

Groton Community School Family Survey Highlights 2018-2019

Thank you to all that participated in this year's Family Survey. We received responses from 48 families and we appreciate the time they took to provide feedback on their GCS experience. Your input is extremely valuable to us at GCS, not only for our annual self-evaluation process, but also to guide us in making improvements and adjustments in our upcoming school year. And while 85% of the respondents indicated that they were "Extremely Satisfied" with GCS overall, we know improvements can be made! A summary of our results are as follows:

While GCS strives to make itself visible on a variety of platforms to prospective families, year after year, it seems the best way to get the word out about our school is through *you*! Nearly 69% of our families heard about GCS through a friend or family. Internet search and Social Media were a combined 28%, so please – tell your friends and recommend us on your social media pages. Word of mouth counts! The reputation of the school was a factor nearly 80% of you considered when selecting GCS, followed by the quality of our teaching staff.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback for our consultants this year, but it seems as though some families are still unclear as to how their individual children benefit from these services. We'll do a better job to communicate how impactful our Occupational Therapist Sue Lizotte, Speech and Language Consultant Sarah Belcher, and Creative Movement Instructor Patty Barr are for *all students*, not just those that may benefit from continued services with these consultants.

Speaking of connecting all students, classroom playdates are still a big hit, even with those families that could not attend the optional playdates. Still, some respondents indicated a desire to connect with other families in their classrooms on a more consistent basis – we'll work with our room parents to investigate ways we can make this happen next year!

Our fundraising team earned high marks this year, with one respondent calling the fundraisers offered "effective and fun." Several people did raise concern about there being "a lot of fundraising efforts to keep track of." We agree! That's why this year we decided to create a fundraising information chart — it details what each fundraiser entails, how it helps GCS, and how much money we raised doing it! A chart will be included in the next *OnBoard* newsletter coming soon.

The majority of our parents indicated that they use the www.grotoncommunityschool.org website for its online school calendar. Given that the calendar is in such high demand, we are investigating ways to provide families with step-by-step guides on how to add these calendars into your personal calendars. Stay tuned!

As indicated on the survey, we're always looking for ways to work with our family's schedules. Your feedback on possible times changes for the 2020-2021 school year is much appreciated – several of your expressed concerns with the time changes conflicting with older sibling bus schedules.

Finally, more than half of you have visited the **Forward Motion Campaign** site and commented that the biggest thing of interest to you in the expansion project is "getting it started!" Good news — We are! We hope you all have seen our temporary relocation note – we are beyond excited to finally get this project started and appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through our relocation efforts this summer.

Some Comments Shared with Us Were:

"I think the teachers and staff are the best. I always feel welcomed and part of a GCS family."

"Thank you for your continued efforts in all aspects of the school. You are all doing a commendable job of making GCS a wonderful place for children."

"We have had a wonderful, enriching, and informed experience."

"We truly love GCS and this [is] largely due to the wonderful faculty and staff. While program and facilities are important, there is no replacement for effective teachers and we feel so fortunate for our son to have such wonderful, caring mentors at GCS. Thank you!"