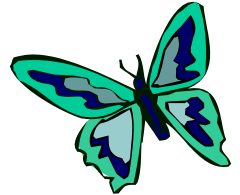


Accredited by NAEYC's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs

Greenbelt Children's Center
7600 Hanover Parkway
Greenbelt, MD 20770
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May 2010 Newsletter



**Congratulations to Greenbelt
Children's Center for 20 Years of
Early Childhood Excellence!**

Dear Parents,

There are many wonderful changes that this month brings: beautiful flowers, warm sunny days, soft spring rains, and a variety of insects, and wildlife that children can observe. During the next few weeks, the children will be busy with units on insects, spiders and larger animals. Be sure to have your child show you the gardens that the children are planting outside in the Center's play yard. The culmination of the April units on things that grow was to plant the gardens with many kinds of flowers and some vegetables. The children helped to dig and remove the grass, plant the treasures, and water them. They will be watching their gardens turn into magic! We especially acknowledge the teachers for sharing their gardening talents with all the children. By the end of the summer camp program, all the children will be quite wonderful horticulture experts!

FUNDRAISER NIGHT AT FRANKLIN'S RESTAURANT AND GENERAL STORE IN HYATTSVILLE ON TUESDAY, MAY 18TH ALL DAY!

Please support our playground fund and help us acknowledge our 20th Anniversary by coming out to Franklin's and having a meal or purchase items at the general store and then hand your receipt to the host or hostess and say "We are here for Greenbelt Children's Center's fundraiser" so that we can earn 20% of the profits from those sales. Ask your friends and families to stop in at Franklin's and do the same! Ask your co-workers to go there for lunch on that day and turn in their receipts to the host for Greenbelt Children's Center! Our staff will be there from 6 pm to 8 pm to hang out with families that come out for dinner! We are asking if we may have a table to set up with our

photo albums to browse through as well as a face painter for the children, if allowed! Please plan now to come out and support us! Send an email to your friends and family and ask if they will help! We sincerely hope to see you there! And you don't have to sell a pizza, sort a large number of objects or refrigerate anything! All you need to do is go out for a meal or visit the store!



Teacher Appreciation!

Parents, every year we count on you to show your kindness and generosity for the teachers and staff at GCC during **Teacher Appreciation Week!** The date for this is **Monday, May 3rd through Friday, May 7th**, with Tuesday being a national day set aside to recognize the special role that the teacher plays in the care and education of your child. **We would like to see parents contribute in any way possible, for the staff that day.** *You can also participate any time during the week* by sending flowers, breakfast, balloons, gift certificates, cash bonuses, thank you cards, thoughtful letters of appreciation, a certificate for a future lunch, plants, etc.!! *Let's help to make the teachers feel that we really appreciate all that they do for our children.* In fact, sprinkle kindnesses on them the whole week or month. It doesn't have to be on only one day! Thank you for all your efforts! Special thanks to Kristal Peters, (Kaylin Rm 2) for taking the lead on the surprise luncheon on Tuesday!

HAPPY WEEK OF THE WORKING PARENT May 17th to 21st!!

Maryland Committee for Children has merged with Friends of the Family and is now the Maryland Family Network. They have historically sponsored this event and we love celebrating it here! The purpose is to call attention to the tremendous contributions that parents make to the workforce in Maryland.

Parents, you are asked to wear a sticker on your clothes to work on Friday morning to let your employer and co-workers realize that you are a working parent and that you have a child who attends child care in order for you to go to work. Your child will decorate "I'm A Working Parent" stickers for parents/guardians and one for your child to wear on Friday, May 21st. GCC will have a **FREE continental breakfast for parents and children on Friday, May 21st, in the morning from 7-9 a.m. for all parents that arrive at the center wearing their child's decorated sticker!**



Thank you some more!

We would like to thank all the parents and children who came to the Family Learning Party last month. We also thank Myra Katz, PG County Librarian for the story time activities involving the math theme and for bringing in lots of books to display. It seemed that everyone really enjoyed the event, especially the cooking and counting activities with Fruit loops and M&M's! Our goal was to help parents discover ways to have math fun in their everyday lives together. The event was sparked by training by the National Children's Museum. Expect to see more Family Learning Parties in future. Thank you to Stephanie Key, Aaliyahmarie-Rm 2 for the classroom supplies and posters with quotes. Thank you to Leah Loreman, Peyton-Rm 2, for the tadpoles that are living in the tank in Room 2. What a great way to watch living things grow and change over time. Thank you to Zakia Dickerson, Kaitlyn-Rm 1, for the donation of copy paper. Thank you to room 1 children who donated the quarters that were collected for the letter Q to the food pantry. Special thanks to Ms. Mimi, Rm 2 Teacher, for taking the donated canned & dry food to the food pantry.



Also, parents, thank you for making the Week of the Young Child so special for the children. They had such a great week! Keep those love notes coming in your child's lunch!

SUMMER CAMP IS COMING!

All summer camp schedules and activity fees should be received in the office by May 3rd, 2010. Some weeks are close to being filled! All special events have been confirmed. We look forward to the **Family Night Potluck dinner that is scheduled for Thursday, July 8th, at 5 pm!** So, get out those favorite family recipes! The entertainment for that evening will be **BJ & Cody**, who will delight us with electric guitar playing, singing and audience participation! Join us for as much fun as you can this summer! We enjoy having parents here at GCC! Please remember to post the summer calendar on your refrigerator at home so you can keep up with all the special enrichment activities scheduled for your child!! Swimming lesson information from the Greenbriar pool management will be made available for all interested families as soon as we receive it and we highly recommend swimming lessons for all children three and up!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It is time **NOW** to check your child's extra clothes box to take out the big bulky sweaters, etc.

and replace your child's supplies with seasonally appropriate clothing, from socks on up!! **Remember to label all belongings with your child's name!** If your picture of your child or family needs to be re-taped to the extra clothes box, please ask a staff member to help.

Please remember our policy about packing **nutritious lunches**. Please support our policy of no candy or soda for lunch. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Remember to pack 2 servings of fruit and or vegetables in every lunch every day. Fruit roll-ups and fruit snacks are candy, not fruit, and has no nutritional value. Teaching young children about healthy eating is a valuable life skill. Healthy eating habits developed in early childhood can last a lifetime.

Book Club Event May 7th!

We have scheduled a very fun event for all children. We are looking for volunteers to come in and read to our children. We would like to have parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles! You can tell the teachers if you prefer to read to children individually, in small groups or the entire class. Volunteers will then help with a book distribution where children get to choose a book to keep and build up their home library. There is a sign up sheet in each classroom. Please join us!

Reminder- the Center will be **closed** on **Monday, May 31st, for Memorial Day** and on **Friday, June 19th, for Teacher In-Service and Summer Program Set-Up**. **The school year will end on Thursday, June 17th, and the Summer Program will start on Monday, June 21st.**

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS!!

- **ALL CHILDREN should WEAR TENNIS SHOES WHILE ON THE PLAYGROUND!** Sandals, jellies or dress shoes are simply not safe for outdoor play. You may keep an extra pair of playground shoes (sneakers) in your child's cubby. Boots and old clothes are great for working in the garden!
- **TICK SEASON HAS ARRIVED! Please check your child daily for ticks and consult your physician for information about tick bites and removal of ticks.**
- **NEVER LEAVE YOUR BABY IN YOUR CAR WHILE YOU RUN IN TO DROP OFF YOUR CHILD.** Danger!
- **ALWAYS use car seats, buckle up and place children in the back seat of your car.**



Family Surveys for NAEYC Accreditation Maintenance

Two family surveys will be sent home in May. One is a special survey only for the families in the Prince Georges County Public School program. It was developed by the evaluator of the grant and there are special envelopes to place each one in to return to the evaluator. There is also a second center wide evaluation from that will go home to all parents that is required by our accreditation body, the National Association for the

Education of Young Children. Both evaluations are very important to us when planning for our future goals and visions for Greenbelt Children’s Center. We report the results in the following month’s newsletter, each spring, so that you will get feedback, too. Please help us by answering and returning whichever evaluations come your way. We truly appreciate your cooperation with this very important annual event!

A Field Trip has been scheduled for May 5th Classrooms 1 & 3 (Pre-K & K). The children will be going to Wolftrap in Vienna, VA from 8:45 am to 1:15 pm. Please sign the permission slips to allow for your child to attend the trip. All Room 1 parent chaperones must show proof of their commercial background check before being allowed to chaperone. Be sure to get this done in advance, so that you may attend the trips. The phone number to call to arrange for this is 301-952-6772. There will be another field trip for these two classrooms on Friday, May 14th to the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore. The departure time is 9:15 am and the return time is 1 pm. Please join them!

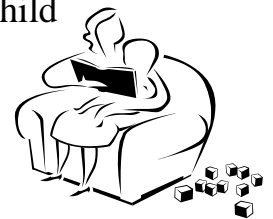


Take 15 For The Family...

Building a Lifetime of Learning is a statewide initiative launched by the Maryland State Department of Education. It encourages Maryland families to dedicate at least 15 minutes each day to doing everyday activities, like eating dinner together, and turn those moments into learning opportunities. Other examples of Take 15 for the Family activities may include visiting the library together, preparing a meal, listening to music, talking about homework, having a conversation about daily events or grocery shopping with your child. Specifically, turn off the TV for at least 15 minutes each day for some quality parent-child conversation!



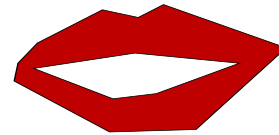
The goals of the program are to build awareness among parents that involvement in their children’s education is critical, and to provide resources that make this involvement easy and fun. The components of Take 15 for the Family include a newsletter with helpful tips and activity suggestions for teachers, parents, child care providers; contests for parents to share their ideas about how they are Taking 15 for the Family; and a family literacy web site that you should check out (www.marylandpublicschools.org)!



Take 15 for Your Family Every Day!



Did you know that the children at Greenbelt Children's Center had their artwork displayed in the lobby of the Maryland State Department of Education at the Nancy Grasmick building in Baltimore as well as the centerpieces that decorated the cafeteria tables at the Celebrate Children Early Childhood Conference last month!



Hugs and Kisses!



WE DEDICATE MAY 9th TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL, MOMMIES!!
(...Or to anyone that fulfills that role for a child!)
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!



WE DEDICATE JUNE 20th TO ALL OUR SPECIAL DADS!!!
(...Or to anyone that fulfills that role for a child!!)
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!
