

GREENBELT CHILDREN'S CENTER

7600 Hanover Parkway, Ste 100, Greenbelt MD. 20770

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MARYLAND MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD!

APRIL 2009 NEWS!

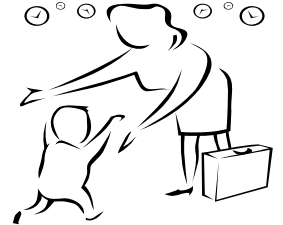
Signs of spring are popping up everywhere! We hope that April showers will bring us lots of May flowers! The children will be able to spend more time outdoors exploring and observing for signs of the season. Remember that boots are recommended for muddy days!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month!

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD!



This national event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), takes place April 19-25th this year. GCC has some special events for the week to keep the momentum going! Some special events that we would like to involve you in to commemorate this happy, special time of childhood are listed below. There will be homework, but we think you will enjoy participating in these activities!



Monday: Parents write a love note to send in their child's lunch that says "You are special to me because..." and we promise to read them to your child and post them in the classroom! This will give your child the opportunity to know that they are always on your mind!



Tuesday: Children will draw pictures here at GCC titled "When I Grow Up" thinking about what occupations they find interesting now that they have spent time on a Community Helpers Unit. Our future is in their hands!

Wednesday: Stuffed Animal Parade and Dance! Children may bring their favorite stuffed animal to GCC today! Marching with lions, and tigers and bears, oh my!

Thursday: Send in a baby picture of you when you were a child and the class will make a display for people to guess "Who's Baby Am I?" Also there is a Parent-Child Learning Party from 5:30-7:30 pm featuring Prince Georges County Librarian, Myra Katz, followed by parent & child activities in each classroom. We would like to have a "Potluck Supper" from 5:30 -6 pm where each family contributes a light dish to share with others (only for those who commit to staying for the entire event) followed by the Learning Party. Our theme will be Science! Please sign up in your child's classroom!



Friday- Donate children and adult clothing to the Family Support Center in Adelphi and donate canned & dry food to the Bowie Food Pantry. Bring in donations all week!



SUMMER AND FALL INTENTION FORMS

Reminder- **Summer and Fall Intention Forms** are due 4/17/09! Everyone should have already received the calendar for Summer Camp Events, as well as the summer and Fall Intention Form (due back to GCC on 4/17/09) and the Summer Camp Program Reservation Form and Permission for Swimming (due back on 4/30/09).

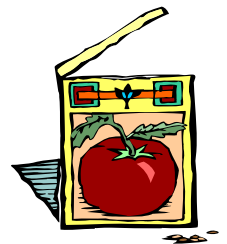
Summer Camp Reservation forms (schedules) and Summer Activity Fees are not due yet; you just need to turn in *your intention to participate*.

Reminder- “in-house” families do not pay a summer registration fee but are encouraged to pay the Fall Annual Materials Fee by 4/17/09 to keep the 2008 weekly rate of \$199.00 Room 2 or \$179.00 Rooms 1 & 3 or \$139.00 per week for Before & After School for grades 1st – 3rd for the 2009 school year; *Room 1 families, your 40% grant subsidy for this year will end on 6/5/09, paid from the Hoyer Grant to the Local School System on your child’s behalf. Your fee becomes \$179.00 per week on June 8, 2009 and remains that through the summer program.*



Please ensure that your child gets on the **class lists for fall and summer-before all spaces are filled**. The new Summer Calendar (also on the web at www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com) has all the fun activities planned for your child, in addition to swimming! You surely won't want your child to miss out on all the fun that we have planned!!

Parent-Child Learning Party! Please join us for a Science Workshop on April 23 from 5:30-7:30 pm! Learn ways to enjoy science play and learning with your child. (This area is the one that children in the state of Maryland score the lowest on when starting formal schooling and so we are targeting this area so that our children will be prepared for success in school and life!)



APRIL UNITS



Look for lesson plans filled with activities about Plants, How Does Your Garden Grow and the season of spring. The Parent Information Board in your child's classroom will give you all the specific activities for each week of the month!! Please view the work in progress or volunteer to help the staff and children as they ready the garden for this season.

Club Espanola Spanish Language Program

The children really love this program. We invite parents to come and observe the children singing songs and learning vocabulary in Spanish. The *free* program (paid by our Judith P. Hoyer grant to the Local School System) is a wonderful way to support children becoming bi-lingual.



GREENBELT CHILDREN'S CENTER URGES PARENTS TO RECOGNIZE CAREGIVERS ON PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY[™], FRIDAY, May 8th!

Bonus Pay, Letters, Volunteering, All Make Appropriate Ways to Say Thanks



Day after day, while parents go to work or school, early childhood educators help to nurture and educate young children and keep them engaged in positive, healthy activities, but they can feel under-appreciated, especially since their average annual salary is only \$16,000 to \$22,000. Child Care Professionals/Teacher Appreciation Day is a great opportunity for parents to say thank you. **Worthy Wage Day** is on May 1st and brings attention to the inadequate compensation of early childhood educators. On that day, there are usually activities held in communities all over the country and teachers and parents are encouraged to participate.

Although they earn substantially lower wages, child care providers are better educated than the general population, and many do not stay in the field for long. In fact, one third of child care providers leave their jobs each year, and studies show that children experience their departure as an unsettling loss. Of the 21 million children age five and under in America, 13 million are in child care at least part time. An additional 24 million school-age children attend some form of child care outside of school time.

Child care professionals should be honored for so many reasons: they enable parents to be productive at work (knowing their children are safe and well cared-for), they can reinforce the positive behaviors and values that parents teach their children at home, and as one of a child's earliest teachers, they help each child discover their interests and abilities. ***Ideally we'd like parents to find ways to recognize their child care providers year round.***



Child Care Professionals/Teacher Appreciation Day is aimed at recognizing caregivers in all types of settings, including the child's home, family child care homes, centers, after-school programs, and others.

Parents are encouraged to take part in the events 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, or by paying for them to take additional training. Parents at GCC



often pool together for a special bonus for the faculty. Treats for breakfast or lunch are always appreciated! Letters of appreciation are wonderful, too! Let's make this a memorable time for all the caring staff at GCC!

Reminders!

- Have you checked your child's extra clothes box to make sure it is seasonally appropriate? Time to remove big bulky sweaters, etc. A pair of extra sneakers is helpful too!
- Children **MUST** have a fitted crib sheet and small blanket to put on their cot for naptime each day! Please make sure you provide them every Monday!
- Any new phone numbers to update on your child's emergency information card? Let's be prepared for any disaster!
- How about any new booster immunizations that your child received. We must include them on your child's record in the office. We never know when we might receive an unannounced inspection!
- Teach children lessons for good mental health- feelings, patience, honesty, and being kind to others!



Did you know that all GCC full time faculty are credentialed? The staff at GCC goes way above the requirements for training and education as well as continued training. GCC fulltime faculty will complete a minimum of 24 hours, part time assistants-12 hours, of continued training each year mostly funded by the Judith P. Hoyer Grant to Private Providers from the MD State Department of Education, and some will be closer to 50+ hours. The state requirement is a minimum of 6 hours each year. Since we are an NAEYC accredited pre-school, our standards at GCC are much higher!

Disaster Planning and Supporting Children during Times of Conflict

The staff at GCC has planned for emergencies of many kinds. Plans are in place that are ready for activation, should the need arise. It is recommended that all families have at least 3 emergency contacts in case of disaster. You may want to think of friends or neighbors that you would give permission to pick up your child if you were detained and unable to get to GCC due to a disaster. It has also been recommended to have one contact that lives out of the immediate area, because as you recall on 9/11, local calls were useless, but phone calls out of the immediate area were possible. Please update your emergency information card in the office. A good source of information is available at the National Association for the Education of Young Children's website, www.naeyc.org. GCC's disaster plans are hanging on each classroom and office bulletin board for you to read and were sent home

earlier this school year.



Thanks to Ondray James (John, Room 1) for bringing in doughnuts for the teachers! What a great Dad!

Thanks to Kidi Harden (Matthew, Room 3) for bringing in donuts and a coffee cake for the GCC staff! That was so thoughtful!

Thanks to Krystal Peters (Kaylin, Room 2) for making Banana Nut Bread for the GCC Teachers! Krystal has volunteered to lead parents in planning for **Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4th through 8th, 2009**. We hope everyone will help celebrate the special teachers and assistants who care for your child.



"The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."

-Helen Keller

