

GRENLOCH TERRACE
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
NEWSLETTER – May – 2010



CLASSROOM COLLAGE

It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end! The preschoolers have had a fun and enjoyable year at GTECC. One of the activities that the preschool children have enjoyed at the end of the year was a trip to Grenloch Post Office. Each of the children made their mom a postcard for Mother's Day. At the post office they each bought a stamp and mailed it to their mothers. The classes then went to Heck Park for time on the playground and a picnic snack. All of the children were excited about their trip. The children have also enjoyed more time out on the playground playing on the equipment and in the sandbox during the beautiful spring days. We are looking forward to Fun Day and all of the 'end of the year' activities at school. Please have a fun and safe summer with your child and we'll see you in September!!



The children in Mrs. Chranowski's, Mrs. Lerch's, Mrs. Millisky's and Mrs. Peloso's classes are anxiously awaiting the many exciting end of the year activities. As we take this opportunity to think back on our year our minds are filled with many pictures. The children came to school on the first day....they were so little and we were so anxious. Each day a tidy classroom quickly gave way to a learning environment cluttered with paper, scissors, paste and crayons. All the stories we shared, the singing the signing the laughing and perhaps even a tear will last for a life time! The

filled with numerous learning experiences and countless memories. To the parents of our students, we thank you for your cooperation and interest, for they have truly enriched your child's school experience.

Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Birch, Miss Bucci, Mrs. MacDonald and Mrs. Small can not believe the school year is almost over. What fun we have had this year!! The children have made such wonderful progress since September. We, the teachers, have enjoyed watching the children learn and grow. They have learned letters, letter sounds, written wonderful stories in their journals and applied Everyday Math! They have increased their fine motor, social and beginning reading and writing skills and SO much more! The excitement is building as Fun Day is right around the corner on May 26th. We all are also looking forward to our home school visits on June 1st to get a preview of next year. If that isn't enough, Our Very Special Ending occurs on June 10th. So much excitement in so little time!! As the school year too quickly ends, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and families for all of their help and support throughout the year. Please know we enjoyed working with you and your children this year and that we wish the children all the best as they leave GTECC and continue with their education. Our final thought for the year is to have a safe, fun, and enjoyable summer!!



Mrs. Mickelson's boys and girls are enjoying a month of pretend travels. They walked around a Maypole with streamers on May Day and performed the Mexican Hat Dance for Cinco de May. The children experienced different countries and cultures through stories, dances, and music. The boys and girls have also compared flags, tasted food, and made crafts for various countries. Miss Woyonski's children will be studying the five senses in June. The boys and girls will have fun experimenting with the five senses through a variety of hands on activities. During the months of May and June both classes will be studying butterflies and watching live caterpillars grow and develop into butterflies.



As the school year comes to an end, the teachers in the “red building” Mrs. Melry, Mrs. Blome, Mrs. Yuritch, Mrs. Otto and Mrs. Maffet want to say thank you to the parents. It has been a pleasure for us to teach your child throughout the year – to watch them grow and learn so many new and exciting things. We leave the year with memories we will treasure forever! Before the year ends though, we have a few suggestions to help you reinforce some skills needed for First Grade.

- Practice writing first and last names correctly on lines
- Use your flash cards to review all the sight words that were sent home
- Encourage your child to keep a journal over the summer and write in it daily
- Read a story to your child and have him/her retell the story to you, predict outcomes, describe main characters, and sequence the main events in the story
- Practice counting to 100 by 10's, 5's, and 1's; 2's to 30; and backwards from 20

- Practice simple addition and subtraction facts up to 10
- Visit your public library and READ, READ, READ, to your child

Have a wonderful summer! (We know we will!!)

THE LITERACY CENTER

As we come to the end of another year here at Grenloch Terrace, the Literacy staff Mrs. Rygalski, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Horvath and Mrs. Crenny would like to take this opportunity to wish all the parents and children a safe and relaxing summer. All of us in the Literacy Center look forward to the summer weeks spent together with our children because it gives us a chance to spend time together. While on vacation, we take lots of pictures and then we spend time putting the pictures in albums and writing little “memories” next to our favorites. Another favorite activity in the summertime is to visit the local library. Then after a busy day of playing ball, swimming, or hiking through the woods, we all settle down with a good book and read. We encourage all of you to spend some time sharing books this summer, too. Below is a list of “All-Time-Best-Selling Children’s Books” to help you and your children in your book selections.



1. The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
2. The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss
3. Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
4. The Real Mother Goose, illustrated by Blanche Wright
5. Richard Scarry’s Best Word Book Ever by Richard Scarry
6. One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss
7. Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss

8. Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
9. Dr. Seuss' ABC's by Dr. Seuss
10. The Cat in the Hat Comes Back by Dr. Seuss
11. The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
12. Winnie-The-Pooh by A. A. Milne
13. Fox in Socks by Dr. Seuss
14. The Cat in the Hat Beginner Book Dictionary by P.D. Eastman
15. Are You My Mother? By P.D. Eastman
16. A Light in the Attic by Shel Silverstein
17. Richard Scarry's Best Mother Goose Ever by Richard Scarry
18. Walt Disney's Storyland by Walt Disney
19. Never Talk to Strangers by Irma Joyce
20. My Book About Me (by Me, Myself) by Dr. Seuss
21. Go, Dog, Go by P.D. Eastman
22. Love is a Special Way of Feeling by Joan Walsh Anglund
23. Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
24. The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
25. The Golden Songbook by Golden Books
26. I Can Read With My Eyes Shut by Dr. Seuss
27. Make Way For Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
28. Just Me and My Dad by Mercer Mayer
29. Blueberries For Sal by Robert McCloskey
30. Whistle For Willie by Ezra Jack Keats

Mrs. Snyder reports: April has been a very busy and productive month. The children wrote terrific stories in their journals using 'spring' and 'Earth Day' words. They wrote about ways that they can help take care of the earth and shared their stories with one

another. For math, they made beautiful, symmetrical butterflies, graphed and measured with rulers. The children have made nice progress!



EXCITING ESL

Thank you to all our ESL families for helping to make **International Night 2010** such a **huge success!** Over 250 people filled the All Purpose Room at Bells School for a festive night of global entertainment and international foods. This year **Washington Township's 65 English language learners from Kindergarten through 12th Grade** presented a **narrated Power Point exploring the art of their native countries.** **Certificates** were then **awarded** to our **ESL students** recognizing the good work they do not only in learning English but in meeting their academic requirements as well. As always, the highlight of the evening was an **extensive buffet** of an international foods and desserts. Congratulations to Grenloch Terrace's English language learners for excellent participation in their very first **International Night!** **ESL at the ECC – seven nations, one learning community.**

SPEAKING OF SPEECH

What a fabulous time we have had in speech and language class this year! We have had the pleasure of watching your child grow and mature and their speech and language skills develop in leaps and bounds. You have played a major role in enhancing these developing skills by regularly drilling and overseeing the reinforcing speech and language assignments at home. Mrs. Meeks and Mrs. Creran present these developing speech and language lessons to the children

and you make their use and understanding become habit-- a part of your child's daily speech and language repertoire. We have encouraged your child to make a "Better Hearing and Speech Month" poster at home. During the month of May these posters are proudly displayed in the halls in support of the awareness and appreciation of the development and use of good listening, good speaking, and good language skills --- paramount to learning. Annual Review meetings will be occurring over the next several weeks to discuss your child's progress and to develop a speech/language plan to be in place for your child upon entrance to their elementary school. Speech and language sessions will soon be ending for this school year but awareness and practice should continue. We want to thank you for aiding in your child's speech and language development, and we want to ask that you continue to reinforce their newly learned skill over the summer to prevent backsliding.

LIBRARY LIFE



Spring has sprung and so will our children as they spring forward from kindergarten into 1st grade and with that the arrival of "Special Endings". This year the children will be performing a readers' theater production entitled: *The Little Princess and Her Friends*. All the children will have a part. There is no dialogue to worry about. However, each child will participate by making a musical sound. So with the help of our music teacher, Mr. P, each child will work with a simple musical instrument or an item that will lend nicely to our production. I will send the story home with each child and their part, so that you can go over it at home. I am sure the children will put on a great performance for everyone. The year has gone by quickly and soon we will all be very

busy with summer activities and vacations. Don't forget to make one of your summer activities a weekly visit to the public library. A trip to the library can be a refreshing time to spend cooling off from the heat of the summer. Stories about the beach and the cool ocean breezes can bring a welcomed chill as our imaginations venture along the sand dunes and sail on the blue waves. If the shore is not your place, take the time to go over the summer reading list that can be found on my website for other reading suggestions. Also, on days you can't get to the library, don't forget about Tumblebooks. New books are being added each day. It is located at www.tumblebooks.com/library. Username: GTECC, password: books. Thank you for a pleasant and wonderful year. Your children have brought joy and tears of laughter to my days here at GTECC. Happy summer☺

SPECIAL SPECIALS

The students were extremely successful and hardworking in Mr. Przybylowski's music classes throughout the year. We worked very hard developing our beginning musical skills through singing songs, chanting, and moving. The students experienced music of the Native American people, pieces from the classical repertoire, as well as jazz. The rest of the year will be spent learning a few new songs and preparing for our Special Ending celebration which will take place in each class in June. The exact dates are June 9th, 10th, and 11th. Continue to expose your child to jazz, classical, and world music. Have fun and keep singing! Thank you for a great year.



It is that time of year when Mrs. Fleming is getting artwork together to hang throughout the school for our very own art show that will take place at the Special Endings Celebrations. The students are choosing one piece of their own artwork to be hung in the show. We are learning about looking at and critiquing art. Looking at the use of the art elements and principles in each artwork and choosing the one piece that they think is the most complete and well done. I know the parents have been anxious to see the wonderful artwork that the students have done this year. At Special Endings they will be getting their portfolios back. I am so proud of all the wonderful kindergarten artists this year. They have really put a lot of enthusiasm and effort into each piece of artwork. I hope that they continue their love for the arts as they begin their journey into elementary school.



Is it really the last couple months of school? Mr. Canzanese hopes your child has had as much fun this year during physical education as I have! This was as perfect a first year as a teacher could ask for. During June we will be playing all different types of games. Some will be games that we've played before and there will also be brand new games that we've never played before. The most important thing is that we have fun together these last weeks of school. I look forward to seeing the parents together with the students for Special Endings in June. It has been a pleasure meeting you and your child or children this year and I wish them the best luck in the rest of their school years!



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The year is over already! How quickly it has passed. Mr. Spadoni is amazed at this time every year, to see how much your children have grown and matured since September.



"Mr. S." thanks you for letting him be part of that with your child. Since it is nearly summer, I would like to make 3 important recommendations on how you can help your children continue their growth and enjoy them at the same time.

First – READ to your child every day. It encourages love of books and is a tremendous help in developing language skills for your child.

Second – If the opportunity is there, EXPOSE your children to as much different outside stimulation as possible: the zoo, beach, mountains, museums, aquariums, and so on.

Last – PLAY with your child, play is "work" for your child. It connects their inside and outside worlds together. Play develops curiosity, it encourages children to take risks and it develops imagination and creativity. Play lets children discover their own talents and make their own choices.

We all need to play. We learn from it. We relax from it. Your children need to play with you, as well as with other children to really know and understand them. Have a great summer.

NURSES NOTES

Spring is finally here! The students have been enjoying the weather and the chance to play outside more often. We have also been seeing some minor sunburn. It is recommended that parents apply sunscreen before the start of school. Sunscreen may only be brought to school **accompanied by a doctor's note or prescription for use.**



Please contact the nurse with any questions. Many families take advantage of the warmer weather to spring clean. Any unwanted boys or girls pants or shirts in sizes 6-8 would be appreciated. They may be dropped off at the school or brought in with your child. Our supply is very low, and we have been forced to call parents to bring clothing for their child who has had an accident or spill. As this school year comes to an end, the staff of the health office wishes your family a fun and safe summer!!!!

HOME & SCHOOL COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

We are almost there...June will be here before you know it. Home and School would like to thank you for your cooperation and support of our towel Fundraiser. Please remember to order your tickets for the end of the year celebration at the River Sharks game. Please get your tickets at www.riversharks.com. Our code is gt64. Fun Day is around the corner. Please look for the important flyer coming home about it. Fun day will take place on **May 26th** RAIN OR SHINE. In order for you to volunteer you must attend a **MANDATORY INFORMATION AND SIGN UP MEETING** on Monday, **May 24th from 7:00 – 7:30 for AM Parents – 7:30 – 8:00 for PM parents**. Each session will only be around 20 minutes long. Unfortunately, if you do not show up to the meeting you will be unable to volunteer for Fun Day. This is due to the safety of our children. Thank you, as always, for your cooperation, participation, and support of Grenloch's Home and School Council.



PRINCIPAL'S POST SCRIPT



As the year comes to an end, let me thank you on behalf of our staff for sharing your child with us and trusting us with his or her care. We truly enjoy your children and appreciate your support. A special thank you to our Home and School Council for the hard work they have done all year in fundraising and providing special activities for our children. Not only have they worked hard, they have been supportive of each other and shared the load as each event approached. They have been a great help this year!

At the end of the year, we take pride in looking back on the achievements of our children. This can be seen in their work samples, in their artwork, in their social skills and in their language skills. Of course, their physical growth is also amazing, and we are reminded of this growth spurt as we meet next year's kindergartners on the bus tour and see the difference in size! We celebrate their accomplishments in our closing activity, fondly referred to as our *Special Endings*. This is a classroom program showcasing song, movement, art and class work. Each child will be presented with a certificate, purchased by our Home and School Council. If you are a scrap booker, this is a great picture moment! Each 'wing' of the school has their own day for the programs, which helps somewhat with the parking situation at school. As always, we encourage you to park at Heck Park (located off Park Avenue,

behind the school) and come through the back gate to our school grounds. If you are able to carpool with another family, that would also be most helpful. Since the program is indoors, it is on, rain or shine.

Below are the dates so you can begin to make your plans. One or two adults are invited to come to school. We do request that younger children not attend and no more than two adults, as classroom space is limited and we want everyone to be able to see!

- **June 9th Red Wing**(original building; Lightfoot (Maffet), Melroy, Otto, Blome/Yuritch)
- **June 10th BlueWing** (center hall of the new building; MacDonald, Bucci, Barton, Small, Birch)
- **June 11th Green Wing** (hall by the office; Peloso/Millisky, Woyonski, Mickelson, Lerch, Chronowski)

Further details about the time will be coming home soon. Save the date!

See you soon,

Wendy R. Crawford

Mrs. Crawford
GTECC Principal

