



# Building and Growing Our Future Together

## Forward Motion Insider Update - April 10, 2020

Dear Insider,

In this difficult time, please know that we're thinking of our extended GCS family and wishing for your safety and well-being. With so much uncertainty in the world right now, it's heartening to be part of a supportive community whose well-established habits of kindness and caring sustain us.

While our hallways, classrooms, and playground are temporarily empty (and much too quiet), rest assured that the talented and dedicated teachers of GCS are utilizing technology to stay connected with families and to feed children's curiosity and need for continuity. Specifically, teachers are Zooming (a new verb) with classes to share Circle Time virtual gatherings and regular elements of classroom routines, while also creating YouTube read-alouds, math activities, and science experiments. New themes are being introduced and explored remotely, with suggestions to investigate them at home, and opportunities for children to then share their experiences.

Our staff and families are top of mind right now, and we will continue to do all that we can to support them and provide opportunities for our community to connect. In addition, we have made great and visible progress (see our [photo journal](#)) on the **Forward Motion Project** to expand and improve our GCS home at 110 Boston Road. Emily Crouse (Buildings & Grounds Co-chair, GCS Board of Directors) provided this latest construction update:

*"A lot has been happening this past month! The structural steel trusses were quite a sight as they were completed for the large Community Room at the north end of the expansion. Also, the footings and steel for our porte cochère at the main entrance were installed and the steel is onsite. This will provide much-needed cover during inclement weather at pick-up and for staff loading/unloading their vehicles. Inside, the mechanical and electrical subcontractors have begun their piping and power rough-ins, and ductwork fabrication began offsite. Site preparations have also begun for the utilities including: sewer, water, natural gas, and the Groton Electric Light Department has just installed our new power pole!*

*However, as of April 1st, Governor Baker adjusted his list of essential construction services that are allowed to continue, and our project does not qualify. Therefore we had to stop work on the site for the time being. Our general contractor has assured us they will still be able to receive scheduled deliveries and continue with other administrative duties such as material submittals and procurement, and plan review, so they are prepared to hit the ground running upon approval to recommence."*

We recognize that right now you are focused on navigating a host of daily challenges. In these unsettled times, we're grateful for the people in our community who are doing necessary work to ensure our health and safety. In the words of Fred Rogers, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" Just as we're grateful for the many helpers in our lives today, we're also committed to nurturing the helpers of tomorrow.

With gratitude,

*Debbie MacDonald*

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