies. Children are researching these animals to design need fulfilling gardens. In the last few weeks they have collaboratively shared their prior knowledge, brainstormed wonderings, researched and created posters illustrating their findings. Their research questions included: “What do these animals need for survival? Where do they live and why?”

To help answer these questions, children visited Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park to observe butterflies and birds as well as interview the head gardener about the animals and their habitats at the gardens.



Researching at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Back in the classroom, students are designing spaces for each animal group taking into consideration basic needs such as food, water, and shelter, and added needs the children believe are essential such as freedom, space, elevation, fun, recreation, challenge, and protection. Discovery A teachers want to ensure that children can act upon their research and theories in a real way, impacting our GRCDC community. Teachers envision this work will help advocate for our next generation of scientists to have the voice, resources and space to create need-fulfilling gardens. As a result, children will be working toward the following vision:



We will work together to research and create need-fulfilling spaces [garden boxes] for bats, birds, worms and butterflies within our GRCDC ecosystem.

The teachers, families, the Junior League of Grand Rapids and a generous donor are busy planning the space, materials and logistics to ensure that four raised garden beds can be built, one for each animal group. The old blue boxes currently on the east side of the building will be replaced and grass seed will be planted to beautify the front yard of our school. Once the garden beds are in, watch for students’ designs to support animal needs. Children are considering adding structures like slides for worms and skyscrapers for bats. Stay tuned!

Anne Rasch, Molly Parker and MaryAnn Peterson, Discovery A

Central Office Updates

- **Discovery Care Summer Camp** is a great child care option for the summer. For more details, follow this link and go to the article on page 2: <http://bit.ly/2p9QGqj>
- **This week, the M-Step testing continues for 4th grade students and begins for 2nd & 3rd grade students this week.** Looking for ways to support your test taker? Check out the Link Letter article by Sarah Cooper from March 20th (page 2) <http://bit.ly/2odlKZI> and this resource from the Michigan Department of Education: <http://bit.ly/2oXQF05>
- We have **applied for a waiver** with the Michigan Department of Education to **start school on August 28th** next school year. For more information see a past Link Letter article about this (page 2): <http://bit.ly/2p9QGqj>

Community Corner

IMMERSE Family Night is for students (& their families) who participated in the IMMERSE program this school year. Students in Discoveries C, D E and F all participated in IMMERSE this year. Work from GRCDC students will be on display and families will enjoy free admission to the museum on Tuesday, May 23rd from 6:00—8:00 PM.

The 2nd Annual Family Team Craft & Rummage Sale is on Saturday, May 20th from 10:00 AM—4:00 PM. Several students and GRCDC families will be participating as vendors. There will be all types of vendors selling things like homemade soaps, clothing, jewelry and more! Please come out and support our school community! If you are interested in reserving a booth, you have until Tuesday, May 17th to reserve your spot. For more info, email the Family Team at grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com

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