

## Groton Community School Family Survey Highlights 2017-2018

Thank you so much to the GCS families who gave us valuable feedback on our annual Family Survey. We received feedback from 46 families, who took the time to share amidst busy family schedules! Family participation is highly valued here at GCS, and the survey is just one way that families are encouraged to participate in their children's school experiences and environment. Our Family, Board of Directors, and Staff Surveys are all part of our annual self-evaluation process. We share results and utilize the information given to enhance our planning, programs, and facility to best meet the needs of our entire school community. A summary of our results follows:

Word of mouth matters! New families discover the school based primarily on current and past family recommendations, with internet searches and our road sign also drawing them in. The reputation of the school and the school philosophy and curriculum are top priorities for families in choosing GCS for their children. We will continue our efforts to inform families about the role of our consultants in the classroom, so families are aware of the valuable benefits they bring to our curriculum. Those that were aware of the visits of our Occupational Therapist Sue Lizotte and Speech and Language Consultant Sarah Belcher had high praise. Our Creative Movement Instructor, Patty Barr, was well known, with parents commenting that their child(ren) look forward to "Patty Barr days". Speaking of fun, playdates are a way for families to network together and extend classroom friendships. One third of respondents said they were not able to attend the playdates scheduled by room parents, as a result of work schedules. We will bring this to Room Parents attention next year.

In the rating scale sections of the survey, the majority of families strongly agreed with the statements given (mostly 5's and a few 4's) showing that we are meeting objectives to: care about and respect families; share children's progress and meet individual needs; invite family participation and leadership; convey policies, procedures, and welcome questions; relay the work of the Board of Directors. We have a little room to grow in sharing community events and resources. Families were confident that survey results would be shared.

The fundraising team received high marks with comments that fundraisers were reasonable, had a good variety, and necessary to keep tuition cost down. In terms of communication with families, email is the preferred mode, with weekly updates and stand-alone emails receiving the most answers. We did receive some feedback to streamline email topics. While not all utilize these platforms, many families appear to be aware of GCS social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn). Half of respondents did not take advantage of the school website. Please note that the online calendar does provide listings of events far in advance, with drop-down links and ease in adding to personal calendars. Some families requested more personalized information online, such as an online student directory.

One third of respondents have not yet visited our [www.gcsforwardmotion.org](http://www.gcsforwardmotion.org) page about our **Forward Motion Project** to expand the school. However, positive comments were received about our plans for the Children's Library, Technology and Resource Center, space for staff to meet and collaborate, and enhanced and enlarged classrooms. This is an exciting endeavor for our school, and we encourage all families to learn more and be involved!

***Some comments shared with us were:***

*“The teachers and staff are amazing. While I'm looking forward to seeing the expansion and am sure it will be wonderful, it is the people at GCS that make it what it is.”*

*“We are so happy with GCS! Our children are thriving here, and it has such a happy, welcoming, cozy atmosphere. Thank you!”*

*“Our family is proud to be a Groton Community School Family.”*

*We have been so happy with our experience at GCs. It has been exactly what I pictured for my child's preschool. The teachers, administrators, and staff are all wonderful. We love GCS!*