

September 2019

Greenbelt Children's Center



# September Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Our children are off to a **wonderful** start to the 2019-2020 school year! Thank you for bringing your child well prepared each day – their smiling faces are a delight!

Please go directly to your child's teacher when you have a concern or question. If the teachers are not able to help, then please contact the office for an appointment so that the teachers and director can resolve the issue working together with you.

In the new school year, here is what to expect during the first month. Each week, the children will be introduced to themes or units that are incorporated into the daily activities of the classroom. We have added Yoga classes on Mondays, Spanish on Thursdays and Music on Thursdays.

### Units for the month of September may include:

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Making Friends!              | Getting to Know Your Family       |
| Manners                      | The Season of Fall                |
| School Rules                 | Stranger Dangers & Good/Bad Touch |
| Orientation to the Classroom | Safety & Fire Drill Practice      |
|                              | Wonderful Me                      |

### Parent Information:

Check the **Parent Information Board** in your child's classroom at least once each week. You can find the daily schedule for your child and the weekly lesson plans posted to give you specific information about your child's daily activities. **We will also be posting our monthly Newsletter, Calendar and Menu** to our website *at the beginning of each month* so that you are up to date with all the news and activities of the Center! Look for pictures of activities and information on the GCC Facebook page and be sure to friend and like us! We request that each parent sign up for [remind.com/gccpar](http://remind.com/gccpar) to receive emergency alerts & reminders!

We ask that parents fulfill a weekly "homework assignment" which is: to help your child to select an **appropriate item to bring to Show & Tell each Friday that is related to the classroom unit**. This is a fun way for you to be involved in your child's program, helping to bridge home and center connection, and provide you with an activity to spend some quality time together with your child. Help Show & Tell rock! **READ Lending Library Books each night!**



### Parent Handbooks & Forms...



Do you have your Parent Handbook? Copies are available in the office for anyone who needs one (or email us, and we will send you one!). This has valuable information about Center policies and procedures that parents need to know. **Please be sure that the office has received all forms required for your child's file and any updates of immunizations, new emergency phone numbers, or other information. New Food Program Forms & Emergency Forms are required at this time!**

### Beautiful Artwork!

Each child has an "Art Folder" in the classroom where parents can find artwork, notices, and information placed there for parents to take home. Try to check it Daily, but keep in mind that children's displayed on the classroom walls before being filed to take home.



Also remember that we will collect documentation samples as part of our assessment, so some work will be saved by teachers in your child's portfolio to be shared at Parent Conferences held twice per year.

### We are So Happy/Proud/Excited!

Our Center has again been awarded the **highest score possible from Maryland Excels: 5 check marks!** Congratulations to our **outstanding faculty** for providing such excellent care and striving to continuously improve the quality of our program! We must also thank our **wonderful parents and children** as well - it is for you that we work towards these goals. For information on the Md Excels program, visit <http://marylandexcels.org/>



**MARYLAND EXCELS**  
CHECK FOR QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

Mark your calendar:

Piano Meet & Greet with Ms Melanie 9/3 4-6 pm

Fri. 9/6/19 @ 11:00am Grandparent Book Club Event!

Thurs. 9/26 @ 5:30 pm Back to School Family Potluck!

# September Newsletter

## Back To School Family Potluck – September 26th



We will be having Parent-Teacher Open House and Potluck on **Thursday, September 26th from 5:30-7:00 pm** for all classrooms.

This is an opportunity for you to meet all teachers and staff who work with your child and get general information about the program. It is our belief that parents and teachers need to work together as a team, especially when children are so young.

This opportunity is provided to establish relationships so important for successfully caring for and educating young children.

Please sign up and **bring a dish for the Potluck Dinner**-enough for your family and to share with others! **Children** (and parents who arrive by 5:30) **will participate in a Musical Edutainment Show, in the Terrace Room with Leroy Hyson.** Parents should be here no later than **6:00 pm for a 30 minute meeting with teachers of your child, in your child's classroom.** Late fee will be charged to anyone arriving after 6:05 pm. *While parents meet with teachers, the children will enjoy the music event in the Terrace room.* At 6:30 pm, the Potluck Meet & Greet begins where **children and parents can socialize with the staff of GCC, other families and their children over supper with everyone contributing a dish to share with all. **\*\*Be sure to bring a dish to share that is enough for your family and others! We eat whatever there is! Paper goods will be provided by GCC. Please no seafood or nuts due to allergies!****

Parents, please remember that individual conferences will be arranged later, for specific questions regarding your child. It would not be appropriate to discuss an individual child's progress in front of the other families, so we ask that those types of questions be reserved for private conferences in November (or January for 2.5 year olds). At that time, your child will have a summary of their individual progress in each domain area, after observations, anecdotal records and samples of children's work are gathered over time during daily activities that children experience.

**We are very excited to be working with your child this school year and sincerely hope that the time set aside to spend with you at the Back to School Event will be time well spent!**

**PLEASE JOIN US!** Expect that parking lots will be full ... you may also park on Hanover Parkway.



## Family Learning Parties

**Learning Parties** are hands-on learning parties that promote young children's development of school readiness skills. The program believes that parents/guardians are their child's first and lifelong teacher. Learning Parties teaches parents/guardians how to make everyday moments teaching moments through playing, singing, talking, reading and doing fun activities. This fall we will focus on developing your child's Social/Emotional Skills which are very important for success in school and in life. This is an exciting NEW program! Free dinner and child care are provided for children ages 2-5 years.

**Please sign up to commit to all 4 nights:**

**Dates are being planned and we will announce them as soon as possible!**

**Thank you SO MUCH for supporting our Family Engagement Activities! Book Club Events, Family Learning Parties, Family Involvement Workshops & Parent Café!**





# September Newsletter

## We love our teachers!

Please welcome our wonderful faculty!  
Mrs. Flora Gee-Director



### Room 1 PGCPs Pre-K Classroom:

Ms. Maria Bigelow -PGCPS Teacher  
Ms. Christine Grabisch – Teacher/AD  
Ms. Donna Bell-Nance-Teacher/AD  
Ms. Rehana Ali – Teacher

### Room 2 Classroom:

Ms. Sonika Wright – Lead Teacher  
Ms. Maria Martinez-Bi-lingual Teacher  
Ms. Simone Lovelock-Teacher  
Ms. Barbara Spears-Teacher

### Room 3 Classroom:

Ms. Mary Edwards, Teacher  
Ms. Versia Thomas – Teacher  
Ms. Mina Agyei – Teacher

### Office:

Flora Gee, Director  
Ms. Wanda Marshall- Office Asst/Sub  
Ms. Sandy Raynes-Office Asst

Substitute Teachers: Ms. Chante Vaughan, Ms Patricia Messenger, Ms. Shahinoor

## Spanish Lessons

**Club Español** by Lessons from Abroad will be held on **Wednesdays each week** for 30-minute sessions. The Spanish language program is free for all GCC students and is paid for by the grant from MSDE to PG County Public Schools and by GCC. Each child new to GCC will receive information to help you practice the Spanish language words at home with your child. Welcome back Senora Saltos!



## SPOTLIGHT

### Teacher of the Month:

Simone Lovelock

“Ms. Simone”



We gladly welcome our newest faculty member who recently joined our staff at GCC. Ms. Simone is also Pre-school Teacher qualified and had field placement here while working to complete her AA at PGCC. She has experience working with ages birth to eight years. She started at GCC this summer, so she is already familiar with some of our children and families. Ms. Simone will be joining Room 2's teaching Team as we have moved Ms. Versia to Rm 3. Ms. Simone will be our closing teacher this year. Please welcome her to our family!

### Introducing Claire Lerner, LCSW-C

Claire is a Child Development Specialist who joined us last spring and will be doing classroom observations, collaborations, meetings with parents, Teacher Training and Parent Workshops. She writes a blog that we share on our Facebook page and her direct link is

<http://lernerchilddevelopment.com>

## Important Reminders:

- **Tuition** must be paid in advance by the first day of each week. Avoid the late fee! New rates in effect 9/3/19.
- The **Annual Material Fee** is due at this time for all children unless it was paid by PGCPs grant or in advance last spring with your Intention Form.
- Please **label your child's name** on each item brought to the center from home.
- Remember to remove & label perishable items that contain meat, egg, cheese, or dairy, for refrigeration. Please do not ask for other foods to be refrigerated, as we do not have the space.
- **Grandparents Day Book Club Event -September 6, 2019!** We need grandparents who can volunteer to read to children at GCC that day! Sign up to volunteer to read at 11 am and help distribute books to build home libraries!

Thank you so much for your cooperation ~  
It is greatly appreciated!

### Payment Policies:

Payments can be made by check or in cash, money order, Visa, MasterCard, AMEX or Discover Card. The returned check fee is \$35.00 for any check returned by the bank for any reason. Credit or debit cards must be used onsite and cannot be taken over the phone.



### Quote of the Month:

*When you carry out acts of kindness, you get a wonderful feeling inside. It is as though something inside your body responds and says, yes, this is how I ought to feel.*

-Harold Kushner

Keep even more up to date by following us on Facebook!

School Picture Day: October 4, 2019!



# September Newsletter

## Breakfast, Snack & Lunchtime Thoughts...

At GCC, we provide meals and beverages that meet the meal pattern requirements of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Teaching and modeling good eating habits now through this practice will put children on the path to choosing to eat healthy foods for life. To meet best practices, we provide at least daily whole grains and fresh fruits or vegetables each week in our menu.



The Center will provide breakfast and afternoon snack to all full day children, and afternoon snack to children in the Before and After School Program. **Breakfast is served at 9:30 a.m. and afternoon snack is served at 3:30 p.m.** Children arriving before 8 a.m. may bring a **healthy** snack to eat upon arrival at the Center. **The Center will provide 1% milk, napkins, cups and utensils at lunchtime, 12:00 noon.**

We recommend that children bring their lunch in a lunch box as opposed to paper bags, unless there is a field trip. The boxes will prevent the food from being crushed and can be sent home with leftovers, as allowed by regulation (anything that touches the mouth or that touches a utensil that has touched the mouth must be discarded and cannot be saved). Please make sure that the lunch box is clearly labeled with first and last names.

**Parents are responsible for providing a nutritional lunch for their child. To meet this responsibility, you must include:**

1. a main dish (protein: meat/meat substitute, eggs, cheese, etc.)
2. bread, whole grain, or cereal (bread, crackers, cereal, pasta, etc.)
3. **a fruit and vegetable** (examples: apple slices and carrots or orange segments and cucumber slices or fruit cup and celery sticks, or **grapes (cut in half for 2-3 yr olds!)** and broccoli, etc.) We may only serve 100% fruit juice—even if sent from home, so check the labels before packing any juice to send to GCC. Parties too! Please note that **GCC has a "NUT FREE POLICY"**. Thank you for helping to keep all children safe!
4. Processed foods such as Lunchables and Fruit Snacks are NOT good sources of nutrition for healthy lunches.

## Tips for Turning Everyday Activities into Learning Activities

***You are your child's first teacher! We are your partners in helping your child become ready for kindergarten!***

**Talk, listen, read, play.** Learning begins in everyday moments. This information comes from the "Countdown to Kindergarten Campaign" of the [Maryland Family Network](#).

From the moment he is born, your child is learning about his family, his environment, and his own amazing abilities. As he grows, every experience contributes to his knowledge and his self-confidence.

When he arrives at kindergarten, he will be able to use all the skills he has learned. His kindergarten teacher will invite him to look at books, draw pictures, share stories and make new friends. The kindergarten teacher will observe and record your child's progress—looking for the skills that will help him succeed in school. If some skills are missing, she will plan activities that help him develop these skills.

## Parents are the key to their child's success in school!

***When you play with your child,*** you are helping him develop the social skills, curiosity, and reasoning that are important in school.  
***Encourage your child as he/she learns new skills.*** Teach and offer support, but don't take over what your child is doing.  
***Read with your child every day.*** Ask your child questions as you read together. Ask about the pictures and what may happen next.



*On my first chance, I may make a mess.  
 On my second chance, I may start to understand.  
 On my third chance, I may begin to know.  
 But with each and every future chance, I will surely grow.*

