

NEWSLETTER

Dear GRMS Families,

Welcome to fall! Mornings are a bit colder and a little darker. Typical for this time of year is some reluctance to come to school in the morning. Don't be concerned with the few tears from our little ones; the change of season throws things off for them and they would rather stay at home, all warm and cozy.

We are approaching the end of the year. Please note the dates that we will be closed for **winter break**. You will want to make plans early for childcare during our closure dates of December 23-January 1. The decision to close during for winter break, dates back to more than 20 years ago. We discovered that most of our families didn't need to have care over the break. The few that did, were scattered across the different classrooms and were of varying ages. It was like a scene out of the Christmas Carole with Ebenezer Scrooge having a lonely time during the holiday season. Children didn't have their regular teacher or usual playmates. Many wanted to be home playing with all their Christmas toys, not at school where the usual routine was different. We realize there are parents who still need to work and don't have an extended family to help (grandparents, older siblings, etc.). We hope that you can get something arranged with this advanced notice.

We look forward to the misty, moisty days of fall!

Diana and the GRMS Staff



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Important Dates to Remember

SCHOOL CLOSED

November 11 –
Veteran's Day

November 28 & 29 –
Thanksgiving

December 23-January 1
Winter Break

Always Remembering Cheri Holz

October 30, 1971-

December 23, 1995



"Cher Bear"



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Closure Dates:

November 11 – Veteran’s Day

November 28 & 29 – Thanksgiving

December 23-31 – Winter Break

January 1 – New Year’s Day

January 20 – MLK Day

February 17 – President’s Day

April 7-11 - Spring Break

(Brick Schoolhouse Only)

May 26 – Memorial Day

Last day of school - To be determined.

June 19 – Juneteenth

July 3rd and 4th – Independence Day



Hard copies of the school calendar are available in the office for those who did not get theirs at the Open House

Dress Code

The dress code for students ages 3 and up is school uniform M-TH. On Fridays, the Brick Schoolhouse students may wear clothing comfortable for PE and swimming. Others may wear clothing of their choice; however, it must be suitable for school. No frilly dresses, tutu’s, costumes, caped superheroes, etc. Please let your children know that these special garments are for wear at home and at parties. Seahawks and sports attire is acceptable.

School Photos

School photos are scheduled for November 7th and 8th by Maribelle Photography. All children (except for infants and toddlers) need to wear their school uniforms. The Brick Schoolhouse students and the U-1 classroom will have their photos taken on Thursday, November 7th. Friday will be U-2, U-3, and the downstairs’ infant and toddlers (D-1 and D-2).

Pasta Fundraiser

Our profits were almost \$400! The proceeds will go into the Activity Fund for teachers to access for classroom cooking projects, wish lists, and special events.

Labeling Clothing!

Please label your child’s clothing—especially their school sweaters. Often, your child will take their sweater off while in the classroom or shuck it (who knows where) while on the playground. The children wear the same size, so it is extremely challenging (if not impossible) to find the rightful owner. Children, ages 3 and up are expected to keep track of their own belongings—it’s the Montessori way, 😊

Individual Classroom News

Each classroom distributes their own classroom newsletter and calendar each month. Please use this as a guide to discuss with your child.

The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one’s self.

--Maria Montessori

Holiday Policy

As you know, our school is a multicultural/anti-bias school and has chosen not to celebrate holidays. Our non-holiday approach was adopted so that all family beliefs could be respected, allowing families to “celebrate” in their own way with their own friends and families. We felt that too often, teachers were bringing in their own family practices into the classroom, imposing these beliefs on the children. Our policy was balanced in the knowledge that those families who chose to celebrate holidays could easily do it on their own without school influences or competition.

Harvest Festival

Keeping with our school philosophy of not celebrating holidays, we will instead celebrate the season with a “Harvest Festival.” We will have special activities on this day. On Wednesday, October 30th, please have your child bring 4-6 apples (any kind) to put through the cider press. Marissa McKee’s parents are bringing in their cider press to show the children how to make their own apple juice (which is very delicious, by the way). This is the third year that Marissa’s parents agreed to do this!



The Great Shake-Out!!

At 10:17 am on 10/17 we will be joining millions all over the world for a practice Earthquake Drill. Our school has registered for the 12th year to participate in “Shake-Out”. Last year over 25 million people were involved in “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.” Our school practices fire drills each month and Earthquake drills quarterly. Since earthquakes can happen anywhere and anytime; we want our children to be prepared, informed, to be able to respond quickly, and to know how to protect themselves if such a disaster happens. The school will also be revisiting each classroom to inspect possible danger, fall items, and safety issues. You may wish to talk with your child and discuss with your family what plan you have in action. You may also register to participate or learn more by going to www.ShakeOut.org/howtoparticipate . Join this worldwide informative self-protection plan to be more aware and prepared.

Parent/Staff Guild (PSG)



Don't forget to sign-up if you plan to attend our PSG meeting. We need to know how many chairs to set up.