



Kitelet – News from the Director

November 2016

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, December 7th

Scrip Orders Due

Thursday, December 8th

Curriculum Day

NO SCHOOL

Monday, December 12th

Board Meeting - 7:30 PM

Friday, December 16th

Scrip Orders Available

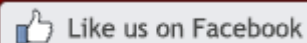
for Pick-Up

Dec. 26th thru Jan. 2nd

Holiday Break

NO SCHOOL

View full school [Calendar](#)



Dear GCS Families,

Well, the wintry weather has begun to join us with early morning frost, cold temperatures, and darkness coming very early in the day. The first snowfall is on the horizon, and the children can't wait. We are readying our sledding hill for snow tubes and preparing to tie up our swings and close up the climbing structures until spring. The change of season always takes a lot of preparation. Welcome to the season of being thankful and giving.

Thank You for the Support

Thank you for the tremendous support during our Halloween PJ Days. We set a record this year by collecting 270 pounds of breakfast food items to donate to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Devens. The volunteers were so excited when the GCS delivery showed up to reload their shelves. In addition, we also collected several boxes of your excess Halloween candy for Operation Troop Support. We so appreciate all of your help and support to make these two endeavors so successful. The timing was just perfect, and it certainly helps to reinforce the empathy and caring that we work so hard to instill in your children. They learn by seeing and doing and are fast becoming expert "bucket fillers!" Keep in mind that we are all learning and reinforcing these important lessons, and everyone does so at a different pace. Preschool is about practicing, making mistakes, and feeling accepted.

Fall Phone Calls

Now that the school year is well underway, I hope you enjoyed connecting with your child's teacher and talking about their adjustments, successes and

Quick Links

[Get Involved](#)

[Helpful Resources](#)

[GCS Philosophy](#)



goals. Having good connections between home and school is something that we strive for, and it is such an important component to a successful school year for everyone. As always, please reach out to our child's teacher or myself should you have any concerns or questions about your experience here at GCS.

Groton Fire Department

We are so grateful for the Groton Fire Department firefighters and EMTs for visiting with our classrooms during Fire Prevention Week. We really appreciate all of their time and efforts to educate young children about the importance of fire safety and to help calm fears or anxiety during emergency situations. The children were excited to climb in both a fire truck and an ambulance, see some of the equipment that is used, and watch a firefighter dress in their gear. Please be sure to thank these community helpers if you see them!

World Change

With the recent election in the not-too-distant past and concerns with some changes that will no doubt take place in leadership, we are reminded of children and our commitment to them. It is our job as adults and as early childhood educators to ensure the safety, well-being and protection of all children. We are here to foster their friendships, to teach them to be confident, yet respectful, and especially to be tolerant and accepting. There is no doubt that young children overhear conversations and news broadcasts when we think they aren't listening. They can see and feel adult concerns and uneasiness! In a recent issue of Child Care Exchange, an Early Childhood Education resource, Debbie LeeKennana and John Nimmo offered the following guidelines for helping children to understand what is happening around them.

- Encouraging children to ask questions.
- Supporting children to communicate their ideas and emotions through conversations, drawings, writing, dramatic play, creative arts, music and movement.
- Being a good listener; paying attention to words and feelings; looking for the underlying meaning.
- Answering children's questions immediately and directly, with information that is appropriate to their developmental level and experience.
- Recognizing that there may not be simple answers, but that there are answers that can help children
- Avoiding responding to current events and issues in highly emotional or dramatic ways.
- Providing resources to help children manage fears or uncertainty they might feel or express.

We must lead by example!

Home Tour

And finally, I am personally thankful to be part of such a great organization that fosters community, kindness, and giving. Our recent Home Tour was

an example of these qualities, with so many hands coming together with hard work and genuine giving for a common goal. The entire event was such a success because of families (past and present), classroom donations, volunteers, GCS Staff and Board, community members, friends... the list goes on and on and makes us who we are. While we are still waiting for a final total of expenses, it looks to be that we made in excess of \$20K!! Thank you for helping us soar!

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate our own former staff member, Sarah Helfgott Laverdure, on the birth of her daughter, Georgette Ruth. Sarah was a teacher in the Aqua Room.

Thank You!

Thanks to Amy Broadstone for decorating our entrance way in November, and to Danette Johnson for December. We'd also like to thank the following families for donations to the school: The Babey family for a Radio Flyer "Ziggle" scooter; the Haigh family for office supplies; the Roberts family for crayons & markers; and to the Shyjan family for a Cozy Coupe, dominoes, magnetic shapes, and a Wedgits building kit.

A special thank you to Jim Belcher for putting some finishing touches on our greenhouse.

We hope that you will enjoy this holiday season!



Linda Kosinski

Director, Groton Community School