



The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

6.5.2020

Keep Up With Us

- [!\[\]\(f2fdbbba686c1099e6b2b8779766e2d3_img.jpg\) Remind](#)
- [!\[\]\(b3cfbfd04368a71f4c64e073908d25d7_img.jpg\) Facebook](#)
- [!\[\]\(4f8bc95274d4d489592709b569351eb7_img.jpg\) Email](#)
- [!\[\]\(68986557a06757f8727dab2acf01c000_img.jpg\) Website](#)

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

Upcoming Events

- 6/8:** Virtual Board Meeting, 5:30 - 6:00
Budget Hearing, 6:00 - 7:30 PM Regular Board Meeting
- **Please see this posting** for instructions on how to join the virtual meeting.
- 6/9:** Chromebook Return - look at email from Mrs. Rachel for your assigned time
- 6/29 & 6/30:** Student item and portfolio pick up - details coming soon

Important Links

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

WE DID IT!

Dear Families,
 Congratulations to you and your children for making it to the end of a

challenging school year! The last few months have tested everything we know to be true about ourselves, our families, our city, and our school. I cannot express enough how PROUD I am of our school community. We have accomplished so much under unpredictable circumstances. Your children (and you!) deserve to celebrate- make sure you take that last day of school picture, serve that special treat, say "have good summer" to your teacher, and mark this day as the rite of passage to the next grade that it is!

The teachers, staff, and families of our community have show up for one another in many ways:

- Consistent offers of help and connection on the "mutual aid" survey for families to help one another
- Dozens of weekly office hours, small group, one on ones, home visits and phone calls between paras, teachers, and students
- Weekly Distance Learning lessons that focused on the most important standards and allowed students to continue to learn from carefully designed lessons from their classroom teachers
- Loaned over 60 chromebooks to families with dozens of hours of personalized tech support to ensure that tech wasn't a barrier for our families
- Careful teaming between grade level teachers, who taught their own lessons but used the same assignments creating cohesion that we did not previously have
- The addition of iReady Reading to our students' learning resources
- Weekly ZOOM calls so classes can connect socially and emotionally
- Weekly social emotional learning lessons, studio, and movement to continue to grow children as WHOLE humans
- A focus on humanity, growth, service, and love- not test scores and compliance

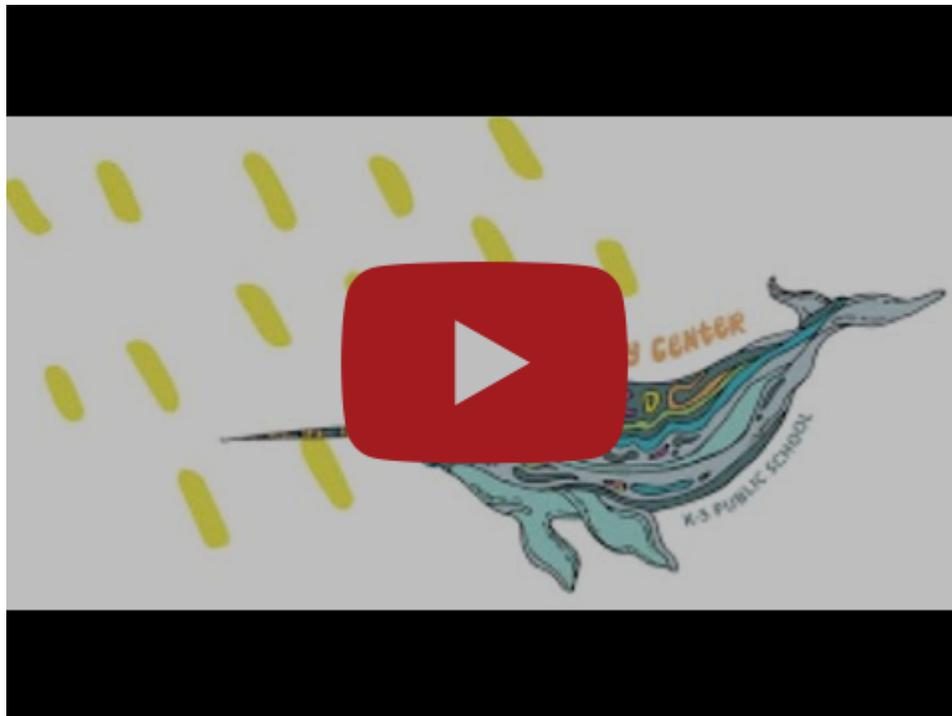
We do not know what the beginning of next school year will look like yet, so please look out for communication throughout the summer. What we CAN guarantee is that whatever comes our way, we will face it with the same sense of community. Thank you for a great, if strange, school year, families. Enjoy your summer- I wish you all health, safety, and FUN for the summer break. See you soon.

Respectfully yours,
Lisa Heyne

GRCDC's Responsibility in Fighting for Justice

As a school leader, and (just as importantly) as a mama, it is hard to put into

words the feelings and experiences of the last two weeks in our country and our city. Our shared values at the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center are inspiration, potential, connection, and equity. All of these values are challenged in the face of police brutality, racial violence, and senseless loss of life. We, as a community, cannot be silent in such times. **Please read the rest of this letter on our blog...**



Check out our last Community Meeting of the year, a video highlighting GRCDC's graduation 5th grade class!

Central Office Updates

- **Access to items @ GRCDC:** We are planning to host student belonging pick up on June 29 & 30. The teachers will be working to organize these belongings in the next few weeks. If your student has items at the school, we will reach out to you with the date and time you are able to come to the building. We will be organizing the 5th grade portfolios to distribute at this time as well. Social distancing will be observed.
- **Chromebook Return:** If you are borrowing a Chromebook from the school for distance learning it will need to be turned back in on June 9th. Emails went out on May 29th with your assigned time slot to come to the school to return the Chromebook. If you have a Chromebook and did not receive an email, please contact **Mrs. Rachel.**

- **Social Media Clean Up:** Over the next couple of weeks, Remind and classroom social media pages will be updated. Current groups on Remind will be archived and families will receive invitations to join again. Please be on the lookout for these invites so you can make sure you are getting the latest news, especially as things change due to COVID-19.
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Connect With Us!

These surveys will continue to be monitored through the summer. Please reach out so we can support 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**.
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New Trees in Greenspace

A big thank you to all the families who volunteered to help water the trees this summer! Every spot is filled. As a reminder to those families: There are approximately 7 new trees in the greenspace. We will have a hose attached to the building and two 5 gallon buckets stored in the dumpster area for you to use. Each tree needs one 5 gallon bucket of water per week. If you have any questions, please contact **Mrs. Rachel**.

Family Team News

Parents, Teachers and Staff-

The yearbook is coming together!! The printing company closed for a while but it's back online now. Yearbooks will be handed out in the fall (or mailed to graduating 5th graders).

NEW REQUEST: Email your best large format image of quarantine home school to **grcdcfamilyteam@gmail.com**. With the addition of these pictures, the yearbook will more accurately represent the bizarre school year we've had. Thank you!

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.

NEW: FAP recipients are now able to purchase food items online using their EBT card, including the Pandemic EBT card

Important facts to know:

- Michigan is only approved for two online retailers at this time: Amazon and Walmart.
- The Amazon site is available now and is offering free delivery for orders over \$35.
- Walmart will be offering online purchasing statewide effective Friday 5/29/20.
- Clients can opt for store pickup at Walmart to avoid a delivery fee.
- SNAP benefits cannot be used for delivery fees.
- More stores will be added, but this will take some time.
- If clients have questions or concerns, they should reach out to the Customer Service phone number on the back of their EBT card (**888-678-8914**).

Free Produce Distribution at GRCDC

DETAILS: Cornerstone Church has partnered with the USDA to receive food from farmers who would otherwise have crops rot due to the Covid-19 crisis. Instead, food is being made available to get it to people who can use it for free! The distribution includes boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables for anyone in our community who needs or wants it! They are generous portions of fresh strawberries, apples, onions, celery, potatoes, cucumbers, carrots, as examples.

WHEN: Thursdays, beginning on June 4th and throughout June on June 11, 18 and 25.

WHERE: Distribution will be done in the school parking lot beginning at the entrance off of Lafayette.

Time: We will begin distribution at @ 6pm until 7 or until the boxes received are gone.

HOW: There are two options. Cars will line up and drive through the parking lot to receive a box of fresh produce. We also encourage those who live near the location to come for walk-up service using a cart or wagon. We will use CDC guidelines to protect ourselves and visitors. This includes wearing masks and gloves when handling items and loading them into vehicles or carts. We

ask that visitors open their trunk/hatch for speed and safety as we load boxes.

WHO: The boxes are intended to bless anyone in the community who can use them. (No names, addresses, or pre-registration will be necessary to receive food). We anticipate receiving approximately 200+ boxes.

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

Online Summer Minecraft Camp

Does your student love Minecraft or have always wanted to play? Check out this summer camp:

<https://michiganvirtual.org/students/summer/minecraft/>

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.

6/5/2020

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Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center
616.459.0330
grcdc.org