

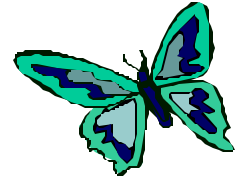
Greenbelt Children's Center
Accredited by NAEYC's National
Academy of Early Childhood Programs



7600 Hanover Parkway
(301) 345-8830
Greenbelt, MD 20770

www.greenbeltchildrenscenter

May Newsletter 2009



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 plants was to plant the gardens with many kinds of vegetables- tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, and green peppers, as well as many different kinds of flowers. Some, such as carrots, were started by seed germination and some by transplanting. 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. This summer, they will reap the rewards! By the end of the summer camp program, all the children will be quite wonderful horticulture experts!



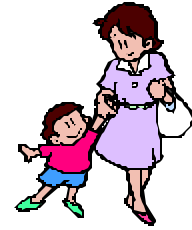
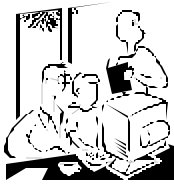
HAPPY WEEK OF THE WORKING PARENT May 18th to 22nd!!

Maryland Committee for Children usually sponsors 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 three "I'm A Working Parent" stickers for parents/guardians and one for your child to wear on Friday, May 22nd. GCC will have a **FREE continental breakfast for parents and children on Friday, May 22nd, in the morning from 7-9 a.m. for all parents that arrive at the center wearing their child's decorated sticker!**





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 4 through Friday, May 8th**, with Friday 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 Friday!

Thank you some more!



We would like to thank all the parents and children who came to the Family Learning Party & Pot Luck supper last month. We also thank Myra Katz, PG County Librarian for the story time activities and for bringing in lots of science books to display. It seemed that everyone really enjoyed the event and we hope that children learned and parents discovered ways to have science fun in their everyday lives together. The event was sparked by a training that the Director and 3 Teachers attended, by the National Children's Museum. Expect to see more Family Learning Parties in future. Thank you to Crystal Morris, (Marvin, Rm 1) for sending in chili for the staff and to Ondray & Tiffany James, (John, Rm 1) for sending in muffins and donuts for staff last Friday!

Special thanks to Ms. Mimi, Rm 2 Teacher, for orchestrating the project where each child made a spring door decoration that she delivered to the senior residents at Rexford Place on Greenbelt Road. This project is a way to teach the children about kindness and compassion for others and a way to contribute to our community.

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 1st, 2009. 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 Wednesday, June 24th, at 5 pm!** So, get out those favorite family recipes! The entertainment for that evening will be **BJ & Cody**, who will delight us with 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 is now available for all interested families 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 15th!

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, grand parents, aunties 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 25th, 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 18th, and the Summer Program will start on Monday, June 22nd.

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.**



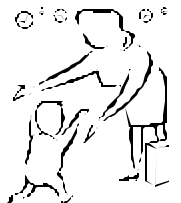
Family Surveys for NAEYC Accreditation Maintenance

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 8th Classrooms 1 & 3 (Pre-K & K). The children will be going to the College Park Aviation Museum from 9:30 am to 1 pm. The idea was to eat lunch outdoors at the picnic tables and watch planes take off and land. However, if the weather does not permit, they may seek an alternative. 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

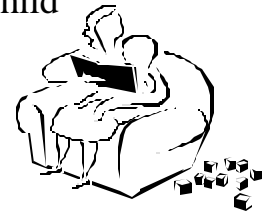
Take 15 For The Family...

Building a Lifetime of Learning is a statewide initiative launched by the Maryland State Department of Education. It encourages Maryland families to dedicate at

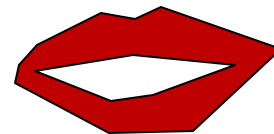


least 15 minutes each day to doing everyday activities, like eating dinner together, and turn those moments into learning opportunities. Other examples of Take 15 for the Family activities may include visiting the library together, preparing a meal, listening to music, talking about homework, having 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!

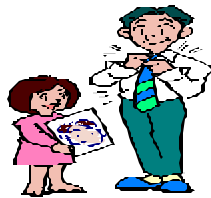


Hugs and Kisses!

WE DEDICATE MAY 10th TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL, MOMMIES!!

(...Or to anyone that fulfills that role for a child!)

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!



WE DEDICATE JUNE 21st TO ALL OUR SPECIAL DADS!!!

(...Or to anyone that fulfills that role for a child!!)

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!
