



The Link Letter

School newsletter for the GRCDC community

Summer Edition 7.10.2020

Keep Up With Us



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Website

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

Upcoming Events

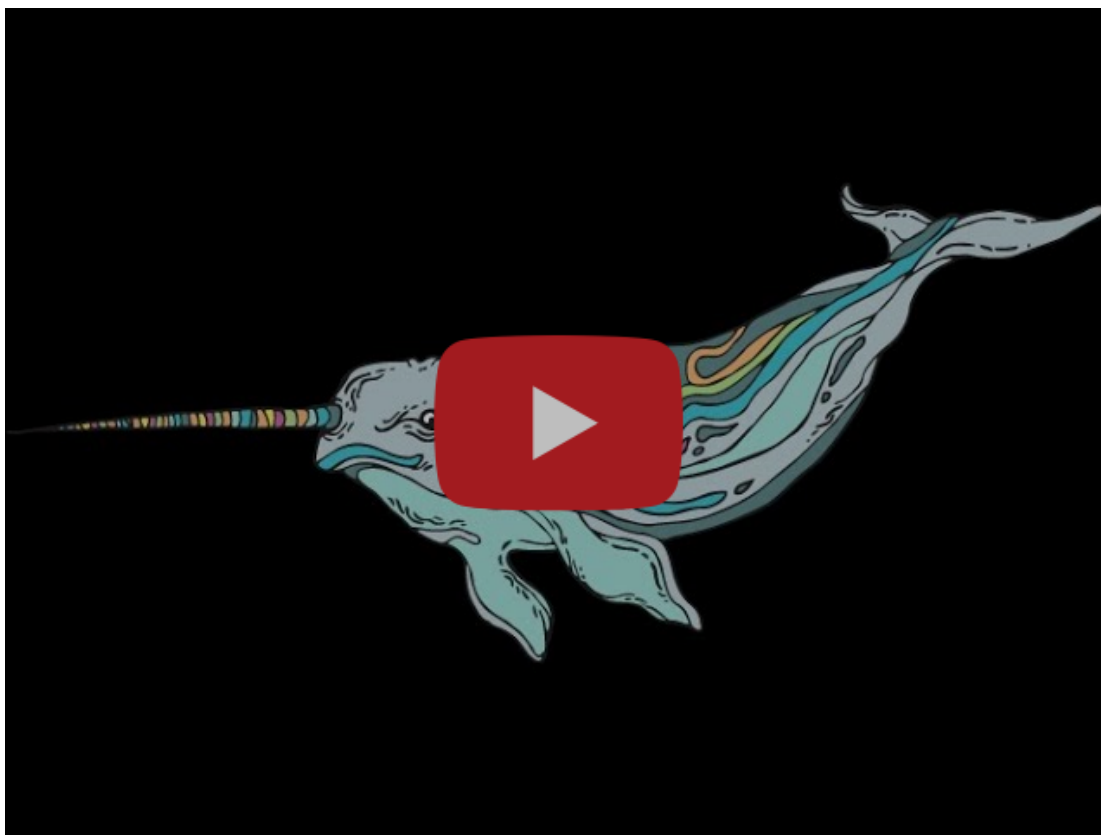
7/13 - Board Meeting, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Click here for instructions on how to join.

Important Links

- **Staff Email Contact List**

Communication from the Executive Director



Updates about our NEW Link Letter Format and Understanding our COVID 19 Reopening/Preparedness Plan

Dear Families,

As we prepare to reopen school, we want to make sure the voices of our families are heard. We are guided by the **MI Return to School Roadmap**, **MI Safe Start Plan**, and **local health department guidelines** and CDC guidelines. However, with what we have already been directed to do or not do, many decisions must be made.

THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN! Our school is based on relationships and part of that means flexibly and responsively meeting the needs of our students and families. **We need to hear from each and every family in order to create the best plan possible for the reopening of school.**

HOW school will reopen will be determined by the Governor. This is important to know. All schools will have to make 3 different plans in order to be ready for whatever our state or region's reality is when it is time to start school. The 3 different plans relate to the Phases of Reopening in the MI Safe Start Plan as follows:

- **If we are in Phase 1, 2, or 3** when it is time to begin school, schools will **reopen virtually**, no in person instruction will take place. This will look different from the distance learning we did in the spring, but will retain the same alignment to our values

- **If we are in Phase 4** when it is time to begin school, schools will reopen in person, with **stringent safety protocols** in place. We have lots of planning to do here and need your input for what can work for your family!
- **If we are in Phase 5** when it is time to begin school, schools will reopen in person with **moderate safety protocols** in place. In this case, we will simply take our Phase 4 plan and ease up on it a bit in certain areas.

In each of these Phases, the Governor has indicated what schools are required to do and what is highly recommended for us to do. So, some decisions have been made for us. In each of the Phases, we also have lots of flexibility to consider what works best for our families and staff. Please make sure your voice is heard. **This survey will take 10-25 minutes to complete and is due back to us by July 15, 2020.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this important task.
Respectfully yours,
Lisa Heyne

[TAKE THE FAMILY SURVEY- CLICK HERE](#)

Updates on GRCDC's COVID Preparedness (Reopening) Plan

School Year Calendar

What We Know: The first day of school will NOT be August 17. We will communicate the updated first day AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

What We Are Working On: Determining the length of the school day and the length of the school year

What We Need From Families: Complete the Family Survey- there is a section on calendar planning

Operations and Safety

What We Know: If school opens in person, all children will need to wear masks for some part of the day, if not all. Staff will be wearing masks all day

What We Are Working On: When, where, and how children will wear masks

What We Need From Families: Practice taking masks on and off with your children and begin to normalize mask wearing as a part of daily living

Health and Social/Emotional Wellbeing:

What We Know: We will continue to provide SEL learning for all students, whether virtually or in person. We will have COVID-specific health plans in place

What We Are Working On: We are looking to partner with community agencies and volunteers to provide additional emotional support for our children and families

What We Need From Families: Take the family survey so we can better understand your needs. Also, begin making back up child care plans in the event that your child needs to stay home for 3 or more days

Instruction

What We Know: If school opens virtually, we will have a Learning Management Platform for lessons and videos that is more responsive than our website. In any Phase of reopening, we will be reducing the number of assessments children take and focusing on "power" standards for learning

What We Are Working On: If school opens in person, what virtual options might be available for our families

What We Need From Families: Complete the family survey :)

Our School Office is not yet open and will not be until August, but we are here for you!

- Do you need to connect with Community Resources? **Click here**
- Do you have questions about applications or enrollment? **Email Ms Rachel**
- Do you have questions that you would like answered by a member of our Reopening Team? We are here for you! **Click this link to share your question and connect with a member of our team**
- Want to connect with the Executive Director? No problem! **Email Ms. Heyne** or voicemail/text 517-2063868

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

Children's Crisis Response

This is a service that provides free crisis intervention service for those through age 20 who live in Kent County. Please call 616.333.1000 to get help

now.

Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center
616.459.0330
grcdc.org