



Kitelet – News from the Director

December 2016

Dates to Remember

Friday, December 23rd

School Wide Holiday

Sing-Along: 11:15 & 1:15

Dec. 26th thru Jan. 2nd

Holiday Break

NO SCHOOL

Monday, January 9th

Room Parent Meeting 6:30

Board Meeting 7:30

Monday, January 16th

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

NO SCHOOL

Friday, January 27th

*Parent/Teacher
Conference*

Day - NO SCHOOL

[View full school Calendar](#)

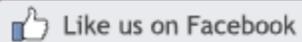


Dear GCS Families,

Happy December fun... and oh what joy we are having here at GCS! Where there are children, there is excitement... and that is exactly what the sentiment is here. There are top secret gifts being created and wrapped, music and singing coming from classrooms, and the sight of festive clothing and "head gear" all bring about laughter and smiles to our faces. There is just not a better place to enjoy and embrace the festivities around this time of year. Whether you celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah, or have other special customs to celebrate as a family, we hope you are able to embrace the many tiny moments of joy with your children. And if you can squeeze it in, families are invited to join us for a school wide Holiday Sing-Along this Friday at 11:15 AM and 1:15 PM.

While December might seem "magical" for children, it can also be a burden of stress, hectic schedules, loss of sleep, extra company, and over-loaded stimulation at times. Attached please find some guidelines (Holiday Tool Kit) that our Occupational Therapy Consultant, Sue Lizotte, shared with staff during a recent training. Take a few moments to read, as the tips might help you through the crunch time. Remember that children react to adult stress and to their environment, too. Awareness, the understanding of their needs, and helping them to cope during hectic times can prevent everyone from having difficult moments.

[Holiday Tool Kit](#)



Quick Links

[Get Involved](#)

[Helpful Resources](#)

[GCS Philosophy](#)



Curriculum Day Activities

The staff had such a fabulous Curriculum Day earlier this month. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of learning and training together so that we can be at our best for the children we care for at GCS. Several staff members shared strategies from recent workshops they had attended, we had a visit from the school's Health Care Consultant, enjoyed an hour of relaxation and yoga training, and were wowed by a training from a favorite expert in the field of Early Education, Jeanine Fitzgerald. It was a fun-filled day, and not a minute was wasted.

Home Tour Finale

Our Home Tour "final, final" numbers have been officially calculated. Last month, we reported that the school had raised over \$20K in fundraising dollars through the fabulous Home Tour. Well, the final numbers are in and the home tour committee even exceeded that with a grand total of \$24,026.00. A tremendous thank you again to our board, staff, and the many school volunteers for their time and effort in making this such a successful community and school endeavor. It was such an exciting and memorable day and was only topped off by the incredible amount of fundraising dollars earned to help balance our non-profit budget. A reminder that fundraising is essential to our budget, as tuition alone does not cover the cost of each child's space. We strive to keep tuition costs down and to maintain the high quality of standards to which GCS aspires; including exceptional teacher-to-child ratios, longevity and education in our staff, excellence in curriculum, and the ability to maintain outstanding consultants.

Welcome to the Board!

Please join me in welcoming Shannon Baxevanis (daughter, Eleni, is in the Blue Room) and Dan Quinn (son, Jayden, is in the Aqua Room), as Secretary and Member-At-Large respectively on our Board of Directors. I know they will be fabulous additions to our group. We always have room for more if you are interested in joining a fun and talented group of hard-working volunteers. You are welcome to come as a guest to any board meeting or feel free to stop by and we can chat.

'Tis the Season

While the cold and snowy weather seems to be here to stay for a while, I urge you to please take caution in our parking lot. Most importantly, take care in climbing the snow banks in the parking lot to access the school. It is far safer to walk around, as the snowbanks become icy as snow is packed down and freezes. We purposely do not shovel access paths because the exposed timbers become icy and little children cannot be seen when walking between the piles. While we realize that it is more cumbersome, please take the extra time to walk around for safety from slipping and traffic.

Last Call...

And finally, we still have a few "Portrait of Me" calendars left at the front desk if anyone is interested. It is a wonderful keepsake, illustrating developmental growth in your children.

Thank You!

Thank you to all of the families who have been blessing staff with delicious treats over the past couple of weeks. Holiday cheer is always enjoyed and very much appreciated!

Hoping you all have a very Happy Holiday season, spending quality time with your children. See you next year!



Linda Kosinski

Director, Groton Community School