

## April 2021 Newsletter

Signs of spring are popping up everywhere! The Cicadas will be here next month! Children will be able to spend more time outdoors exploring and observing for signs of the season because even during a pandemic, the seasons will be observable and magical to the young child.

**I found this in our April 2020 newsletter: "It is such a difficult time for our families. The Stay-at-Home order is now in the fifth week."** It was hard for those who were required to work

at home with a young child who needs and wants attention and has had their daily routine halted. It is one year later and we are still standing. Thoughts of the thousands who have succumbed to Covid and their families are ever present. We applaud you, parents, and teachers, as the heroes that you are. We have kept the children and each other safe thus far.



I am happy to report that nearly 100% of our faculty and support staff are now fully vaccinated. Many parents in essential jobs are now also fully vaccinated and with the travel restrictions lifting the 14-day quarantine, only a negative Covid PCR test is required for those who are anxious to visit grandparents. We wish so much to be back together with our extended family and friends. The pandemic has really required much more of everyone than we realized would be needed.

We want to sincerely thank the families that have been our support at GCC. We promised our teachers we would support them and do all we could to keep them safe if they returned to GCC. GCC continues to pay the benefits and PPE they depend on. We are so grateful to our teachers who are not only planning curriculum, setting up Interest Areas to support the theme/project, teaching and leading children through routines and learning activities and the huge amount of cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting required now. Teachers and support staff are overdue for substantial raises that have been postponed for much longer than we ever planned. It is also the time of year that families turn in the Summer and Fall Intention Forms along with the Re-Enrollment/Materials fee of \$150 for preschool children or \$50 for school age (K- 3rd grade next fall). The information and forms were sent home to families by remind.com this week.

If you would like to support our school and hold a place for the Fall 2021-2022 school year, keeping your rate for next year at our published rate for 2020-21 at \$252 -Rm 1 or Rm 3, or \$278 Rm 2 or Before and After Public Pre-k or K-3<sup>rd</sup> \$167.00, then please make payment at [www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com](http://www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com) at the Pay Now Button and submit the Intention Form checking the form at the bottom if you have made this payment (instead of "attached as written on the form").

Enroll for public Pre-k or K at [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org) beginning April 6, 2021.



We continue to apply for grants and loans that we are qualified for and that have sustained us because we continue to operate at very diminished capacity and income. It is grueling work making deadlines and putting together the documentation required. So many small child care programs have been overwhelmed and some have run out of funding and closed permanently. We do all that we can to keep going and sincerely appreciate the support of government programs and our families.

Looking to our Summer Program, we will soon post information and forms on the GCC website. Our families have begun to turn in schedules and commitments for Fall. We are happy to accept them. Let us look forward to the future and a time when the pandemic becomes a distant memory behind us.

Swimming: at this time, we have not heard if the Greenbriar Community Pool will be open for this summer. If the pool is open, we need approval to take the children from Maryland State Department of Education's Office of Child Care because we have pandemic restrictions that we must follow. We are planning for lots of water play this summer!

**April is National Association for the Education of Young Children Week of the Young Child, April 10-16! It is also National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Autism Awareness, Mental Health Awareness and MARYLAND MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD!**

## WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD!



This national event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC!

- **Music Monday, April 11: Through music, children develop math, language and literacy skills- All while having FUN!**
- **Tasty Tuesday, April 12** – Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more while encouraging healthy nutrition and fitness habits at home and in the classroom.
- **Work Together Wednesday, April 13** – When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills.
- **Artsy Thursday, April 14** – Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands.
- **Family Friday, April 15** – Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers.



## APRIL UNITS



April lesson plans will be filled with activities about

- Plants
- How Does Your Garden Grow?
- The season of Spring
- We are Builders.



## 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>)



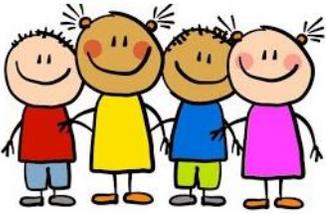
Earth Day is Thursday, April 22!

## Reminders!

- Everyone coming to GCC must wear a mask.
- Handwashing vigorously for 20 seconds.
- Get outside when you can for sunshine, vitamin D and healthy exercise.
- Expect your child to play independently for extended periods of time-just set up interesting things for exploration and entertainment. Read books together and independently!
- Eat healthy and sleep well.
- Care for yourself so you can be at your best to care for your child.



## Registration



## SUMMER AND FALL INTENTION FORMS

**Reminder- Summer and Fall Intention Forms are due 4/30/21!**

Everyone should have received the weekly Reservation Form for Summer Program Reservation Form/Permission for Water Play/Pool & Terrace Room (due back on 5/14/21 or earlier) Pay the **\$150 Fall Re-enrollment/Materials Fee now with your Intention form to keep the preferred rate.**

**Summer Reservation Forms** (schedules) and Summer Activity Fees are not due until 5/14/21. Turn in your **Intention Form** first 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.**

Room 1 families, your grant subsidy for **this year** will continue to be paid from the PGCPs Grant until June 18, 2021. (We have submitted the information for our grant for the next 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 \$173 per week next year. Eligibility requires your child to be four years old on 9/1/21 and residency in Prince Georges County.)

## 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 3-7, 2021.** 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. Treats for breakfast or lunch are always a delight! Letters of appreciation are wonderful and sincerely appreciated, too!

**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 annual continued training. Teachers have been taking online training since the shutdown. We are an NAEYC accredited pre-school, our standards at GCC are always higher than programs just meeting licensing requirements!

