

April 2022 Newsletter

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



April is National Association for the Education of Young Children Week of the Young Child, April 4-8! It is also National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Autism 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 4: Through music, children develop math, language and literacy skills- All while having FUN!** Children and teachers will fill the classroom with music!
- **Tasty Tuesday, April 5 – Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more while encouraging healthy nutrition and fitness habits at home and in the classroom. Each child will build a tasty snack!**
- **Work Together Wednesday, April 6 –** When children build together, they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Each class will choose a class project to work on. GCC will also have a WACKY WEDNESDAY!
- **Artsy Thursday, April 7 –** 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. Each artist will create an artistic creation.
- **Family Friday, April 8 –** 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.

We have a FUN FRIDAY FAMILY EVENT at 4:30 pm! Ali Oliver Krueger, InterAct Story Theater, presents **Sharks and Rabbits!** Start your weekend early! Come pick up your child early on Friday and join virtually from home with other GCC Families. Look for the link going home via remind.com.

Coming this Summer! Three **Shade Structures** for the GCC Playground, for the health and safety of children and teachers! Protection from the sun is important to prevent skin cancer.

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!

Happy Ramadan, Easter and Passover to our families!

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.



- Read 10 books each month to your child from the GCC Lending Library! Help the class earn a reward if ALL families achieve the goal!

SUMMER AND FALL INTENTION FORMS

Reminder- Summer and Fall Intention Forms are due 4/29/22!

Everyone will receive the weekly schedule form for Summer Program Reservation/Permission for Water Play/Pool & Terrace Room (due back on 5/20/22 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 5/20/22. Turn in your **Intention Form** first so we know who plans to participate for some or all the summer program and who we should reserve a space for the Fall School Year on our 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 23, 2022. Your Summer tuition effective June 27th is \$265 per week. Families with a **Maryland Scholarship Voucher** need to do a “**Change In Rate Form**” to increase that subsidy amount for the summer rate.

The rate for income eligible families in the PGCPs Pre-k here at GCC will pay only the Before & After Rate of \$182 per week next year. Eligibility requires your child to be four years old on 9/1/22, be within income guidelines and proof of residency in Prince Georges County.

To register with PGCPs for Pre-k at GCC, families must complete a Scribbles account and upload all documents at this link: to <https://pgcpsmdc.scribborder.com> choosing Greenbelt Elementary School at the end, to register for the public Pre-k at Greenbelt Children’s Center. Children who are 5 on 9/1/22 should create a Scribbles Account to enroll for Kindergarten at their neighborhood school.



Teacher Appreciation

Child Care Professionals/Teacher Appreciation Day is aimed at recognizing caregivers in all types of settings, including the child's home, family childcare homes, centers, after-school programs, and others. **Remember Teacher Appreciation Week will be in May 2-6, 2022.** We hope everyone will help celebrate the special teachers and assistants who care for your child.





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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!



Enjoy the Spring weather! Remember to join in on the Family Fun Event April 8th at 4:30! Pick up early and have some family fun!