



The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

1.31.2020

Keep Up With Us



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

Upcoming Events

- 1/31** - Registration for 2020-2021 School Year Due
- 2/6** - Community Meeting feat. Ms. Amash's class, 8:50 - 9:10 AM
- 2/7** - Lottery for new student enrollment, 4:30 - 5:00 PM
- 2/9** - GRCDC Skating Party, 2:00 - 5:00 PM @ Tarry Hall
- 2/10** - Board Meeting, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- 2/13** - Family Team Meeting, 8:45 - 9:45 AM
- 2/14** - Half Day of School, 12:45 Dismissal
- 2/17 & 2/18** - No School for students & staff

Important Links

- [February Menu](#)
- [School Calendar](#)
- [Staff Email Contact List](#)
- [General Information](#)
- [Family & Student Guidebook](#)
- [Extracurricular Program Registration Link](#)

Extracurricular Schedule

- Lego League - 2/4, 4:00 - 5:00
- Minecraft Club - 2/4, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- Art Club Session: 2/5 - 4:00 - 5:15

Correction: The next Family Team Meeting is on 2/13 and is from 8:45 - 9:45 AM (not PM).

Dear Families,

For the last 2 and a half years, the staff at GRCDC have worked hard to build a strong foundation of consistent academic and culture/behavior systems, processes and programming. This foundation represents "Tier 1" of our school. As a school, we think about 3 Tiers in all we do. Tier 1 is what everyone experiences across all grade levels and defines the life of the school. Tier 2 is for students (10-15%) who might need something a little extra, either in academics or class culture/behavior and typically these extra supports are designed and delivered by the classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. Tier 3 support, both academic and behavioral, is for a small percentage of students (3-5%) and is designed and delivered by specialists in partnership with teachers- academic interventionists, Mr. Trevor, Ms. Heyne, Ms. Cooper and sometimes our special education teachers and staff.

For our Tier 1 Positive Culture and Behavior focus, in the past two years we have:

- Articulated our school's **Vision, Core Values and Mindset for School Culture** and based in our Reggio-inspired philosophy
- Studied (ongoing) **the Conscious Discipline approach** with a 10 module online course for all teachers and admin
- Implemented **Responsive Classroom** techniques schoolwide, especially morning meeting and closing circle
- Provided instruction and practice in all classrooms around Social and Emotional Learning, using the **Empowering Education** curriculum
- Developed a **Family Guidebook** to help us all work together
- Started working with **MiBLSI** to identify and eradicate racial disproportionality in our behavior response system

We are so proud of the work that has been done so far and can see our students growing and learning everyday about what it means to be a contributing member of our school community. In conversations with staff and parents, we have realized we have come to the point where we are ready to take our work to the next level! It is time to continue to strengthen our Tier 1 practices, while also building out consistent Tier 2 and Tier 3 processes for culture and behavior across the school and in each classroom. This level of refinement will help us all be on the same page when students are facing either a one-off conflict or an ongoing issue.

In order to guide the next phase of this work, we have formed a Positive Culture and Behavior Team. This team is lead by Ms. Heyne and will be working on 3 main issues which the team identified as the most important right now:

SEL/Responsive Classroom and Bullying Prevention Extension and Resource Group - Ms. Hegarty, Ms. Elly, Mrs. Abby and Mr. K

Parent Connection, Communication, Outreach, Learning, Support Group - Mrs. Ruth, Mrs. Aimee, Mr. Metcalf

Tier 2 and Tier 3 Programming, Systems, Communications and Accountability - Ms. Amash, Mr. Trevor, Mrs. Lantinga

I wanted to share this because our staff does SO MUCH behind the scenes work to continue our growth and school improvement. This work is outside of school hours and teachers and staff generously volunteer their time and talents to ensure that our school is a place where every single child grows at least a year in a year's time academically and feels safe and valued every day. As a parent, I know that the "behind the scenes" work of the school is not always transparent and I want to make sure I use our Narwhal page and the Link to keep you updated on our continued progress. We will be asking for parent input in our work with the groups above, so be on the lookout for a survey and other ways to engage. Without your participation, support, and ideas no system we build can be complete! We each have something to contribute to the process as this school community pushes to reach our full potential. As always, if you have questions or ideas, email me at heyne@childdiscoverycenter.org or call 616-459-0330 to set up a time to meet.

Sincerely yours, Lisa Heyne

Lunch Volunteer Update

Lunch Volunteer Schedule for 2/3-2/7

Mo. 2/3 - Jake Brenner

Tu. 2/4 - Jeff Newcomer

We. 2/5- Rennae Jacobitz

Th. 2/6- Jeff Newcomer

Fr. 2/7 - **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.

Central Office Updates

- **School Closing/Delay Notifications:** In the event of a school closing or delay 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.
- **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**
 - **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.

Office Clothing Restock Alert!

We are running low on pants to give to students who have had accidents or who have gotten wet/muddy on the playground. Please consider donating gently used athletic pants and/or leggings size 6 and up.

Family Team Update

Thanks again to everyone who donated gloves for our Mitten Drive!

The Roller Skating Party is at Tarry Hall on Sunday, February 9th @ 2 pm - 5 pm. Students' admission and rentals will be covered by the Family Team. Friends and Family pay \$5 for admission and the Family Team will pay for their rentals. There's no cost for anyone to just go and sit. We look forward to seeing you there!

Social Emotional Learning

This week we will continue our lessons focused on Growth Mindsets. The classes are watching five short videos (over the course of last week and this week), with discussions in between. The videos are packed with fascinating and potentially life-changing information, as well as powerful lessons centered on how we approach and think about difficult things, mistakes, and learning. Here are some questions that you can ask your child(ren) that come directly from the videos:

- Are people born smart or not smart?
- How is the brain like a muscle?
- Instead of saying and thinking, "I can't do this," what three letter word, beginning with "y" can we add?

Extra Curricular Update

Are you interested in being involved with our Girls On The Run teams but can't commit to being a coach? You may be the perfect person to be a substitute coach or Running Buddy.

We are looking for subs to be available to coach when one of coaches can't make it and Running Buddies who will run alongside our girls and encourage them whenever you are available.

The days of our sessions are Tues. Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 3:45pm-5:15pm, Feb. 25-May 9th

To find out more contact Aimee Ritsema (GRCDC 4th & 5th grade paraprofessional) at ritsemaa@childdiscoverycenter.org

Community Resources & Opportunities



Bring your family and join GR Story Spinners at Blandford Nature Center for a fun hour of storytelling. Turn off your devices for an hour and reconnect with the power of story and imagination. These amazing fables and tales, told by expert storytellers, will hold the attention of the whole family!

Hot chocolate and cookies will also be served.

Story Spinners of Grand Rapids

Saturday, February 1, 10:30 - 11:30 am @ Blandford Nature Center

Starring: Gloria Cangelosi, John S Crowley (GRCDC parent!) and Patrick Foley

\$5 per person or \$10 per family

Attendance Check-In (in case you missed this last week)

We know that all GRCDC parents value education, after all, you did the work to choose this school. We also know that sometimes we humans need a nudge from time to time. Consider this your nudge to assess your family's attendance habits. As you review your child's report card, please take a look at the top where your child's attendance and tardy count is totaled and then look to these attendance standards:

- **1 - 5 absences or tardies:** Your child is on track for academic success.
- **5 - 9 absences or tardies:** Your child's attendance is ok, generally, academics are not suffering at this point.
- **10+ absences or tardies:** Your child is at risk of struggling academically.

As always, we ask that all families please strive to avoid absences, other than illness, during the school year. For students who have already missed 10 or more days, it is important that families look carefully at their schedules and plan any vacations or out of town trips for non-school days. We have several extended weekends coming up in February, March and May as well as Spring Break that can be used for vacations and trips. There is no amount of make-up work that can take the place of the carefully planned teaching points and concepts that are missed due to absence. Thank you for taking the time to assess your family's attendance habits. If the school can be of support to your family, please contact us.

Do you sometimes wonder how sick is too sick for school? The image below provides a general guideline.

WHEN IS SICK TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?



Send me to school if...

I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.

I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.

I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.



Keep me at home if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.

I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.

My eyes are pink and crusty.



Call the doctor if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.

I've been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.

I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and they aren't getting better.

I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (and call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).



Adapted with permission from Baltimore City Public Schools.

Need Some Narwhal Gear?



Get your Narwhal Gear anytime by visiting:
<https://www.byfred.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