



# The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

12.6.19

## Keep Up With Us



[Link to the school's Google Calendar](#)

### Upcoming Events

- 12/8** - Harmony Hall Fundraiser, details below
- 12/9** - Board Meeting, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- 12/12** - Family Team Meeting, 8:45 AM
- 12/19** - Community Meeting & Ukulele Club performance, 8:50 - 9:10AM
- 12/20** - Half Day of School, 12:45 Dismissal
- 12/23 - 1/3** - No School, Winter Break, School Office Closed
- 1/31** - Registration for 2020-2021 School Year Due

**Please check below for the**

### Important Links

- **December Menu**
  - Also available on the app "Nutrislice"
- **School Calendar**
- **Staff Email Contact List**
- **General Information**
- **Family & Student Guidebook**
- **Extracurricular Program Registration Link**

### Extracurricular Schedule

- Lego League, 12/10, 4:00 - 5:00
- Minecraft Club, 12/10, 5:30 - 7:00
- Ukulele Club, 12/11, 3:40 -

**date and time of your child's  
Math Celebration.**

4:45  
Art Club, 12/11, 4:00 - 5:00  
(FYI: Science Club has ended)



Have you heard? We have launched a fundraising campaign to give our school the sign it deserves! The campaign began on 12/3 and we are already halfway to our goal! Thank you to everyone who has donated and shared this campaign with your friends and family. For more details, to donate or share this campaign, [please visit our FB page here.](#)

## Math Celebration Information

The GRCDC aims to continuously improve how we share student learning, goals and progress. In the area of math, we monitor student progress three times a year using the iReady Diagnostic and NWEA MAP Growth assessment.

In addition teachers use daily, weekly and unit assessments. Clear communication about children's math progress can only help teachers and parents work together. Teachers share feedback with students regularly with students and with parents formally at fall conferences, on report cards and during an annual Math Celebration.

In December each grade level will host a Math Celebration for all families, inviting you to join the classroom, experience math instruction and learn more about your child's current progress. This is an informal, classroom based event. Just check in at the office and then head to the celebration location. Mark your calendars now for your child's Literacy Celebration:

Kindergarten: 12/18, 2:15-3:15 in the gym

1st Grade: 12/16, 9:15 - 9:45 in the gym & media lab

2nd Grade: 12/11, 9:00 - 9:30 AM in the classroom

3rd Grade: 12/13, 2:45 - 3:15 PM in the classroom

4th Grade: 12/19, 2:30 - 3:15 PM in the classroom

5th Grade: 12/18, 2:45 - 3:30 PM in the classroom

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## Time to Register for the 2020-2021 School Year

Current GRCDC students must submit a registration form annually in order to guarantee a spot on the class roster for the next school year. These forms are being sent home today in Friday folders and are due on or before January 31, 2020. If you did not receive a registration form in your child's Friday folder, please contact the office.

If you have a child who will be a **new student** at GRCDC next year, you must fill out the enrollment form **on our website** and submit the required documents by January 31, 2020.

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## Lunch Volunteer Update

Lunch Volunteer Schedule for 12/9-12/13

Mo. 12/9 - **Help Wanted!**

Tu. 12/10 - Patricia Cook

We. 12/11 - Jeff Newcomer, Rennae Jacobitz

Th. 12/12 - Jeff Newcomer, Margie Cangelosi, Rebecca Rodriguez

Fr. 12/13 - **Help Wanted!**

**Thank you volunteers!**

Are you available to serve lunch from 11:40 - 12:50? It can be once a week

(or more) or just once in a while. If yes **please click here** to let us know you are available.

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## Central Office Updates

- **School Closing Notifications:** In the event of a school closing due to inclement weather or other extreme conditions, please make sure you are signed up for at least one of these notification methods:
  - **Join the school's texting platform, Remind.**
  - **Join the school's email list.**
  - **Join the Narwhal's Facebook Group.**
  - **Sign up for WOODTV8 text alerts.**
  - **Sign up for WZZM 13 text alerts.**
- **Attendance Goal: 10 or less absences for all students for the entire school year.** We ask that families please strive to avoid absences, other than illness, during the school year.
- **School Milk** - Milk is given at no extra charge for students who take the school meal that day. For students who want a milk with their lunch from home, the cost of milk is \$0.50. The students can bring \$0.50 with them each day or you can pay a larger amount to be put on their account.
- **Tardy vs Absent Clarification** - Have you ever wondered if your child considered absent or tardy when arriving late or leaving early from school? Here are the details:
  - Arriving between 8:45 - 9:15 = Tardy
  - Arriving between 9:16 - 12:00 = 1/2 day absence
  - Leaving school between 12:01 - 3:05 = 1/2 day absence
  - Leaving school between 3:05 - 3:40 = Tardy
- **Reporting Absence** - If your child will be absent from school, please be sure to call or email the office within 24 hours. 616-459-0330 or **[office@childdiscoverycenter.org](mailto:office@childdiscoverycenter.org)**
  - **NOTE:** The office should always be your first contact for absence reporting. You may also let the teacher know via email if you desire.
- **Early Pick Up** - Please avoid picking up students at the end of the day between 3:20 - 3:40 PM. It is disruptive to the teacher and the students during the afternoon circle routine. If you must pick up early please try to pick up between 3:05 - 3:20 PM. We hope that this is a rare occurrence as this afternoon routine is important to building the classroom culture.

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## Family Team Update

**Harmony Hall Fundraiser:** We are partnering with Harmony Hall again this year. This Sunday, December 8th, a portion of the proceeds will be donated

back to the GRCDC Family Team. Harmony Hall is located on 401 Stocking Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Hope to see you there!

**Family Team Meeting:** Thanks again to everyone who helped out with the wreath sale! Also, we're having our monthly Family Team Meeting next Thursday, Dec 12th, after drop-off. We'll have the usual snacks and beverage!

**Winter Weather Clothing Drive:** We're teaming up with GRCDC teachers to make sure every student has what they need to stay warm on the playground this winter. Currently, we're looking for new and gently-used items to loan/give students. Please click this link if you'd like to sign up to give something: <https://signup.com/go/aYrFCRz>

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## Social Emotional Learning

Just a reminder that this past week, we discussed the fascinating topic of our brain. Specifically, we talked about our "Lizard Brain," and our "Wizard Brain." Talk about this with your kids and see what they remember. Ask where these two parts of our brain are located, how big (or small) they are, what they do, what they can't do, what causes each to be activated, how we move from one to the other, etc.

This week, we will talk about "Emotional Literacy." This is the idea that once we can name something (an emotion, for instance), we gain a degree of power over it. This can be an empowering lesson. We hope that your child(ren) will begin to see that they have power and control over their emotions, as opposed to the opposite being true and believed.

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## Extracurricular Club Update

Girls On The Run Registration is open until Dec. 13. Be sure to register your child by this deadline so she is entered in the lottery for our 2 GRCDC teams.

This program is for girls in grades 3-5 and inspires them to recognize their inner strength and celebrate what makes them one of a kind.

To let our school GOTR liaison, Aimee Ritsema, know you are interested please add your daughter's info to [our GOTR extra-curricular list here](#). She will then send you the link to register your daughter on the GOTR website.

We are also in need of \*COACHES\* for the Girls On The Run Program. Coaches do not need to be runners, or have any athletic training. The program is not teaching girls how to run, but rather using physical activity as a vehicle to deliver the lessons and concepts.

Men and women alike are encouraged to coach and help our girls learn and grow together as a team! Grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, etc. are invited to volunteer as coaches or coach assistants. If interested please email **Aimee Ritsema**.

## Community Resources & Opportunities



### PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

There are currently two openings in the Immaginare preschool class. This preschool class is offered on-site at GRCDC. The program runs Monday-Thursday from 8:00am-3:00pm. It is tuition based on a sliding scale. Aftercare is offered from 3:00pm-4:30pm for parents who are unable to pick up right at 3:00. For more information or to enroll, please contact **Briah Hight**.

### Sign Ups for Holiday Meal and Toy Programs

began Oct. 1st. Most programs hold registration for gifts or meals online or through local food pantries. You can call 211 if you are unsure of which pantry to go to or to ask for more information on holiday programs. \*Santa Claus Girls has both online and their own registration line - 616.957.7335



Get your Narwhal Gear anytime by visiting:  
<https://www.bcfred.co/collections/grcdc/>

*During the school year, the gear will be delivered to school at no extra charge.  
A \$5 shipping fee will be charged for summer orders*

### **Children's Crisis Response**

This is a service that provides free crisis intervention service for those through age 20 who live in Kent County. The counselors can help in person or over the phone who can help to resolve behavioral or emotional crises wherever help is needed including;

- Suicide and self harm concerns
- Angry or out of control behavior
- Family conflict

Please call 616.333.1000 to get help now.

### **Arrival and Dismissal Reminders:**

- Approach drop off and pick up by using right turns, on Lafayette heading south (away from Wealthy), turn right onto Logan, and then turn right onto Cass.
- Try to always pull up as far as you can, which enables all of the cars in line behind you to pull up as well.
- Please keep in mind that our parking lot is very small. It should be used for arrival, dismissal and other school business only so that everyone who needs to use the lot are able to find a spot.
- Please do not enter the family parking lot through the exit (on Cass Ave).
- Please do not cut in line at dismissal.
- Please park in the lines in the lot so that we have as many spaces as possible.
- Please do not park in the middle the street and leave your car at any time.

*Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center*  
616.450.0330  
grcdc.org