

Greenbelt Children's Center

Accredited by NAEYC's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs

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June 2010 NEWSLETTER

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DIRECTOR

HAPPY Father's Day!!!



Dear Parents,

Just a short newsletter to share some information at the end of the school year... Wow, it's really coming soon! How quickly time has flown!

We have **End of the Year Celebrations** planned for each classroom that are appropriate to the developmental levels of the children. There are sign up sheets to bring in items for lunch, volunteers to come in and read to children and distribute Book Club Event books. We will have completion certificates to mark the completion of the program level for each child completed a program and a cake to celebrate the end of the year & GCC's 20th anniversary! We invite our families to celebrate with us. The children will feel very special about this day and all the attention received. We will not do caps and gowns or call this a graduation, because that is not appropriate for young children. Those very formal graduation ceremonies are reserved for more formal times when these children will graduate from high school and college. We would not want to cheapen those very special times by having children feel, later in their lives, that they have "graduated so many times" that missing the high school or college graduation would not matter to them. So we will stand with other professionals on this issue and do what we feel is in the best interest of the children. We appreciate your support and we look forward to celebrating with you and your child. Check the sign up sheet in your child's classroom.

Thank you...

And thank you for your marvelous support during Teacher Appreciation Week last month! It means so much to our faculty to know that our parent community recognizes and respects the special people who are here every day for you and your child! Thank you also to the families that came out to Franklin's to mark our 20th anniversary and support our fundraiser for the playground. We had a great time, looked through old photo albums of the last 20 years and Olivia's grandmother had a photo from 1983 when Olivia's mom, Roselyn, was enrolled in Room 2! What a great time the children, families & staff had! We could tell that the children really enjoyed the chance to go out to dinner with their family, teachers and friends. We plan to do this again. We will invite current families & alumni, as we did this time, so plan to join us again!

Calendar Reminders!

The last day of GCC's Spring Semester will be on Thursday, June 17th. GCC will be closed on Friday, June 18th for Teacher In-service and Camp Set-up. Camp begins on Monday, June 21st! Swimming fun is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, June 22nd, continuing each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning of camp. If you sign up for swim lessons, your

child will swim 4 times weekly. Please remember that **your child should come dressed in his/her bathing suit/pool shoes to GCC with their shorts and shirt over top and bring their underwear & tennis shoes in a bag to change into after swimming.** That way everyone will need to change only once after coming back from the pool. Please make sure your child has **aquatic type pool shoes** that can be worn to walk to the pool and worn in the water as well. **Label your child's name** on the towel (and every item) brought to the center! It really makes a difference. Wet towels and swim suits will be sent home daily.

Family Night Potluck Dinner and Entertainment!

This annual event will be on Wednesday, July 8th and will continue to kick off our summer of memory making! B.J. & Cody will perform their greatest hits at 5 pm. All parents participating must arrive by 5:00 pm with a dish to share that will feed at least your family and enough to share with other families (serves 8 or more). It's great if you can share your best homemade casserole, salad, side dish or dessert, but store bought will do also! We eat what ever there is and that's part of the fun of having a Potluck Dinner. So if everyone only brings desserts, it will be a sweet dinner! Join us! **(Remember-this is not for children alone-this is a FAMILY event. Parents must be here to participate!) Parent surveys indicate that parents like to have events where they can meet and socialize with other parents. Come and socialize with the families of your child's friends!**

Thank you, parents for supporting Greenbelt Children's Center this year. We very much enjoyed having your child and family with us this past school year. I want to especially thank the teachers for their dedication and hard work all year. Their duties encompass so much more than the average pre-school teacher when they choose to work here at Greenbelt Children's Center. This is due to the s documentation requirements and other obligations that come with grant funding and most especially with meeting the "Gold Standards" of NAEYC Accreditation. It takes a really special person to meet the high standards and rise to the challenges of being a teacher at GCC. The work that they do for the benefit of the children and families is outstanding. The faculty at GCC is warm and nurturing, competent and confident. They work diligently to have the best outcomes for the children, now and for their future. So be sure to let them know how much you have noticed. They really are a very special group of women. I personally want to acknowledge them for the support that they have given to me as the Director and Administrator at GCC. They are superbly the best! "School matters, but literacy starts at home. Teachers have long urged parents to read aloud to their children. But now there is a second and perhaps more powerful message: Talk to your kids, too." This message is from Laura Pappano in her article "[The Power of Family Conversation](#)," in the **Harvard Education Letter**. According to Pappano, mounting research that links language-rich home environments with reading success and school achievement is driving educators and community groups to target families long before children even register for school. It is highly probable that home support for literacy markedly influences kindergarten language skills and in turn, fourth grade reading comprehension scores. In fact, exploratory investigative discussions between parents and children are central to higher-level literacy, while the social-emotional bond parents have with children can amplify learning. Parents remain uniquely able to tailor explanations that click perfectly with their child and also provide more extensive opportunities for rich discussion than a teacher attending to a class of 25 students." So talk to your child a lot!

Did you know that children going to public school need to start going to bed at 8 or 8:30 pm at least 3 weeks before the start of the school year? It takes children's bodies that long to adjust. Have a happy and safe summer!



