

October 14, 2011

Kitelet from Director

Dear Families,

We are well into our second month of the school year, and it is delightful to hear and see so many young children laughing, playing, and learning. For some the start of the year has been a time of newness, separation, and learning routines. For others it has been rekindling friendships, acquiring stronger readiness skills, and adapting to the change of classrooms or teachers. Whatever path your child is on, we welcome you to a new school year full of excitement, growth, and new experiences.

In case you haven't heard, our school-wide theme for this year is "**Tinogona!**" The *Shona* translation is: "It is Achievable." Shona is a language spoken in Zimbabwe, a country in the northern part of Africa. We encourage all children and staff to work toward their dreams and know that anything is achievable! Children will also be exposed to some African culture including music, literature, language, and social studies.

Teachers are currently in the process of making Fall phone calls to families. This is an opportunity for our families and staff to work together in partnership; creating goals, sharing joys and concerns, and discussing your child's adjustment in their new classroom. We hope that good communication right from the start will help to ensure a wonderful experience throughout the school year for everyone. Please feel free to request an in-person conference if you feel the need to have a more personal conversation.

Thank you to the many families who dropped off their decorated "dragon fly" cut outs in memory of Taylor Young, a little boy from our school who sadly passed away this summer. There are additional cut-outs available at the front desk for anyone interested. Also, we are still taking donations for the **Taylor B. Young Memorial Fund** and welcoming participants in the "lotsa helping hands" website to make meals, as we continue to support the Young family.

We welcomed back our Creative Movement Teacher, Patty Barr, this week for music and movement. Patty is like a "movie star" here at GCS, as she was easily recognized and missed by past children. They were waving with excitement to have their turn with her in their classroom. She started off the year with large and small hula hoops, stretchy circles, and scarves. Patty creates movement opportunities that are fun, energetic, and work toward strengthening children's muscles and minds.

In addition to Patty Barr, we also welcomed back our Occupational Therapy Consultant, Sue Lizotte. While your children don't see Sue quite as much as Patty, she is in classrooms a couple times a month, monitoring curriculum, taking notice of children who may need observation, counseling the staff, and offering lunch-time staff trainings during each of her visits. Sue has been with the school for 10+ years and facilitates a level of education that most early childhood classrooms are not able to experience. We are extremely fortunate to have this level of expertise here at GCS.

I hope some of you had the chance to join us at our Annual General Meeting earlier this month. It was a great opportunity to meet the GCS Board of Directors and hear about the school finances, future plans, and goals for the year. The Board is a wonderful group of multi-talented, hard-working individuals who help to govern the school, celebrate the staff, plan exciting events for the year, and follow visions for the future. Please consider joining the Board, as there are a couple of positions available. There is no previous experience necessary, but rather a desire to become involved in your child's early education. Feel free to give me a buzz or stop by if you think you might be interested.

We are also gearing up for an exciting GCS fundraising event. Groton Community School will host the 7th annual Community Home Tour on Saturday, November 19th (snow date 11/20), from 10 am until 4 pm. Doors open at the school for vendor shopping and coffee/refreshments at 9 am. Tickets for this popular event will go on sale on October 17th. The cost for the tour is \$25 or \$35, with box lunch (including wrap from Blackbird Cafe in Groton). A ticket form will be available online at www.grotoncommunityschool.org, or at Groton Community School, Blackbird Cafe, Lavender Florist, Rose of Sharon in Dunstable, and Kimball Farm in Westford. Mark your calendar for November 19th ! Come enjoy a day of beautiful homes in the Groton area, and get a jump start on holiday shopping with local artisans and vendors!

As I close for now, please consider donating even an hour of your time on Saturday, October 22nd for our Fall Fix-Up. Our Building & Grounds Co-Chairs, Natina Perrotti and Becky Mandell, will be looking for helping hands anytime between the hours of 8 am – 12 noon. There are many small projects that we are hoping to accomplish; such as some simple painting projects, grounds work, and general clean-up. We could definitely use some helping hands, as even just an hour would be extremely helpful. See the Fix-up sign-up sheet in the lobby!

Congratulations to the Cathrow Family on the birth of Alison (brother, Harry, is in the TTh Yellow Room), the Haigh Family on the birth of Odin (sister, Feyana, is in the MWF Blue Room), and to the MacMillan Family on the birth of twin boys, Liam & Seth (sister, Chloe, was in Pre-K last year).

Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the following families for the many generous contributions to GCS during the past couple of months: The Crampton family for Stampin' Up stamps & yarn; the Cruz family for a water toy; the Delandy family for clothing & shoes; the McEleney family for camp T-shirts, toddler dress-up clothes, garden veggies, & snacks for the staff meeting; the McGuire family for a children's book; the Ouellette family for recyclables; the Porter family for toys; the Treadway family for shoes; the Wiggins family for children's chairs; the Worley family for small appliances; the Govang, Horvath, Kearnan, Kritzer & Ronchetti families for staff treats; and to last year's Yellow Room families who provided lunch for Camp Staff during a difficult time. We are so appreciative of your donations!

We'd also like to thank those individuals who donated snacks for our Family Orientation Day: Kristin Ashburn, Maureen Bascom, Nicole Bedard, Janine Bloom, Rosanna Casavecchia, Erika Delandy, Lindsey Duffy, Donna Fosberry, Jen Kane, Pam Keith, Nicole Ouellette, Kelly Rowe, and Jessica Williams.

And thank you to Erika Delandy (daughters, Haley & Molly are in the Pink Room) for decorating our front door and entrance. It looks great!

Please know that my door is always open, as is my phone and email. Never hesitate to call, drop by, or forward me a message.

Here's to an exciting year together,

Linda

Dates to Remember:

Monday, October 17 th	Peace Pole Re-Dedication (postponed from 10/14)
Monday, October 17 th	Home Tour Tickets Available for Purchase
Thursday, October 20 th	Staff Curriculum Day – No School
Monday, October 31 st	
& Tuesday, November 1st	School-Wide Pajama Day – <i>More Details to Follow</i>
Friday, November 11 th	Veteran's Day – No School
Saturday, November 19 th	7 th Annual Groton Community Home Tour