



The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

5.8.2020

Keep Up With Us



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

Upcoming Events

5/9 - Classroom Zoom Meeting:

- Ms. Parker Group 1, 10:00 AM
- Ms. Parker Group 2, 10:45 AM

5/11 - New content posted for Week 2 of Distance Learning, 7:00 AM

5/11 - Check for an email from your teacher with the Zoom meeting links for this week's online meetings.

5/11 - Classroom Zoom Meetings:

- Ms. Swartz, 11:00 AM
- Ms. Amash, 10:00 AM
- Mrs. Jana, 12:00 PM

5/11 - Board Meeting - Virtual, 6:00 PM

- [Click here for the official posting](#) and info on how to join the meeting.

5/12 - Para Office Hours today - see below for times

Important Links

- [School Calendar](#)
- [Staff Email Contact List](#)
- [General Information](#)
- [Family & Student Guidebook](#)

5/12- Classroom Zoom Meetings:

- Ms. Harmony, 9:00 AM
- Mrs. Ruth, 1:00 PM

5/13 - Classroom Zoom Meetings:

- Mrs. Memmott, 9:00 AM
- Mr. K, 9:00 AM

5/14 - Classroom Zoom Meetings:

- Ms. Hegarty, 2:00 PM
- Mrs. Trout, 1:00 PM
- Ms. Elly, 11:30 AM
- Ms. Lindsay, 12:00 PM

5/15 - Teacher Office Hours today - see below for times

Connect With Us!

Now that we are not able to see each other in person, we want to make sure you have ways of communicating with us, ways to connect with the GRCDC community, give feedback about distance learning and get or give help to/from our community. Here are a few surveys that will help us be able to connect with you:

- **Social Emotional Support Direct Request** - Please fill out if your child could use a one time or more regular check in with social/emotional support from school staff. This is not from a professional counselor or therapist, but rather a member of staff checking in and supporting as requested or necessary.
- **Mutual Aid Request/Offer Survey** - Take this survey if you are seeking assistance or connection or if you want to offer assistance or connection.
- **Distance Learning feedback** - We want to know how the first week of distance learning went for your family. Too much content, not enough content, technical issues? Let us know.
- If you have feedback or concerns that are not covered by the surveys above, you can fill out the **Family Communication Survey**.

Connect With Your Teacher & Para

Don't forget that you can join your child's teacher and paraprofessional via Zoom each week. Paras will be hosting office hours every Tuesday. The first

15 minutes of the para office hours are dedicated to questions about math content and the second 15 minutes is dedicated to questions about literacy content. Teachers will be hosting office hours every Friday. Each week, a link to the Office Hours Zoom Meeting will be emailed to you on Monday. The days and times of the office hours for each grade level are listed below:

Para Office Hours:

Every Tuesday @
 Kindergarten: 9:00 AM
 1st Grade: 9:30 AM
 2nd Grade: 10:00 AM
 3rd Grade: 10:30 AM
 4th Grade: 11:00 AM
 5th Grade: 11:30 AM

Teacher Office Hours:

Every Friday @
 Kindergarten: 12:30 PM
 1st Grade: 12:00 PM
 2nd Grade: 11:30 AM
 3rd Grade: 11:00 AM
 4th Grade: 10:30 AM
 5th Grade: 10:00 AM

Community Meeting

Check out the [Community Meeting with featuring Mr. K's class that we posted this week!](#)

Central Office Updates

- **5th Grade Celebration:** We are planning to have a celebration for the 5th grade students. We will not let this school year pass without honoring their accomplishment and acknowledging this significant passage from elementary school to middle school. **5th grade families, Ms. Heyne will be sending you an email soon with more details!**
- **Access to items @ GRCDC:** We know many of your students have things at the building that you want to pick up, personal items, 5th grade portfolios, studio work, etc. We are planning to set aside time for this, hopefully in June. This can only happen once the Stay at Home order is lifted as teachers will need time to organize these items before families come to the building. Stay tuned for details.
- **Chromebook Return:** If you are borrowing a Chromebook from the school for distance learning it will need to be turned back in after school ends on June 5th. We will most likely combine the Chromebook return with the days we have the building open for families to pick up items as mentioned in the bullet above. So again, stay tuned for further details.
- **2020-2021 Calendar:** The tentative first day will be **Monday, August 17th** with Orientation taking place on **August 13th from 2:00 - 6:00 PM**. Orientation is required for all students, returning and new. As the situation around COVID-19 is still uncertain, these dates are subject to change.
- **Summer Curriculum Option:** GRPS is offering a 9 week program in reading and math for grades K-8. The program helps students retain skills

learned during the past school year and helps to prevent summer learning loss. The cost is \$38 for one subject or \$68 for both math and reading, per child. If you would like to purchase this program, please register at <http://grasp.grps.org/>. This program would begin on June 8th.

Social Emotional Learning

We've talked a lot in the past about Coping Skills. These are things that we do to deal with big emotions. In this week's lesson, we will spend some time exploring how art can be used as a mindfulness tool. Kids often talk about "hacks," and this is a hack for present moment awareness. Mindful Art can also be used for self-regulation during times of escalation. We are hopeful that Mindful Art will become another great tool in your Coping Skills toolbox.

Distance Learning Information

- Every Monday at 7am, new mini lesson videos and assignments from your child's teacher will be available on our website www.grcdc.org. Click on the Parents tab > Classroom Pages > then click on your teacher's name.
- If your child didn't finish content from the prior week, that is ok! You can still access it from a link in the teacher's message at the top of the page, if needed.
- If your student is struggling with the content or having technical issues, please reach out to your child's teacher.
- If you click on a link and get a page that says "Refused to connect", there is a workaround for this issue. Please follow these steps:
 - Place the cursor over the link.
 - Right click on the mouse or double tap on a touchpad (depending on the kind of tech that you have)
 - Select the option to open the link in a new window or tab.
 - Go to the new window or tab to watch the video.

Community Resources

Pandemic EBT Card Information

The Michigan Department of Education has [put out this memo](#) that answers questions about the Pandemic EBT cards. The memo also provides a number to call in case you have questions.

Resource List

[WMCAT has created a robust list of resources](#) available in West Michigan and beyond. Categories on this list include:

- Food/Meal Info
- Shelter/Housing Resources
- Utilities + Internet Resources
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Recursos en Español
- Links to fun and free activities

Stronger Than COVID: Ideas for Families

THE HUMAN SPIRIT IS NOT EXTINGUISHABLE

The following list is a collection of ideas and insights by Angela Blanchard. **Angela Blanchard** is a globally recognized expert practitioner in community development. From long-term disaster recovery, to effective integration of immigrants and refugees, Blanchard's breakthrough strategies have successfully revitalized neighborhoods, while providing a powerful road map for cities across the globe. We hope these words can provide you some hope, reality, comfort and direction as we move through these times together.

1. No one is coming. We must move at the speed of need. Don't wait. Work.
2. You may not be at fault, but you're responsible. This disaster chose us. We must own it.
3. You can't build on broken. Pay attention to the strength, skills, and aspirations of those around you. Build on those.
4. Do what you can with what you have, where you are. Right now.
5. There is nothing more powerful than a family, company, community in touch with its own aspirations and principles. Revisit the principles that will guide your decision making as you move through this unprecedented period.
6. Allow everything that is not destructive. Especially art, music, and dance. Even in disaster, people need joy.
7. Isolation is a breeding ground for rage and despair. We may be physically distant, but we must remain spiritually, emotionally, socially connected. Connect today.
8. At every milestone, there will be gratitude and grief in equal measure. Even as we recover, we will also see what has been lost. Allow gratitude and grief to reside in your heart together.
9. Practice loving detachment. Others may not behave as would want. We learn not to react to panic and fear, even as we manage our own.
10. There is enough to go around. Act as if it's true.
11. When you come to the fork in the road, between resignation and acceptance, take the path of acceptance. No whining.

12. People can survive individually, but they thrive collectively. Place your faith beyond survival.
13. Leaders practice "When I know, you know it." People can handle the truth. We unravel when we are forced to play detective in a disaster. If you want people to follow you, you don't have to be certain, but you must be transparent.

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.

Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center
616.450.0330
grcdc.org