

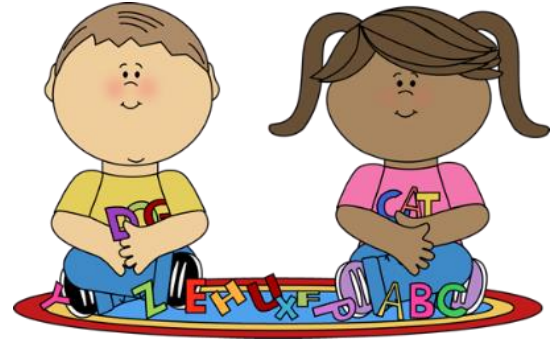


## May 2022 Newsletter

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.

**We 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. Effects of a surge from Spring Breaks are beginning to affect our families. We are watching closely.



### The End of the GCC Before and After Program for K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

As we struggle with the higher costs of operations and staffing, we have reluctantly decided that we are no longer able to offer the Before and After Program for Kindergarten-Third Grade effective Fall 2022-2023. We are very sad about this because we love our Elementary School Age Children and know so many families have counted on us for this program. We will help families who were previously enrolled, to utilize Extra Care Days when schools are closed but GCC is open, if space is available. Just check in with us about a week or so, in advance, to see if we have space. We will continue to enroll children up through age 8 years old for our Summer Program and welcome our school age friends back each summer.



### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The first week of May, the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>, is Teacher Appreciation Week. Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, is Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. Providers across the Country are asking parents and all supporters to take action by finding ways today and throughout this week to express your support for teachers. We love notes and letters of appreciation. This is a physically demanding, emotionally exhausting job, working with 20 young children! It takes really special people, years of education and hours of continued training each year. Imagine having a birthday party at your house every single day! Show our teachers that you appreciate them. They literally risked life and health to return before vaccines were available and they have been here day in and day out to support our families. Other programs are suffering greatly because of the national staffing crisis in early childhood and public schools. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated faculty here at GCC.

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



## Thank You!

We want to sincerely thank our families for contributions to our center. A former family, who wishes to remain anonymous, has donated **\$500 to Room 2** for educational tools and materials. What a surprise! Thank you to the Hadley family, Nadia-Rm 1 and Leila-Rm 2, for the donations of **wonderful** books to the GCC Lending Library-and such good books! I have to say that this year family donations to the Lending Library have been **unbelievable**: hard cover books, award winning books, authentically diverse books, dual language books, and more. Several families

struggling financially have also been given help from a former GCC employee who wishes to remain anonymous. This has helped several families receive a one time only gift. One recipient family has chosen to pay this forward when their family circumstances improved. They donated to another family in need. What a community we have surrounding and holding us up. It takes a village and we have ours!

**Outdoor Learning: Mud Kitchens!** The children are loving the Mud Kitchens that were installed on the playground and all the pots, pans, and utensils. This is dramatic play which covers so many things including social skills, language and literacy, math, science and more! We also added a cascading Water Fall and water table, new vehicles and sand toys for the sand box. **Please be prepared for creative messy play! Please do not dress your child in fancy clothes for GCC! We want the children to be creative! We also insist on safe shoes for outdoor play so if you send your child in sandals, they must have sneakers to change into in the cubby. New trikes will be arriving soon!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**End of the Year Celebrations!** We can hardly believe the school year will be ending soon, where did the time go? GCC classrooms will hold **End of the Year Celebrations on Friday, June 17, 2022**. We will have a festive party, take class photos to send to parents and each child will receive a Certificate of Completion and something special to take home. Our children have changed so much since the beginning of the year and made a lot of accomplishments and growth. We want them to feel special as we prepare them for transitions to kindergarten, pre-k and the next year of their education.



**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/>



Remember to turn in **Summer Schedules** by **May 20<sup>th</sup>**!



## Children's Mental Health Awareness Week May 2-6, 2022

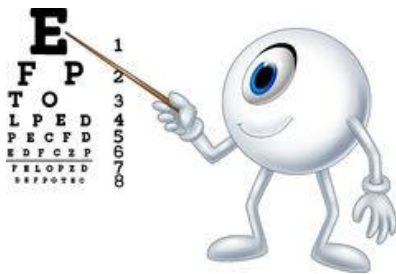
The First Lady's Mental Health Awareness Youth Art Display 2022 celebrates children's representation of something that makes them feel happy, healthy, or hopeful. ([Link](#))

## 2022 Virtual Chalk Art Festival May 1-31st

We hope everyone will use the bucket of chalk sent home last week and enter your child's Chalk Art! **Express yourself... Create Expressions!** All artwork will be displayed for public viewing by M-NCPPC on Facebook @pgparks in support of 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 to @pgparks using hashtag #pgparkschalk or email to: [chalkfestival@pgparks.com](mailto:chalkfestival@pgparks.com) 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 was so happy to have the Society to Prevent Blindness here for free screenings for all children. Many eye concerns were discovered! Families with a child who failed the screening were given packets with the details for follow up at their eye doctor. We plan to have them back next year.



## Virtual Family Events Sponsored by GCC in May:



**Tu, May 17 @ 6:30pm - InterAct Story Theatre**

**Th May 26 @ 6:30pm - InterAct Story Theatre**

Flyers with the links are scheduled to go out in remind.com. Please join the fun with other GCC families!

We will also have another **Parent Learning Opportunities with Claire Lerner:**

- **Tu June 1 @ 7pm - Establishing Healthy Sleep Habits**
- **Tu June 21 @ 7pm - Positive Discipline: Setting Limits with Love**

There is time for questions and answers, so write those down now while you are thinking of them.

**WE DEDICATE May 8th  
TO ALL OUR SPECIAL MOMS  
and those who fulfill that role for a child!  
HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!!**



**Congratulations** to Greenbelt Children's Center for  
**32 Years** of Early of Childhood Excellence!

We celebrate our anniversary each **May!**

