

*Linda*

**Kitelet from Director**

Dear Families,

May 12, 2011

Hooray for the arrival of May! This month always brings about the opportunity for children to spend extended hours outside enjoying our exciting playground. How wonderful it has been for them to be able to run, swing, bike, and engage in cooperative games once again. The dinosaurs have reappeared in their den, we are readying seedlings to get our vegetable gardens going, and the picnic tables are ready for snack time. We are extremely grateful to the many helping board, staff, and family members who showed up earlier this month on a Saturday morning to spruce up the school grounds. The sandbox, gardens, and playhouses received some much-needed attention. Many thanks to Natina Perrotti and Diane Landry for heading up this event.

Our **Forward Motion** event last week was also extremely successful, and we hope those of you who were able to attend found it exciting! The entire staff and many board members pulled together to offer an enjoyable and informational evening for you. I know that the children certainly enjoyed spending time in classrooms with the GCS staff to entertain and watch over them – in pajamas! Congratulations to the Tully-Mandell Family from the Aqua Room for holding the winning ticket for the wagon raffle. Stay tuned as we continue our pursuit of this **Forward Motion** project and keep you up-to-date with the progress.

Please take a moment to stop by our “Helping Hands” bulletin board as you walk through the school lobby. There are many heartwarming events that would be wonderful opportunities in which to take part with your children. All of these events help to support our school values of instilling caring, sharing, and empathy in young children.

We said good bye this week to both Patty Barr and Sue Lizotte for this school year. Both of these fine ladies spent the year in classrooms helping children to gain strength, agility, and control of their physical development. GCS is fortunate to have both of them as part of our staff.

As we frolic together in “spirit” to celebrate our school spirit days, I have a few reminders to share:

- Family surveys are due by Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and feedback with us. Once results are compiled, we will share them with all of you. Thus far, your kind words and thoughts have been humbling. We value your input and can only do our very best when we hear from you. There are extra surveys in the front entrance way if you would still like to participate. Don't forget to complete a chance slip to win a free class photo!
- On Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the afternoon, we will hold a special school-wide Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at our Memory Garden. The Kindergarten will help to lead

this afternoon with the help from special guest, General Bruce Zukauskas. All families and siblings are welcome to attend.

- The annual GCS Family Picnic will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will take place at the gazebo behind the Groton Public Library beginning at 5:30 PM. Stop by to enjoy some great entertainment and a relaxing start to summer. This year's musical entertainment will be provided by **Mr. Vic!** Hope to see you there.
- While somewhat limited, Camp Kaleidoscope does have a few openings available, as does school in the fall. Please inquire at the front desk if you or someone you know may be interested. If you are not returning to GCS this fall, but do have another child coming in later years, please fill out a Pre-enrollment Form at the front desk to ensure past family priority.

Babies, babies & more babies... Congratulations to the following families on their new arrivals: The Graves family (Mallory is in the TTh Pink Room) welcomes son, William; the Kavanagh family (Nathan is in the TTh Yellow Room) welcomes daughter, McKenna; the Mead family (Cam is in the Pre-K class) welcomes son, Owen; and the Schocklin family (Evan is in the MWF Blue Room) welcomes daughter, Emily.

We'd like to thank the following volunteers who helped to "spruce up" the GCS grounds: Chris Doherty, Gregg Kearnan, Debbie Kennedy, Pam Keith, Seth Kuzdzal, Inga & Paul Nuccio, Lisa Stafford, and Jolene Zukauskas. Thanks, again, to Diane Landry & Natina Perrotti for organizing this event.

Special thanks go out to Paul and Chris Nuccio (husband and son of teacher, Inga) for helping to set-up outdated computer systems in some of our classrooms. The equipment was donated by BAE Systems through their FOCUS (Fixing Old Computers for the Use of Students) program out of Nashua, NH. And thank you to the Tully-Mandell & Perrotti families for new computer monitors, too.

Also, thank you to Sheila Devereux and Joy LaGrutta (representing room parents) for decorating the front door of our school this month; and to the following families for their various donations to the school: The Ali family for liquid soap, Barbara Crampton for cream of tartar, the Delandy family for staff snacks, the Galvin family for puzzles, the Hale family for books, the Kane family for plastic bags, the Kennedy family for decorative bird houses, the Kritzer & Ouellette families for spare clothing, the Palmer family for toy trucks, Betsy Reeves for construction paper, and the Wandtke family for toys, books & household items.

### **Dates to Remember:**

Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony – 1:30 PM

**NO SCHOOL** – Memorial Day

GCS Family Picnic – 5:30 PM