



September 12, 2016

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Link Letter

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Principally Speaking

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

Great First Week

Thank you all so much for the part you played in making our first week a great one! 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

For the safety of the children (and everyone in general), and so that everyone can get to their next destination on time and safely, thank you for following the routines and procedures we have established for pickup and drop off. It is a learning process for all of us, so here are some notes and reminders to help with fine tune everything:

- 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), during pick up.
- 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

We will hold Afternoon Meeting on Fridays, 3:00-3:15 pm (slight change from last week). Please allow students to stay with their groups during afternoon meeting. Attempting to pull them out takes them out of the class learning and disrupts the community building. Thank you for understanding this aspect of your child's growth with us.

Explore Hawai'i Volcanoes, Hawai'i USA!

Heat things up this week with our national parks! Fly over an active volcano, explore a lava tube, and lout out across volcanic cliffs. Explore Hawai'i Volcanoes, Hawai'i USA!
<http://goo.gl/HSynHU>

Pep Talk

Do you know someone who needs a pep talk? Kid President has a great one! Be sure to share this with your child if you haven't already. They'll love it. <https://youtu.be/l-gQLqv9f4o>

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**

Family Team Corner

The GRCDC Family Team is inclusive of all parents and guardians of students who attend GRCDC. We value everybody's opinions and feedback, and if you can't come to the meetings, we encourage you reach out to the co-stewards Jessie Hammond and Natasha Nyberg with any questions or concerns you may have. You can email them at GRCDCFamilyTeam@gmail.com, or contact them through our Facebook page Friends of the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center (also, be sure to join our page if you haven't already!).

Here is the Family Team meeting schedule for the 2016-17 school year. We hope everyone will join us for at least one meeting! Working parents, we heard your feedback and are trying out a new meeting schedule which includes some evening meetings. We are looking forward to seeing more of you this year!

September 13, 8:00am	October 11, 6:30pm
November 8, 8:00am	December 13, 6:30pm
January 10, 8:00am	February 14, time TBD
March 14, 8:00am	April 11, time TBD
May 9, 8:00am	June 13, time TBD

Boys Fall Running Program

Let Me Run is a running program for 4th & 5th grade boys, but it's more about the boy than the run. Counteracting the negative pressures society places on boys, the program uses running as the vehicle to inspire, teach, and reach them. Fall season starts on September 26, meets Mondays and Wednesdays after school for an hour and fifteen minutes, and ends with a 5k race on November 12th. [Watch this video](#) to learn more and register at LetMeRun.org.

In order to give all of our 5th grade boys the opportunity to participate in the program before they graduate from GRCDC, this week we are opening registration for 5th grade boys only, so act quickly. Next week if we still have openings, we will open registration up to 4th grade boys as well. Questions? Email Mrs. Rachel, harthrac@grcdc.org or call her at 459-0330.

SEEKING: 1-2 more coaches to join Coach Erik Dahl on Wednesdays. If you have a 4th or 5th grade boy here at GRCDC and volunteer as a coach, your son will have a guaranteed spot on the team. Contact Mrs. Rachel for more info.



Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

9/12	GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00—8:00 PM
9/13	Family Team Meeting, 8:00 am
9/14	Early Release, 1:10 Dismissal
9/15	Extra Curricular Info Night, 6:00—7:00 PM, GRCDC Gym
9/16	First Friday Food (grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com for info)
9/16	Afternoon Meeting, 3:05—3:15 PM
9/20	Discovery C & D Info Night, 5:30-6:30 PM
9/21	Discovery A & B Info Night, 5:00—6:00 PM
9/27	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

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

Our interpretation of the Reggio Emilia approach is based on nine principles. I will use this column as a means to define each principle and show how it plays out in our context. The **role of parents** is one of the most crucial principles within the Reggio approach. Our Italian inspiration advocates: “Parents are... a competent and active part of their children's learning experience. They are not considered consumers but co-responsible partners. Their right to participation is expected and supported; it takes many forms, and can help ensure the welfare of all children in the program.” (Gandini, 2008)

At our school the role of parents plays out in many different ways. Each parent, grandparent, guardian or caregiver connects to the school in their own way, offering their talents and time as they are able. As a school we are striving to build a community where teachers and families support the learning and development of all children within our school community. Evidence of this work dates back to the creation of the school, a project instigated by parents looking for a K-5 Reggio inspired school in Grand Rapids. Parents also shaped how families connect to the school by creating the **Family Team**.

The **Family Team** is the GRDC's version of a PTA or PTO organization, which includes families within the life of the school. All parents are automatically included in the **Family Team**. It is a group of parents that meets monthly to provide the organizing structure for a parent or guardian to become involved. All parents are always welcome to attend the meetings. It is the place to bring ideas and get connected to the school.

The **Family Team's** purpose is to support the theory of the Reggio Emilia approach to education and to:

- Be actively involved in the daily life of the school
- Realize the mission for the school
- Provide opportunities for involvement and collaboration with staff
- Join in a partnership with teachers and community to build a quality school

Family Team members play an integral role in the success of the school. There are countless ways parents support the school. Consider the following as examples for parent involvement:

- Plan school events
- Help with homework
- Help serve lunch (*This is needed right now!*)
- Fundraise through annual events
- Set up and clean up after events
- Donate classroom snacks
- Volunteer in the classroom
- Clip Box Tops for Education
- Prepare and organize classroom materials
- Chaperone study trips
- Sharpen pencils
- Lead extra-curricular activities like Girls on the Run, Boy Scouts, or Odyssey of the Mind
- Donate supplies to support classrooms and projects

This year, our Family Team Stewards, or leaders, are joining the leadership of the school to begin examining how we build a more equitable and inclusive organization. Together, we imagine that the list above will grow and change as we research how to better communicate and connect with the entire school population. I encourage you to join us for this important work. The first Family Team meeting is tomorrow, September 13th after drop-off (8:00 a.m.). The Family Team meetings are held in the gym and last about 45 minutes. Looking 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— Kolache, yogurt	Baked mostaccioli
W— French toast sticks	Hamburgers
Th— Sausage gravy breakfast	Teriyaki dippers
F— Breakfast wrap	Double stuff cheese pizza
M 9/19—Egg & cheese sandwich	Cheeseburgers

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

- We are still waiting on student ID numbers for all new students
- You may send cash or check with your child to school until you have the ID number and are able to 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 without 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