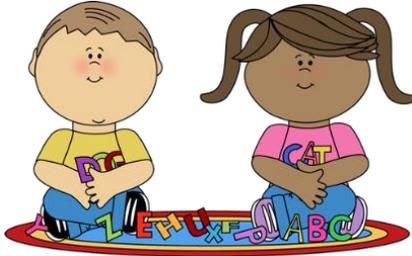




May 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents,



Happy Spring! There are many wonderful changes that this month brings: beautiful flowers, warm sunny days, soft spring rains, and a variety of insects and wildlife that children can observe. We hope that you and your child have had an opportunity to get outside on one of the beautiful spring days that we are starting to see. Did you see the release of our butterflies on our Facebook page? Lots of pictures there!

I want to thank you for your continued strong showing of support for our program. We have been so fortunate that so many of you have trusted us with the safety and education of your child. Enrollment is increasing, and we already have a waitlist for some age groups through October.

We have been so grateful for the PPP Loans that have sustained our ability to continue to pay staff and increase compensation, which was very overdue. We are not out of the woods yet but see light ahead!

More Federal funding towards supporting the childcare industry and helping families afford childcare is on the way! Maryland just received \$500 million from the December Relief Package and is asking for suggestions on how to spend it! You might want to write a letter to Governor Hogan and give your input. As an essential element to a strong economy, it seems like childcare is now going to be given a higher priority than it has in prior years. Childcare is education. High quality preschool that is accredited is the best for young children.

Email to Governor Hogan & State Legislators

- For the Governor, you need to go to <https://governor.maryland.gov/contact-the-governor/>. Click "Education" as the topic and paste your email there.
- For your State Senator & Delegates, go to www.MDElect.net to put in your address and get a list of your legislators. Click the link on their name for their email address.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The first week of May, the 3rd through the 7th, is Teacher Appreciation Week. Friday, May 7th, is Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. Providers across the Country are asking parents and all supporters to take action by finding ways today and through this week to express your support for teachers. Suggestions were sent via Remind.com and posted on our Facebook page. We love notes and letters of appreciation. This is a physically demanding, emotionally exhausting job, working with 20 young children. Imagine having a birthday party at your house every day! Show our teachers that you appreciate them. They all returned prior to the vaccine and literally risked life and health to be here to support our families.





Thank you in advance for the kind words acknowledging the dedication that our Teachers have made to the children at GCC. They love the relationships they have formed with your child!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We have re-published at Level 5 in **Maryland EXCELS!** Congratulations to GCC! We maintained all achievements for best practices and highest level of quality!*

<https://www.marylandexcels.org/>

CELEBRATING THROUGH ART: Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, May 2-8, 2021

The First Lady's Mental Health Awareness Youth Art Display 2021 celebrates children's representation of something that makes them feel happy, healthy or hopeful. There were five children from GCC that submitted artwork that was chosen to be showcased online this year due to the pandemic. We hope you took the opportunity to view the work of the GCC artists! Congratulations to Jeremiah A., Jet, Dreema, Julia, and Zahir!



We hope everyone will use the bucket of chalk sent home last week and enter your child's Chalk Art!

All artwork will be displayed for public viewing on Facebook @pgparks.

Join M-NCPPC in supporting children's mental health! Individuals ages 21 & under are invited to participate in this year's Virtual Chalk Art Festival. To participate:

- Find a paved area
- Create a chalk drawing with a positive message
- Take a photo of your artwork and tag us: Northern.Inclusion@pgparks.com @pgparks using hashtag #pgparkschalk
- Email your photo to to be entered into the raffle drawings (include first name, age, and contact info)
- Be safe and practice physical distancing!



MESSAGE FROM MARYLAND FAMILY NETWORK:

According to the American Optometric Association, infants should have their first comprehensive eye exam at six months of age, an additional exam at age three, and another before entering first grade. GCC had hoped to be working with the Society to Prevent Blindness for free screenings for amblyopia. Due to the pandemic this has been postponed.



We celebrate our anniversary this month!
Congratulations to Greenbelt Children's Center
for *31 Years* of
Early Childhood Excellence!



WE DEDICATE May 9th TO ALL OUR SPECIAL MOMS
and those who fulfill that role for a child!
HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!!

