



# Soaring

September 2014

## SAVE THESE DATES!

### Back-to-School Breakfast

Wednesday October 22, 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM

Time for adults to come to school! Enjoy breakfast in the Big Room, meet some of our staff and Trustees, and see us in action on a brief guided tour. RSVP by October 10th by email to [reg2@grotoncommunityschool.org](mailto:reg2@grotoncommunityschool.org) or by phone at (978) 448-6179.

### Annual Home Tour

Saturday, November 22, 9 AM – 4 PM  
(Inclement weather date November 23)

Our Home Tour showcases unique homes, both historic and newer, with striking décor and distinctive details. View the beautiful interiors of these homes, and do some holiday shopping from vendors and local artisans with handiwork on display in each home. For more information and to purchase tickets visit <http://www.grotoncommunityschool.org/home-tour>.



## Happy fall!

As I write this introduction, Groton Community School is enjoying the beginning of the school year, with new little faces filled with excitement and eager to learn.

Not only do I get the pleasure of welcoming children and families to GCS this fall, I also get the great pleasure of welcoming you – our friends – to our revamped newsletter, *Soaring*. As you know, soaring means much more than just flying; soaring means to rise up and reach great heights – and that is exactly what supporters like you help our children to do! We hope that this expanded newsletter will help you to truly see inside GCS. From this year's STEM-centered school-year theme, to new enrichment activities, *Soaring* will cover it all!

One way that GCS especially soars is in being a nationally accredited children's center. We are very proud of achieving Re-Accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children this spring. See below for more about our prestigious stamp of high quality from NAEYC!

Finally, I'd like to invite you to come explore GCS in person! Although we are excited to give you a glimpse here



in *Soaring*, we know that is no match for seeing firsthand what your support has accomplished. Please join us at a special Back-to-School Breakfast on Wednesday October 22nd at 8:15 AM. You will enjoy breakfast while learning more about Groton Community School. RSVP by emailing us at [reg2@grotoncommunityschool.org](mailto:reg2@grotoncommunityschool.org) or by calling us at (978) 448-6179.

Here's to a wonderfully enriching 2014-2015 school year!

Linda Kosinski  
Director



# 145

children are enrolled at Groton Community School



# 3,200 books

are in the school's library

# 12

classes



# 18

teachers

# 1930's

GCS has been in existence since the early 1930's

## GCS Introduces New ICE Grant Program

“What would you do if you had the money?” This age old question is one that GCS staff will get to answer this fall as we launch our new Innovation, Creation, & Exploration (ICE) Grant Program. We know that the greatest asset GCS has is our amazing teachers, and this year we are giving them the chance to make their STEM-related dreams come true by applying for grants of up to \$1,200 to explore, create and deliver cutting edge programming to our classrooms. “Groton Community School’s motto - Helping Children Soar - is much more than a tagline,” explained Linda Kosinski, GCS Director. “By giving our teachers access to these funds, we will enable them to help our children truly reach great heights.”

Proposed projects for the 2014-2015 year should support this year’s STEM theme, and may be used for professional development, parent lectures, student enrichment activities, and school-wide assemblies.

*“By giving our teachers access to these funds, we will enable them to help our children truly reach great heights.”*

Grant applications will be reviewed and awarded by the Board of Trustees. The ICE grant program is made possible by generous contributions to the GCS Annual Fund.

## National Accreditation at GCS

Groton Community School was awarded Re-Accreditation in the spring of 2014 from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals – continuing its long history of accreditation since 1993. “We’re proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC once again, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Linda Kosinski, Director. “NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our high-quality program have teachers who create engaging classrooms, enhance relationships with their families, and develop rich experiences for their children.” Nearly 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC (approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs).

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, Groton Community School went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Re-Accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years. NAEYC standards reflect the latest research and best practices in Early Childhood Education and Development. NAEYC is committed to using the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.



“It’s a lengthy and rigorous process to achieve NAEYC Accreditation, and Groton Community School should be commended for seeking high standards,” said Rhian Evans Allvin, Executive Director of NAEYC. “Caring for children is not ‘rocket science’ – it’s brain science. Studies prove that the brain connections made in the first few years of life set a child’s path for success in school and in life. That’s why quality educators are so crucial. For parents and caregivers of young children who are searching for a high-quality early learning experience, Groton Community School’s NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that it offers a high-quality education in a nurturing and stimulating environment.”

# Why I Give

Peter Myette

President Emeritus of GCS



For more than thirty years, Peter Myette, owner of PC Myette, Inc. and Myette Power Equipment, has been part of the Groton Community school family. During his tenure, he has been everything from the parent of two GCS children, to the President of our Board of Directors, to a member of the Board of Trustees, to a generous donor to our Annual Fund.

Peter knows us inside and out and believes in the value of GCS. "Groton Community School benefits not just the children who attend the school, but the entire community. Our future leaders are being educated in these classrooms. GCS gives young children the educational foundation and love of learning that will help them excel in our challenging world."

When asked about his support of GCS, Peter will tell you that he wants to help GCS make a difference in the lives of future generations of children, just the way it did for his own two kids.

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*Want to join Peter by becoming a sustaining supporter of GCS? Consider donating to our annual fund! Contact us by calling (978) 448-6179 to learn more about our annual fund.*



## Calling All Budding Inventors, Scientists and Engineers!

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Has Been Selected as Our 2014-15 Theme

"Do you want to build a snowman?" may have been the question that Disney's "Frozen" had every preschool child asking last year, but GCS's 2014-2015 school-year theme of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics will help ensure that all our children CAN build a snowman, snowwoman – or whatever else they want to build!

The move to incorporate these ways of thinking and these skills into Early Childhood Education has been a growing trend for the past several years, and GCS is excited to give our children the type of hands-on learning that they love in these important areas. "Research shows that the US is graduating fewer engineers and scientists than we need," explained Linda Kosinski, Director. "Cutting-edge research in Early Childhood Education shows that early exposure to problem solving activities – starting in preschool – can help to capture children's interests and set them up for the critical thinking required in these fields,

as well as sparking curiosity and a life-long love of learning.

In order to engage young children – many of whom can't even read – in these topics, our lessons will start with activities that allow them to observe, explore and comment on what they see. From using water tables to figure out what might float, to using blocks to build tall towers, GCS children will have the opportunity to learn what works – and what doesn't – to change the world around them.

With the introduction of our new ICE grants, we look forward to offering some unique opportunities to enhance such theme learning for the entire GCS community. This is a great way for you to support our school and ensure that future generations are prepared to SOAR. Look for more information on our Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) activities in each issue of *Soaring* this year!



# Shining Stars helped Groton Community School to Soar in 2013-2014

Thanks to our amazing community, the GCS annual fund raised a record amount in our 2014 fiscal year. Overall, the campaign grew by 34%, raising just over \$30,000 from 90 donors. We sincerely thank these shining stars for their generous support of Groton Community School!

## \$5,000 and up

Deborah and Scott MacDonald \*  
Nancy and Steve Webber \*

## \$2,500 - \$4,999

David Moulton \*

## \$1,000 - \$2,499

Kathleen and Randall Barron \*  
Christine and Herbert Cline \*  
Lisa and John Conner \*  
Kate and Jim Joyce \*  
Elizabeth and Albert Stone \*

## \$500 - \$999

Alisa and Daniel Barton \*  
Michelle and Bradley Cain  
Betsy and Scott Kehoe \*  
Loreta McKeown and Charles Lippman \*  
Jennifer and Steven Stone \*  
Pamela and David Stone \*  
Nancy and David Wilder \*

## \$250 - \$499

Christine and Mark Emma \*  
Fidelity Bank  
Krystyna Kostka and Tomasz Gornisiewicz  
Margaret and Rev. Harold Lloyd \*  
Chuck McKinney \*  
Lorrie and Jon Morgan \*  
Andrea and Peter Myette \*  
PC Myette  
Natina and Bryan Perrotti \*  
Susan and Kelly Roberts

Cindy and Bard Salmon  
Susan Randazzo and Stuart Schulman \*

## up to \$249

Mini Singh and Matt Arner \*  
Jessica and Daniel Barie  
Nicole and Tim Bedard  
Sarah and James Belcher \*  
Linda and James Belcher  
Dawn and Levent Bozkurt \*  
Barbara and Robert Carr  
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Kathy and Ralph Giles \*  
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Kristen and Alfred von Campe \*  
Becky and Michael Werner  
Jessica and Luke Williams \*  
Hanna and Doug Woodbury \*  
Claire and Paul Zukauskas

*\*Repeat donor*

*Helping Children Soar*