



The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

3.6.2020

Keep Up With Us



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

Upcoming Events

- 3/9** - Board Meeting, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- 3/12** - Family Team Meeting, 8:45 AM
- 3/13** - RSVP for Portfolio time is due from families
- 3/14** - Family Dance, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
- 3/19** - Community Meeting feat. Ms. Kay, 8:50-9:10
- 3/27** - No School for Students, Portfolio Prep & Records Day
- 4/2** - Portfolio Day - Alternative Schedule - **See letter sent home today for more details**
- 4/3 - 4/10** - Spring Break, No School for students and staff

Important Links

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

Extracurricular Schedule

Girls on the Run, 3:45 - 5:15
 Tu/Th team 3/10 & 3/12
 We/Fr team 3/11 & 3/13

Minecraft: No club on 3/10, club will resume on 3/17 - look for an email with more

information soon.

Dear Families,

Spring is upon us and with the increased sunlight, muddy puddles, and plants awakening, I find myself reflecting on the first half of our school year and what is to come. Since October 2017, when I began my work here at GRCDC, we have been hard at work building systems and processes around both consistent and responsive academic programming and school culture and behavior support. So much of "what is next" for us includes continuing to grow and challenge ourselves to improve what we have already put in place.

At GRCDC, when we look at both academics and culture/behavior, we think of things in three "tiers". Tier 1 is for everybody regardless of teacher, grade level, age, etc. Tier 1 is really the foundation and systems that define a place. 100% of students in a school participate in Tier 1 academic and culture/behavior strategies and experiences. Tier 2 is when something a little "extra" is needed. Tier 2 can be for a class, a group, or an individual and strategies within Tier 2 are targeted and time-limited. About 10-15% of students require Tier 2 strategies and supports at any given time. Tier 3 is when a student may need an intensive and very personalized approach. No more than 5% of students should require Tier 3 strategies or supports at one time (if there are more than that, it is because something in Tier 1 and Tier 2 aren't working).

So, what does GRCDC do for Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 when it comes to school culture and behavior? We have a variety of foundational elements, strategies and supports we use. Additionally, our Positive Culture and Behavior Team are solidifying and building additional supports and routines as well.

All of the approaches we use throughout the Tiers to develop and support school culture and social development must be aligned with our Reggio-inspired philosophy which calls us to view the Image of the Child as Strong, Full of Potential, and Powerful. We also center on our Education Based on Relationships approach.

Tier 1: GRCDC's Vision for an Intense Student Support Network, our Core Values, School Wide Rules/the 3 B's, Universal Quiet Signal, Responsive Classroom's morning meeting, closing circle, interactive modeling and positive adult language, Conscious Discipline and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons

Tier 2: Classroom calm down spot, Responsive Classroom Buddy Teacher Take a Break, Problem Solving Peer Meeting, Parent Conference,

Informal/Classroom based Behavior Plan

Tier 3: Parent problem solving meeting, Student Support Team Meeting, Private Time Out in a Non-classroom space, Different Grade Band Buddy Teacher, Administrative Safety Plan, Functional Behavior Analysis with a formal Behavior Intervention Plan

Understanding some of these strategies and supports can be difficult, until your child needs them. It is important to know what our school has in place that might be working "behind the scenes". That way, as we all move forward together, we can see what still needs work, what is missing, and what is serving the needs of our students and staff.

I welcome your thoughts, questions and feedback on this. As always, you can use **the family survey, found here**. You can email me at **heyne@childdiscoverycenter.org** or call 459-0330 to set up a time to meet or talk.

Thank you, Lisa Heyne

Connect With Us!

Do you have feedback to share, an idea to float, a question, comment or concern? If you aren't sure who to connect with, **please fill out the survey here!** The Leadership Team monitors this survey regularly. Thank you!

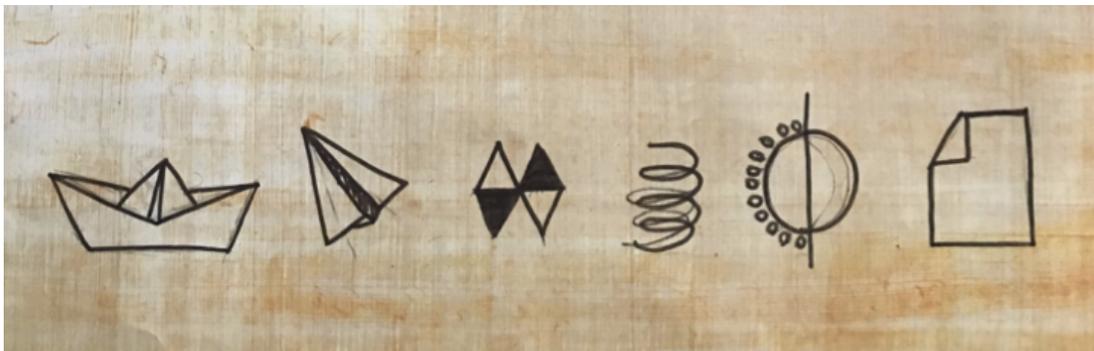
Portfolio Day is April 2nd!

Each GRCDC child has a portfolio, or a collection of artifacts (drawings, paintings, writing, photographs, work samples, etc.) that speaks to academic learning, developmental milestones, social-emotional growth, learning strategies and identity. It is updated and added to each year. The portfolio travels with the child during their GRCDC career. Upon 5th grade graduation, the child leaves the school with a large collection of student work.

The Portfolio captures who children are and how they learn, demonstrates thinking and problem solving, offers a way to assess learning in math, reading, writing, science and social studies. The portfolio work is labeled with dates and explanations and gives children, teachers and parents an opportunity to wonder and reflect on quality work.

Families join together in small groups each spring to reflect on student learning in our annual Portfolio Day celebration. **Please save the date — Thursday, April 2. Children will attend school with a parent for just one hour.** This alternative schedule allows for a rich experience between children, parents and teachers. **Please check your child's Friday Folder today for your scheduled time and RSVP by March 13th.**

Sample Portfolio Piece: Fifth grade students translated personal narrative writing pieces into symbolic sentences. Emerson thoughtfully designed symbols of origami folds to share her message, "Watch as your life unfolds."



Lunch Volunteer Update

Lunch Volunteer Schedule for 3/9-3/13

Mo. 3/9 - Jake Brenner

Tu. 3/10 - Jeff Newcomer

We. 3/11- **Help Wanted!**

Th. 3/12- Jeff Newcomer, Patty DeCenzo

Fr. 3/13 - **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.

Central Office Updates

- **Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is monitoring Coronavirus concerns:** KCHD has a great number of resources available at their **website**. Most of the precautionary measures for Coronavirus are very similar to those taken to combat the spread of the flu, the common cold, etc. GRCDC is coordinating directly with the Kent County Health Department to provide information as it becomes available.
- **2020-2021 Calendar:** The calendar for next year has not been finalized yet, however, we have set the date for the first day of school. The first day will be **Monday, August 17th**. The Orientation will be on **August 13th from 2:00 - 6:00 PM**. Orientation is required for all students, returning and new.

- **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.

Family Team Update

- Yearbook shout-outs due are March 9! A shout-out is your opportunity to send a special message to your student or a staff member in the yearbook. You can purchase a yearbook shout-out for \$10. Please see the flyer that came home in your child's folder today for more info.
- Family Team Meeting: Thursday, March 12th after drop off
- Volunteer signup for the dance: <https://signup.com/go/YtSRmRi>
- ***We still are in need of business sponsors for the yearbook to keep it free. If you have a business that might want to contribute, email us at: grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com ***

Social Emotional Learning

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison." Nelson Mandela (who spent twenty-seven years in prison for standing up against hate/racism, and standing up for peace and unity)

These two quotes are front and center this coming week as we talk about kindness and compassion, and the power that these two words have in and around us. Here are three key truths that we will revisit and dive into:

- We can physically change the structure of our brain by thinking new thoughts.
- "Sending" kind thoughts to others increases your overall happiness and can help you better deal with difficult emotions.
- Compassionate and kind thoughts activate the wizard brain (higher order brain function) and de-activate the lizard brain.

Community Connections

Do you need child care during Spring Break or the summer? You can sign up by following these links:

Spring Break Care: <https://forms.gle/yyetuiDdQsUnuSZ89>

Summer Care: <https://forms.gle/xKDvrMtVpYuXqW837>

Click here for an informational flyer about Summer Care.

For more information please contact **September Cook**, Discovery Care Director

Extra Curricular Update

NO MINECRAFT CLUB ON 3/10. Club will resume on 3/17. Sorry for the inconvenience! Please look for an email with more information soon.

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