

April 2019 Newsletter

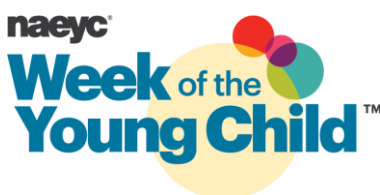
Signs of spring are popping up everywhere! We hope that April showers will bring us lots of May flowers! The children will be able to spend more time outdoors exploring and observing for signs of the season. Remember that boots are recommended for muddy days!



- **Portion Control!** Remember that a serving for a young child age 2-5 years is: $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vegetable or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fruit, one ounce of protein, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of rice, cereal, etc. We sometimes see portions that are *much too large* packed in children's lunches. Please do remember to send in 2 fruits and/or vegetables each day for every lunch! **Also, remember to make GCC a nut-free haven to protect the lives of our seriously allergic children and teachers.**
- Please remember to check your child's **extra clothes** on a regular basis. Are they labeled with your child's name? Are they weather appropriate? Did you include extra socks and shoes in case a puddle is encountered? Rain boots are always welcome! Help your child enjoy the outdoors this spring.

April is National Association for the Education of Young Children Week of the Young Child, April 8-12! Also National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Autism Awareness, Mental Health Awareness and MARYLAND MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD! We have a month FULL of Special Plans!

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD!



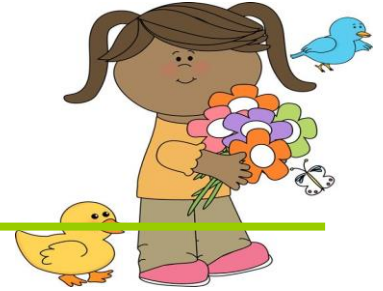
This national event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). GCC has planned some special activities for the week to celebrate! There *will* be homework, but we think you will enjoy participating in these activities!

- **Music Monday, April 8** – Music and singing for fun as well as to develop early literacy skills. **Parents write a love note to send in their child's lunch that says "You are special to me because..."** and we promise to read them to your child and post them in the classroom! This will give your child the opportunity to know that they are always on your mind! (You can send one **any** day!)
- **Tasty Tuesday, April 9** - **Healthy** eating and fitness at home and school!
- **Work Together Wednesday, April 10** - Work together, build together, and learn together! Teachers will have special projects for Spring Cleaning and playground spruce up! Everybody works together!
- **Artsy Thursday, April 11** - Think, problem solve, and create! Children will spend time engaging in creative open-ended art, both individually and on group projects. **Also, we have a Wolf Trap Artist,**



Sue Trainor leading a Family Involvement Workshop at 5:30 pm! Sign up to come to the "Good Vibrations" Musical Event!

- **Family Friday, April 12** - Sharing Family Stories!



FRIDAY FAMILY FUN FINALE

Our families are invited to join in a very special musical family fun night with Mr. Leroy Hyson. Face Painter and Master Balloon Artist! Our Finale will be the Friday BEFORE Week of the Young Child due to Terrace Room availability. You may bring your entire family to this fun event that starts at 5 pm and ends at 6:30! Because the event will be video taped for promotional purposes, everyone needs to have a ticket and a signed video release to enter then event. Please use the link sent through remind.com/gccpar or go to the Greenbelt Children's Center Facebook page and click the link! Let's celebrate the joy of seeing the world through the eyes of young children!

APRIL UNITS



Look for lesson plans filled with activities about Plants, How Does Your Garden Grow? and the season of Spring. The Parent Information Board in your child's classroom will give you all the specific activities for each week's plans! Please consider volunteering to help the staff and children to plan for gardening activities this season, if this is something that you have the talent or time to support. If so, please talk to your child's teaching team.

Parent Café returns for 2019!

**April 25th at 6:30 pm Greenbelt Community Center:
Free dinner and child care!**

Parent Café is an annual event supported by grant funding from Maryland Family Network. The purpose is to connect families to other families and resources in the community. The event is free and includes child care and dinner for families that attend. The evening consists of parents discussing selected topics at tables with other parents. This is a collaboration of the Greenbelt Children's Center, Greenbelt Nursery School and Greenway Learning Center and will be held at the Greenbelt Community Center, Room 202. We need to have at least one parent on the Planning Committee to select the theme and other decisions and the planning meeting is tentatively set for April 10th at 6 pm-details will follow. If you would like to volunteer to plan the event please let Mrs. Gee, Director know that you are available. Please mark your calendars and look for the flyer coming soon.





**Just a
reminder...**

Please make sure that you do not let your child out of your sight when coming or going to the Center. Children may not re-enter the Center from the parking lot without a parent, as children must be supervised at all times. *Once a child has been signed out, the parent is responsible. Tell your child to stay by your side once signed out!*

Useful Websites:

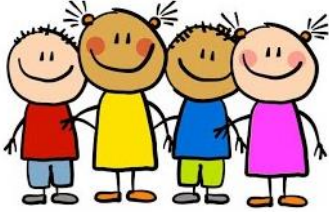
- A pre-K teacher offers ideas to integrate nature learning into the curriculum on her website, [Thinking BIG, Learning Big](http://thinkingbiglearningbig.com). Look under the tabs for Resources. (<http://thinkingbiglearningbig.com>)
- Free Songs for Kids offers [songs about the weather](http://freesongsforkids.com/weather-seasons). (<http://freesongsforkids.com/weather-seasons>)

Reminders!

- **Have you checked your child's extra clothes box to make sure it is seasonally appropriate?** It should be time to remove big bulky sweaters, etc. A pair of extra sneakers is helpful too!
- **Children MUST have a fitted crib sheet and small blanket to put on their cot for naptime each day!** Please make sure you provide them **every Monday!**
- **Any new phone numbers** to update on your child's emergency information card? Let's be prepared for any disaster!
- How about **any new booster immunizations** that your child received? We must include them on your child's record in the office.
- **Teach children lessons for good mental health- feelings, patience, honesty, and being kind to others!**
- **For good dental health**, sippy cups should be avoided at the pre-school age.



Registration



SUMMER AND FALL INTENTION FORMS

Reminder- Summer and Fall Intention Forms are due 4/18/19!

Everyone should have received the calendar for Summer Program Events and the Summer Program Reservation Form/Permission for the Pool & Terrace Room (due back on 5/17/19 or earlier¹) **Pay the \$150 Fall Materials Fee now with your Intention Form and keep the 2018-19 published rate for tuition for next year, 2019-20! We have started the fall class roster!**

Summer Reservation forms (schedules) and Summer Activity Fees are not due until 5/17/19. You just need to turn in your **Intention Form** asap so we know who plans to participate for some or all of the summer program and who we should reserve a space for the Fall School Year to be included on the class lists.



Reminder- "in-house" families do not pay a summer registration fee. You are encouraged to pay the \$150.00 Fall Annual Materials Fee by 4/18/19 to keep the preferred rate for tuition fees next school year.

*Room 1 families, your grant subsidy for **this year** will continue through 11 weeks of summer program, paid from the PGCPs Grant on your child's behalf. (We have submitted our grant for the 2019-20 school year and anticipate the rate for income eligible families in the PGCPs Pre-k here at GCC will pay only the Before & After Rate of \$160 per week next year. Stop in the office to check our income eligibility table if your child will be four years old on 9/1/19 and you reside in Prince Georges County.)*

We are looking for income eligible four-year old's so that families will have the grant funding from September 2, 2019 to 6/30/2020, including paying for the Annual Materials Fee and 2020 Summer Activity fees! We also want to remind EVERYONE that there is a Child Care Scholarship program that can help with tuition for ANY age child. The Child Care Voucher application is done through phone, fax and email and once received is good for 12 months! The voucher may pay up to \$145 per week and is due to increase in the amount effective July 1, 2019. Call 1-866-243-8796 to request an application packet. Families that are eligible for both the Grant Subsidy of the Pre-k program and the Child Care Scholarship may pay as little as \$13 per week! We encourage all eligible families to apply-come to the office to see the income scales for both programs.

Please ensure that your child gets on the GCC class lists for fall and summer- before all spaces are filled. The new Summer Calendar, posted this week in color on the web at www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com, has all the fun activities planned for your child, in addition to pool time every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday! You won't want your child to miss all the fun that we have planned!

The GCC summer calendar is filled with enriching summer experiences for your child including science, art, drama and magic, just to name a few!

We end our school year on **Thursday, June 13, 2019** and will be closed on **Friday June 14** for a **Teacher In-service day (two Wolf Trap Classes are scheduled)**.

Summer Program will start on Monday, June 17th. We sent all the details about the Summer Program in the Summer Calendar to you via your child's Art Folder! **Please complete and return the Intention Form for the Summer & Fall programs by April 18, 2019**

Greenbelt Children's Center



Teacher Appreciation



Child Care Professionals/Teacher Appreciation Day is aimed at recognizing caregivers in all types of settings, including the child's home, family child care homes, centers, after-school programs, and others. **Remember Teacher Appreciation Week, will be in May 6-10, 2019.** We hope everyone will help celebrate the special teachers and assistants who care for your child.

Parents are encouraged to take part in this and to recognize their child's caregiver in other ways, as well. Parents who can afford it can really make a difference by giving their child's care provider a raise or a bonus, or by paying for them to take additional training. Parents at GCC could pool together for a special bonus for the faculty. Treats for breakfast or lunch are always a delight! Letters of appreciation are wonderful, too! **If you would like to volunteer to organize a center wide special celebration of our early childhood staff, please see our director, Mrs. Gee.**

Did you know that all GCC faculty are credentialed by the Maryland State Department of Education?

The staff at GCC maintains credentials above the minimum requirements for training and education as well as continued training. GCC fulltime faculty will each complete a minimum of 24 hours, part time assistants-at least 12 hours, of continued training each year mostly funded by the MSDE, and some, including the director, will have over 50+ hours. Since we are an NAEYC accredited pre-school, our standards at GCC are always higher!





Thank You!

Thank you to Bryan Cortez, Bryan-Rm 1, for the donation of books to the GCC Lending Library!



GCC will be closed for Spring Break

Friday, April 19th +

Monday, April 22nd!

April 22nd is EARTH DAY!

Plant something to celebrate and care for the earth with your child.

