



## Kitelet – News from the Director

April 2016

### Dates to Remember

Saturday & Sunday

April 30th & May 1st

*Spring Spruce-Up, 9 - 2*

Thurs/Fri., May 5th & 6th

*Class Photos*

Saturday, May 7th

*Sandbox Enhancement*

*9 - 12 Noon*

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### Dear GCS Families,

Oh how excited we are to welcome this beautiful sunshine and warm weather. Our playground swings are full of young children pumping and laughing, bikes are being pedaled all around the trike track, and flowers and plants are beginning to emerge in our gardens. Soon our planters will be full of tiny vegetable and flower plants. In the mean time, class seedlings have found a warm home in our newly completed greenhouse. We are all so excited that this long-awaited project is finally complete and the doors are open and welcoming classes for learning and discovering. We are most grateful to Teacher Shelley Grove and Dave Greenwood for their leadership and time, along with several other helping hands that made this possible: Jim Belcher, Scott Christerson & friend Dicky Cantillon, Jenn Greenwood, Scott Kingsley, Dave MacInnis, Pat McAdams, Eric Pauly, Trevor Phipps, and Paul & Hannah Pugh.

### Spring Spruce-Up

Despite the arrival of spring, the harshness of winter has left behind its mark, and there are many projects on our playground that need attention. The Building and Grounds Co-Chairs are organizing a Spring Spruce-Up this weekend (9-2 Saturday and Sunday) if you are able to spare an hour or two. No talent is required, but just a willingness and desire to volunteer some of your time with other great families. Please drop by or see our sign-up in the lobby. Drinks and snacks will also be available.

## Helpful Resources

### GCS Philosophy



## **WYOC**

Our Week of the Young Child was fabulous with an exciting musical performance by Philip Alexander, special classroom activities and art projects up and down the hallway, school-wide Peace Picnics, and many "Acts of Kindness" by the MWF Yellow Room children. I hope you have seen the Aqua Room art display in the Groton Post Office or some of the colorful buckets of pansies that children made and were delivered around the community to area businesses. A special thank you to our GCS Room Parents for providing two very special luncheons for the staff. It is always a treat for the staff to sit down and enjoy a few moments together. We are grateful for all of your wonderful literacy donations that helped to make our community service project so successful. I was honored to drop off 315 children's books that traveled with a mission group down to North Carolina during vacation. I know we made some children and teachers very happy. We appreciate your support and participation in helping us to teach empathy and guide young children in helping to take care of others.

## **Community Lecture**

A special thank you to Dan Sheibe, Head Master of Lawrence Academy, for leading a small group of parents, staff and community members in some "mindfulness" experiences. Dan shared some valuable resources and guidance with us, as well as some practical strategies that we might use to bring awareness to our minds, keep ourselves grounded and focused, and ultimately guide young children to navigate in a world of stress and busyness.

## **New GCS Website**

After many months of careful planning and hard work, GCS is about to launch a new website. We are excited for a current and fresh look for perspective families, as well as some new features for all of you as in house families. A special thank you to our own Lisa Stafford, who spent countless hours working with the web designers/developers to write text, select photos and create content to ensure that we were getting the latest and the greatest for our current and potential families. We are also grateful to GCS dad, Michael Brothers for his fabulous professional photography.

## **Congrats to One of Our Own**

Congratulations to our own Jennie Fitzkee for being honored at a recent Early Educator Awards Gala sponsored by the Boston Association for the Education of Young Children. She received her award as an "Educator who creates spaces for children and families that fosters their self esteem, comfort, and sense of security using an aesthetic eye to invite and enhance environments to facilitate learning and development." Thanks for making us proud Jennie!!

## **Baby News**

Congratulations to the Bachu Family on the birth of Saathvik (brother,

Ishaan, is in the Tuesday/Thursday PM Pink Room).

## **Many Thanks**

Thanks, again, to our many GCS volunteers for baking and/or providing food & drink for the Community Lecture and the GCS Trustee/Steering Committee meeting this past month: Denielle Babey, Danielle Biehler, Beth Blackketter, Caroline Bouris, Jen Burke, Lori Chabot, Leigh Clarke, Irene Congdon, Melissa Dewing, Kate Ferriola, Marsha Gilmore, Donna Haggerty, Oi Sze Lo, Mia Murphy, Hannah Pugh, Emily Slater, Heather Spinney-Laidlaw, and Kathy Wong.

We'd also like to thank our front door decorators for the month of March, Lori Chabot, and for April, Kerrie Juels.

A special thanks to Matt Arner, Kindergarten parent, for installing solar lighting for our sign at the end of the driveway. This allows for night-time viewing, while maintaining our efforts toward "going green".

Thanks to the following families & individuals for contributions of the following: Staff snacks from Nancy Martinage & Lorrie Morgan; boots & activity table from the Clarke family; spare clothing & bags from the Chabot family; puzzles & toys from the Schocklin family; large rolls of paper from Lorayne Black; and stationery from Mike at Navigant Printing. All are very much appreciated!

**Sincerely,**



**Linda Kosinski**

**Director, Groton Community School**