

Kitelet from Director

December 15, 2011

Dear Families,

All of our classrooms are full of Magic and Merriment as children are baking, creating special gifts, celebrating families and traditions, and anticipating the many surprises that may be lurking around the corner. While this is a very exciting time of year for many families, it can also be a little hectic as well. Take a deep breath, offer children extra hugs, keep routines whenever possible, and try to include them in as many of the traditions and customs of your household.

As we count down the time until the holidays, we have two fun events to share with everyone on Monday December 19th:

- **Children's author, Ellen Olson-Brown, will be available in the Big Room on from 9-10:30 to share her wonderful books with you.** You may have heard about Ellen's recent visit to GCS from your child (MWF). Ellen generously spent a day reading her special books to all of the classrooms and also offered gifts of "Magic" pencils and writing books to each child. Whether you already have some of her books, or wish to purchase them for the first time, Ellen will be on hand for an "author signing." We will also have light refreshments to share, children's activities and Lucinda Pins available for purchase. Children, siblings, and friends are all welcome.
- **Talk about a fun-filled day... later on this same day, the Kindergarten Children will help lead the school in a school-wide, Holiday Sing-a-Long.** Please join us for some music, movement, and celebration at 11:15 AM and 1:15 PM.

Our recent Curriculum Day this month was full of learning and sharing. In November, four staff members (Debbie Penney, Sarah Helfgott, Kira Lafosse-Baker, and I) traveled to Orlando for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Conference. We joined 15,000 other Early Childhood professionals for several days of inspiring training. Many of those ideas were shared with fellow staff members during our staff training day. Thank you to our families for their support during these professional days, and to the school's fundraising efforts to help fund this endeavor. To top off the day, staff were treated to a special catered luncheon from Jacob Quinn and his family (Jessica, Alan, and Gabriel). We are so appreciative to them for this kind gift.

A reminder that our last day for contributions to the Taylor Young Memorial fund is Monday, December 19th. Thank you to all of those families and staff members that have donated to the fund, provided meals, and supported the Young Family.

Enjoy this festive season and the holiday break (12/26-1/2). We are looking forward to starting the New Year in classes on Tuesday, January 3rd.

Congratulations to the Casavecchia Family on the birth of twins, Lex & Emery. Sisters, London & Sloane, are in the Kindergarten & Full Day classes respectively.

Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You * Thank You

We want to extend *special* thanks to two of our GCS families this month: First, to the Cathrow family for their very generous monetary contribution to fund a new photo printer and supplies for GCS; and to Chris Curtis of Brookview Irrigation who generously volunteered his time to winterize our irrigation system free of charge.

We'd also like to thank those volunteers who helped during the annual GCS Fall Fix-Up: Gale Devens, Emily Daigle, Patricia & Hallie Hannon, Gregg Kearnan, Pam Keith, Kevin Kennedy, Noreen Keras, Natina Perrotti, Beverly Scott, Lisa Stafford, Becky Tully-Mandell, and Tracey Williams. All of your efforts helped to make our grounds look beautiful.

GCS is also appreciative of the continued support via donations from families each month. Thank you to the Cathrow & Delandy families for clothing; the Denaro family for 2 wooden rocking chairs; the Kane family for plastic bags; the Kritzer family for gear toys; the McAdam family for a sign language resource book; the Paul family for an allergy cookbook; the Porter family for staff snacks; and Nan Quintin for recycled paper.

Dates to Remember

Monday, December 19th

Author Book Signing: 9 – 10:30 AM

School-wide Sing-a-Long: 11:15 AM & 1:15 PM

December 26th – January 2nd

No School – Holiday Recess

