

April 7, 2010

Linda

Kitelet From Director

Dear Families,

Well, April Fool's Day held true to its words by bringing us some much unanticipated snow. Just when we thought we were out of the woods, we were reminded that we live in New England. Never-the-less, spring is here, our playground has just received its annual safety inspection, and we were finally able to open up our swings and climbing structures for children to enjoy – Yahoo! Thank you to Jen Kane for decorating our front door for spring. Despite the sleet that greeted us on Monday during outside play, we did notice that the grass is just beginning to turn green, daffodils are blooming outside the classroom doors, and we are planning for our annual GCS Spring Spruce-Up Day on Saturday, April 30th. We appreciate all the help we can have, so please consider donating an hour or so of your time. A sign-up sheet will be on display soon.

It seems impossible that the school year is on its final leg. Your children have grown so much. Their bodies are stronger and motor skills more refined, their play skills have reached a higher level, and their friendships have broadened. They have learned through trial and error how to negotiate, problem solve, and think critically. All of these will continue to develop throughout these early years that your child spends at GCS. Childhood is about practicing, having fun, and practicing some more. Celebrate your child's successes and newly acquired skills as you both enjoy the final months of this school year.

You may have noticed that we are working hard to cut down on the amount of paper and notices that are coming home by using our Constant Contact email account instead. While we will still be sending home some coveted items via the "paper mode," this will be our main mode of communication going forward. I hope you find this method of communication helpful and convenient. Please let us know.

Please take notice of the beautiful quilt hanging over our Family Bulletin Board in the front entrance way. This was designed over many months by the Aqua Room children and hand stitched by local master quilter, Milly Cunningham. After months of practicing and singing the song, "God Bless America", they then put their drawings into a class book which is also displayed in the front lobby. From there, the children collaboratively designed a large sketch depicting their interpretation of this song. This picture then became the foundation for the quilt. Milly often visited the class as the quilt progressed, allowing each child to select fabrics and be part of making this masterpiece. The quilt will be on display at GCS until Friday afternoon and then at the Groton Post Office the following week. Some Aqua Room children will deliver the quilt to its final home at the Fisher Foundation's local Massachusetts Fisher House in West Roxbury during vacation week. Milly has become an integral part of the children in the Aqua Room throughout the year; sharing their lives and experiences together each time she visits. The children have developed as much of a love for Milly as she has for them, showing that intergenerational experiences are a gift to both young and old.

Next week we will celebrate children, teachers, and you as parents, during the Week of the Young Child. We will celebrate with peace picnics, staff luncheons, music, and special surprises. Please join us on Wednesday, April 13th for a magical show with Scott Jameson at 11:00 am or 1:15 pm. All children and families are invited regardless, even if it is not your child's typical school day. The event is possible with donations from a "Groton Community School Friend," and our fundraising efforts.

Registration for Camp Kaleidoscope "*On Safari*" is in full swing. We will be giving priority to in-house families for one more week before it is opened up to the rest of the community on Friday, April 15th. Spaces are currently available in all four sessions, but we anticipate it will fill up quickly as it does each year. Please see Bonnie at the front desk if you need more information about Camp Kaleidoscope.

We'd like to take a moment to thank Zach Nuccio (Inga's son) for the donation of a DVD player, the Francis family for dress-up clothes, and the Halliday family for finger painting paper. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, April 13th

Week of April 18th

Saturday, April 30th

Scott Jameson Magic Show – 11 AM & 1:15 PM

Spring Vacation Week – **No School**

GCS Spring Spruce-Up – 8 AM to 12 Noon