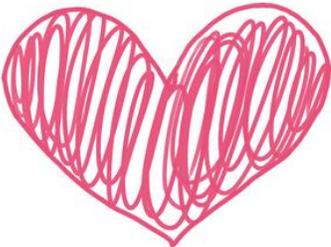


## June 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents,



The end of this 2021-2022 school year is quickly coming to a close. Our children have made so much progress from where they began at the beginning of the year. Especially the last two months, so much growth! We want to celebrate the achievements and the relationships that have been nurtured by being together (despite the pandemic that continues). My heart swells to see the children and teachers enjoying our last weeks of school together.

**I applaud the hard work that you as **parents/guardians** have been doing day after day, juggling being your child's first and lifelong teacher, the parent, and the employee/employer that you are expected to be, as well as other roles you also have.** I have heard from many of you how hard this year has been and how much you needed relief and we hope that we provided some of that for you. **I am so grateful for the continuing support of our GCC families. We are a community walking hand in hand for the benefit of each child.**



**I am also grateful to my **faculty** who worked so hard all year to promote the healthy development of each child.** They continued to nurture those relationships while also excelling at the enormous job of keeping the environment healthy and the children safe. They took hours of online professional development in all areas of teaching and learning, health and safety, trauma informed care, mandated reporting, and so much more. Some of these were to maintain their individual credentials with the Maryland State Department of Education, the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) or because they are moving towards a two- or four-year degree in teaching in early childhood education. We took many webinars about the latest updates and guidelines for caring for and educating young children.

We are currently undergoing our **re-accreditation work with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**. The task requires documentation of the best practices required to maintain the Gold Standards for Early Childhood Education. Standards were revised in January 2022. The documentation required, includes pictures of the work and relationships of children, families, and teachers, lesson plans, developmental and health screenings, family conferences, and so much more. There are hundreds of pieces of evidence required in all ten standards: Relationships; Curriculum; Teaching; Assessment of Child Progress; Health; Staff Competencies, Preparation and Support; Families; Community Relationships; Physical Environment; and Leadership and Management. This takes hours and hours to collect and upload documentation showing the evidence of the work we have done in the past 5 years. Many of us are working evenings and weekends to get these tasks done. NAEYC will be assessing our work with a validation visit between now and October 6th. A decision will be made at the end of this year or early in 2023. We voluntarily do this work for the benefit



of our children and families. It is something that our faculty can take pride in, to be associated with a high-quality program that they significantly contribute to for the benefit of our community.

We look forward to the development of a vaccine for children under five. There has been a recent report that this may start June 21<sup>st</sup>. Our children are mostly very cooperative about masking, but their little noses get exposed when the mask slides down and they are busily playing and learning. Maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet is not possible with young children. It is my hope, once a vaccine is available for children under five, is that parents will fully vaccinate their children to protect them, the community, and to end the quarantine requirements in preschools that continue for exposure to a positive Covid case.



**We continue to provide the highest quality early education and care as we have done for 32 years.** We have a huge responsibility to keep everyone – teachers, children, and families - safe and healthy. We want our children to have excellent outcomes for school and life. Our goal is for children to have rich experiences that include warm memories of relationships with friends and teachers. **We thank you for giving us the trust and opportunity for that with your precious child.**

For our **End of the Year Celebration, Friday, June 17**, we will be sending home a special thank you gift for the family to share and certificates for the level of completion for each child, honoring their accomplishments with us this year. We have planned a **Pizza Party for lunch so no need to pack a lunch that day.** We plan for teachers to take a picture of their class to send out to their families.



**We request that all Lending Library Back Packs and books be read and returned to us on or before June 17, to receive your child's Certificate of Completion.**

Greenbelt Children's Center



Please be aware we will be **sending home all child belongings on the last day of school, Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**, so we can do a deep clean before our first day of Summer Program that starts on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, when the **GCC is closed for In-service on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**We have an exciting Summer to look forward to**, especially going to the pool on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings!

## Thank you sincerely for sharing your precious child with us this year.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with your family for the Summer and next school year. We wish our Pre-k students well as they enter Kindergarten this fall and our school agers well when they return to school. *Remember you are always welcome to return each Summer until the age of 8 years old!*

