

September 2021

Greenbelt Children's Center



# September Newsletter



Dear Parents,

**We look forward** to the start of the 2021-2022 school year! Thank you for bringing your child well prepared each day – their smiling faces are a delight! New rates take effect and Annual Materials Fee is due.

We are working very hard to keep everyone safe and healthy at GCC. We are counting on our families to do the same.

### Some reminders:

Weekly PCR testing for all staff and children. Monitor your child for symptoms daily and keep your child home if they exhibit any symptoms of Covid-19- fever of 100.4, vomiting, nausea, flushed cheeks, rapid breathing, fatigue, coughing, nasal congestion, loss of smell or taste, headache, body ache or sore throat. Also monitor for bruising or swelling not caused by injury.

Quarantine your child for 14 days after a Covid exposure. Bring your own thermometer from home daily. Scan the QR code so you can start the daily health check at home each morning. Wear a mask at drop off/pick up and pack extras for your child daily. Inform family and friends to bring picture ID at every pickup. It is our job to request it & keep children safe.

### **Parent Information:**

To see a typical daily schedule, visit our website at [www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com](http://www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com), **we will also be posting our monthly Newsletter, and Menu** to our website *each month* so that we keep you informed 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, like and follow us! We request that each parent sign up for Mrs Gee's Class at **remind.com** parent group: **@gccpar** to receive emergency alerts, announcements & reminders!

**Lending Library begins this month**, and you can look forward to books that will be sent home to read to your child. When finished, return them for the teachers to log and switch out another set to take home. If EVERY family reads the 10-book minimum, the class gets a reward! Book Club Events are different and will give books to keep and build the home library.



## Parent Handbooks & Forms...



Family Handbooks are being revised, and the addendum is a helpful reminder of commitments we each make to keep each other safe during the pandemic. **We thank you for completing and returning all the forms required at this time.**

## Beautiful Artwork!

Each child has an "Art Folder" in the classroom for artwork, notices, and information placed there for to take home. Teachers will be taking all the contents and placing them in your child's Blue Bag that is sent home with all belongings each day. We ask that you go through the bag each evening to wash soiled clothes, masks and linens and to look for notices from GCC.



Keep in mind that children's work will often be displayed on the classroom walls before being filed to take home, so there may be some lag time before you get your little artists work sent home!

Also remember that we will collect documentation samples as part of our assessment, so some work will be saved by teachers.

## 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** as well - it is for you and the children 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

The GCC Monthly Newsletters, Calendars & Menus are all on our website:  
[www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com](http://www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com)

# September Newsletter

## We love our teachers!

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

### Room 1 Classroom:

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

### Rm 2 Classroom:

Ms. Sonika Wright – Lead Teacher  
Ms. Ximena Saltos- Bilingual Teacher  
Ms. Patricia Messenger-Teacher  
Ms. Barbara Spears-Teacher

### Room 3 Classroom:

Ms. Mary Edwards, Teacher  
Ms. Versia Thomas – Teacher  
Ms. Lindsay Mack – Teacher

### Office:

Flora Gee, M.Ed. Director  
Ms. Simone Lovelock- Office Asst/Teacher  
Ms. Sandy Raynes-Office Asst

**Substitute Teachers Part Time Staff:** Ms. Shahinoor Rahman, Ms. Bridget Thompson, Mr Peter Kim, Ms. Shahara Rahman, and Ms Katherine Thomas



## 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,

**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

### Wolf Trap Artist in Residency and InterAct Story Theatre will be virtual this year.

Join GCC families on Google Meets for Sing and Swing evenings! Mark your calendar for **September 15 and October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**. An artist from Lenore Blank Kelner, formerly of Wolf Trap and founder of InterAct, will lead parents and children in song, movement, and a story.

### Our Child Development Specialist, Claire Lerner, will return this year offering Parenting Workshops to support you.

We see you parents and know how difficult the pandemic has been. We will be providing children as many rich experiences in the classroom as possible!

