



March 17, 2011

Linda

Director Kitelet

Dear Families,

With the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day, we are reminded that spring is right around the corner. Hooray, for it has been a long, cold and snowy winter. While it is always great fun to look out the classroom windows and see children delight in sledding down the playground hill, I will warmly welcome the sights of sunshine and children riding trikes. Can you believe that we are already planning for summer camp? Camp Kaleidoscope information will be sent home later this week. Terri (Summer Camp Director) is already beginning to choose the camp t-shirt color and getting the giant, inflatable slide ready. A special thank you to Ellen Knapp, a Pre-K Room Parent, for her creative time and talent in decorating our front door for all to enjoy during this season.

We have an exciting project going on behind the scenes here at GCS. Art is such an important process for young children and it is something that we foster and highlight at GCS each and every day. Over the past several weeks, children worked incredibly hard to create special art masterpieces that can be used to embellish heartwarming gifts for moms, dads, or other loved ones. Be on the lookout for a sample of child's work along with a variety of items that it can be printed onto and ordered. If you would like to get a jumpstart on viewing, visit www.square1art.com.

I am sure you have taken notice of the pretend kitchen that has been placed in the school's front entrance. Children have been creatively cooking up delicious meals to share with arriving friends and families. We are nearing the end of our stove campaign and are truly appreciative of each and every generous gift. Any last minute donations can be left at the front desk. Our goal was to raise \$5,000.00 which would allow us to furnish each classroom with a new stove. Our school budget does not have enough cushion to purchase such large ticket items and the dream of more efficient stoves has been on the wish list of teachers for quite some time. We are almost there! Our total thus far is \$4,200.00 which will allow us to equip 5 of the 6 classrooms. Please help your child's class so we can reach our goal, and join me in thanking Krista Kubick for her creative and artistic talents in setting up the display.

It was great to see so many GCS teachers and some families at our community lecture earlier this month on "Freeing Children From Fear " (or a more familiar term would be bullying). Have you taught your child the difference between *tattling* and *telling*? While some folks think that this topic is irrelevant to young children, we learned quite the contrary. Children practice and are guided in the area of social problem solving almost every day in their young lives. However, bullying goes beyond that. Believe it or not, bullying behaviors can start at the young age of TWO years old. The single most vital step that parents and caretakers of young children can take to help break the cycle is to work toward building and raising children's self esteem. This a process that can be fostered by providing them with meaningful responsibilities while also offering encouragement so as to instill a strong belief in themselves. Encouragement should be offered FOUR times more often than praise. A final thought that was highlighted from the latest research on intervention has to do with *by-standers*. It is up to all of us as parents and teachers to educate, role play, and guide our children in how and what to say in situations to "stop the pain" of bullying. Please utilize www.stopbullyingnow for more information and free materials. Special thanks to the GCS Board and fundraising for supporting this event, Wilson

Brothers HVAC and Mike Penney for lending and delivering chairs, and the following for baking and contributing to refreshments: The Knapp family, the Wandtke family, the Brooks family, the Bergin family, the Griffith family, the Keith family, the D'Amico family, the Schocklin family, the Palmer family, the Ouellette-Kearnan family, the Devereaux family, the LaGrutta family, the Blandford family, the Kneeland family, and the Pratt family.

And speaking of websites, we are happy to announce that our new Groton Community School website is up and running! We have been working and revising our site to make it more current and user friendly. We envision it to be a link to the community as well as a helpful resource for current families. Take a few moments to browse and smile at some familiar GCS faces. A special thank you to past parent and GCS friend, Cheryl Steinhoff, for donating her time and talent as a photographer. Cheryl took many of the wonderful website photos. Her work is showcased on her website: www.cherylsteinhoffphotography.com.

Congratulations to:

The Joyce Family on the birth of Paul. Sister Nora is in the MWF Yellow Room.

The Tully family on the birth of Morgan. Brother Jack is an alumnus from last year.

In closing, thank you to families who have asked about Bonnie. She has been on a short, non-emergency, medical leave. We are happy to say that she will be returning at the end of the month. Special thanks to our bookkeeper Lorrie Morgan who has been filling Bonnie's shoes so admirably!!

Happy Spring

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

We'd like to take a moment to thank the following families for their generous contributions to GCS: The Ciarfella family, the Rakiey family, the Kubick family, the Spada family, the Francis family, the Mead family, the Hale family, the Bedard family, the Kelly family, the Herzog family and the Govang family for providing snacks for Open House; the Perrotti family for staff room coffee; the Davis family for curriculum materials; the Ouellette family for books; the Kritzer family for staff snacks; the Kubick family for staff snacks, bread and treats; the Treadway family for new clothing for the lending cupboard; the Porter family for toys; the Kelly family for staff cookies; Diane Landry, Natina Perrotti, Becky Tully-Mandel, Chris Ormsby and Jen Kane for painting during winter break.

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, March 31 (8:00 til Noon)	Board Recruitment Social
Mon.-Fri., April 11-15	Week of the Young Child
Mon.-Fri., April 18-22	Spring Recess – No School
Saturday, April 30	Spring Spruce Up
Friday, June 3	GCS Family Picnic