

GRENLOCH TERRACE

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

NEWSLETTER – March 2010

Spring

CLASSROOM COLLAGE

Spring is in the air!!!! (Thank Goodness) is what the children in Mrs. Blome and Mrs. Yuritch, Mrs. Lightfoot, Mrs. Melroy and Mrs. Otto are thinking. Read Across America was enjoyed by all. The children really enjoyed the pep rally and The Cat in the Hat and Thing One and Thing Two! We are continuing to grow in our development with writing and reading words. If your child is bringing home little books to read, please be sure to send them back. We want them to be able to get new books each week. We are learning about rhyming and opposites. In Math, we are counting to 100, and back from 20. We will learn about addition and telling time to the nearest hour later this month. We are having fun learning about the changes that spring will bring. Continue to read to your child every day or take turns having them read to you.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! The children in Mrs. Chranowski's, Mrs. Lerch's, Mrs. Millisky's, and Mrs. Peloso's classes welcomed the month of March with a focus on Dr. Seuss. Tuesday, March 2nd was "Read Across America" day. The children had fun dressing up like "The Cat in the Hat," learning about Dr. Seuss and hearing many of his stories. The children even had an opportunity to cast a vote for their favorite Dr. Seuss book. An enjoyable and memorable literacy experience was had by all. As the children enter the wonderful

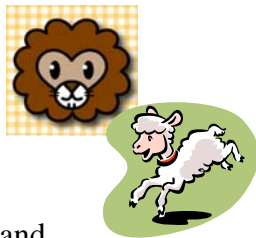
world of reading, share in their enthusiasm and excitement by reading to them regularly. Encourage your child to predict what comes next in a story by looking at pictures or listening to word clues, identifying rhyming words and look for words with similar patterns (moon, spoon). We thank our parents for their continued support and involvement by reinforcing those concepts and skills being taught in school. Together we make a GREAT team!

The month of March has been very exciting for Mrs. Mickelson and Mrs. Woyonski's classes. The children listened to many Dr. Seuss books. They also made pictures relating to books such as One Fish Two Fish and Ten Apples Up on Top. The two classes had fun learning about St Patrick's day and making crafts for the holiday too. Perhaps a leprechaun will come to visit too. Mrs. Mickelson's boys and girls have been learning about careers this month. They interviewed career puppets as well as special career speakers. Speakers this month included a veterinary nurse, a chiropractor, a fire fighter, as well as a police officer. The boys and girls learned to ask about tools as well as preferred activities of each job.



The preschoolers have enjoyed talking about and experiencing the adventures of a very snowy month. For some of our children, it was their first memorable experience with the cold white stuff. We pretended ice skating, threw yarn snowballs and talked about all types of snowmen. The winter weather brought more challenges to our preschoolers: we practiced putting on our winter attire, as well as learning the names of all those articles of clothing. We also had lots of fun practicing our fine motor skills by making valentines for our loved ones. It was a treat pretending to be mail carriers and deliver our valentines to the “mailboxes”. We ended the month talking about dental health and enjoyed hearing Dr. Dave tell us how to keep our teeth healthy. Certainly, it couldn't be preschool if we hadn't mentioned our friend the Tooth Fairy!

The Blue Wing wonders:
March came in like a lion;
will it go out like a lamb?
Read Across America was a special time for the classes of Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Birch, Miss Bucci, Mrs. MacDonald and Mrs. Small. We celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday to emphasize how important it is to read. Whether you read with or to your child, you are increasing their academic skills. Check out the website www.tumblebooklibrary.com. Our name is “gtecc” and the password is “books” – both in lower case. This month during Literacy Circle we are learning about the genre Folk Tales. Ask your child to tell you about the stories they heard in class. Many wonderful Folk Tales are classics that you can share with your child. The Pied Piper, Rapunzel and Jack and the Beanstalk are just a sampling of the many stories to read. Excitedly we are awaiting the arrival of spring. Two special days we will learn about are St. Patrick's Day and the first day of spring. When they arrive, we know the Spring Bunny will soon be here. You can discuss with your child other signs that



spring is on its way such as the trees budding and warmer temperatures. It truly is a time of new beginnings. We are “marching” along with our kindergarten skills, as we get ready for first grade. Thank you for your continued support at home. We greatly appreciate it. Our thought for the month: When driving, you can have your child identify familiar signs. Have them tell you what it says, the letter it begins with and the sound that letter makes. You would be surprised how every bit of reinforcement helps!!



LIBRARY LIFE

Believe it or not, Mrs. DeAngelis saw a family of robins outside of GTECC about 2 weeks ago. I am hoping that it was a true sign that winter is behind us and spring is just around the corner. Because the snow days in February really put a kink in my lesson plans, I had to postpone the adventures of Hormie the worm until March. So once more I will be teaching the children a song about Hormie the Worm and his adventures while sitting on the bench as well as discussing real worms using the book: Wonderful Worms by Linda Glaser. As the month continues, I will be working with story retelling techniques using the story *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. This time the children will get to use finger puppets and a stage to retell their version of this famous classic. It is so cute to see these tiny fingers stuffed into little finger puppets rising above the stage. It is always a delight watching and listening to what each student feels is the most important part of a story that needs to be retold. Finally, don't forget about using “Tumblebooks” especially with all this snow. It is a great indoor reading activity. You can check my e-board for Username and Password and to check March's library calendar for book return days. Hurry Up Spring!!!



SHARPENING SKILLS

February has certainly been a very busy month with Mrs. Snyder. The children continue to develop phonemic awareness skills and can apply these skills in their writings. Using pennies, the children counted to 100 on the 100th Day of School. They can recognize the coins and know their value. In addition, they have been playing Everyday Math games like Monster Squeeze, Top-It and Plus or Minus! All of the children are doing wonderful!

This cycle of language literacy circles focuses on the theme *spring*. The students will practice using their imagination as they listen to a story dealing with the four seasons. The students will not see the pictures in the book which is why it is so important for them to imagine what they hear. The students will then draw a picture of what they imagined. As always the students are working diligently on their guided reading and Kid Writing. Keep up with reading to your child at home.

SPEAKING OF SPEECH

Students are continuing to demonstrate improvement in speech language class as they delve into the third marking period of the school-year. The children happily attend speech language class and are readily participating in the activities each session. Aside from the reinforcing speech language assignments sent home regularly with the children, parents often wonder how they can help a child acquire language skills. In this day and age parents tend to spend as much, if not more, time with their children in the car than they do at home. Hustling the five and six year-olds and their siblings to after-school activities, as well as traveling on the weekends affords parents numerous opportunities to encourage language

enrichment in the car. Some automobiles come equipped with DVD players and most have CD or cassette players in them. Watching a movie is a good language experience in itself and quizzing your child following the movie is a wonderful way to develop visual and auditory memory as well as language and auditory processing skills. Playing a *Book on Tape*, or a *Book on CD* in the car is another terrific language building experience. These materials are readily available at the library. Again, be sure to quiz you child using “wh” question words about the names of the main characters (who questions) in the story, places the characters go in the story (where questions), problems the main characters experience in the story (what questions), and the manner in which problems are solved (why/how questions). If there are no books to accompany the cassettes or CDs the children must rely solely on their auditory skills. This exercise is a very good method to strengthen these developing auditory skills as well as a way to improve vocabulary and influence proper sentence structure. As you can see, the world is an open book just waiting to be absorbed by these young minds. Jump into it with your youngsters and enjoy watching them explore and grow through each and every page of the book!



SPECIAL SPECIALS

This March was very exciting for the students at Grenloch Terrace.

Mr. Przybyłowski's music class celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with a visit from the Cat in the Hat and a song that the students worked very hard on in music class. We also took an imaginary trip to Mexico and learned an authentic Mexican song in Spanish entitled “Vamos a Cantar.” That means, “Let's Sing!” We also located Mexico on a map and decided if we ever went there we would definitely have to take a plane! The students also spent time learning a circle



dance which they truly enjoyed. We will continue to sing, echo, and develop our musical skills and next month we will be focusing on Jazz and celebrating April as Jazz history month.

Is it March already? This year is flying by. This month the children in Mr. Canzanese's Physical Education classes will be continuing our rhythm activities in gym and maybe by the end of the month we'll even be able to get outside a little bit! I also want to thank everyone for helping out with our Hoops for Hearts fundraiser that we had during February. With your help we are going to be able to donate over \$857.00 to the American Heart Association. We'll also be finishing up our Pennies for Patients fundraiser this month. Thank you again for all of your help and generosity!



Design is inherent in art and also the basis for art creation. This month in Mrs. Fleming's Art class, all students will gain and use knowledge of design elements in the appreciation and creation of visual art. They will be working with markers, crayons, texture plates and watercolor paints to create an abstract design that utilizes the following elements of design: color, line, shape, space and texture. Mrs. Fleming is also preparing for the District Art night. This is an Art Show of all grade levels in the District held in the Core building at the High School on April 8th. There is a limited amount of space for each grade level. Mrs. Fleming will be choosing many pieces of your children's artwork to display at the show. Unfortunately there will not be enough room for something from each student to be displayed. Notices will be sent home with those students that will have a project displayed at the show. There will be another show at Grenloch Terrace in June for the Special Endings, in which there will be one of each student's artwork displayed throughout the building.

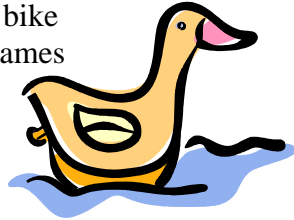
EXCITING ESL

What an introduction to our climate this winter has been! Our **English language learners** from **warm climates** have certainly learned the concepts of **cold, snow, ice and snow day!** Even our **ESL Family Night** focusing on **Literacy & Technology** was snowed out. It has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, March 10th, at Bells School from 6:30-8:30 PM.** On this night ESL students in grades K-3 will be treated to a **story time** with guest readers. ESL students in grades 4-12 will **demonstrate** the many uses of **technology** for accessing information, as well as **learning English.** We hope the month of March will give us the opportunity to learn about **warm weather patterns** and build **seasonal vocabulary** as we prepare for the **arrival of spring.** While we watch the grass turn green, we will discuss the tradition of St. Patrick's Day where everything is green! We will learn vocabulary such as **shamrock, leprechaun** and **jig.** Last but not least, our English language learners will begin preparing for **International Night.** This annual event fosters the **celebration of cultural diversity in our community.** Mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 29th** and plan to join **all Washington Township's English language learners** at **Bells School** starting at **6:30 PM.** ESL at the GTECC – 7 nations, one learning community!



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Spring has arrived! Mr. S. would like to remind everyone how important it is to play with your child. Feed the ducks at the lake, fly kites, go for walks and bike rides, or just sit and play games with them! Enjoy this time!



NURSE NOTES

With the warmer weather coming (hopefully!), the children will be playing outside more frequently. This is why I am presenting an assembly called "Healthy Brain". We will be discussing ways to keep the brain "safe", such as wearing a helmet and correct seatbelt use. Don't forget to ask your child about the Jello brain! Hopefully, this will reinforce the use of protective gear and equipment to prevent the devastating effects of head injury.

Special thanks to

Dr. Dave, our favorite dentist, who spoke to the children about good dental hygiene. The children seem to love his presentation, and are so happy with their new toothbrushes and stickers. Because some of our children sometimes have bathroom accidents or spills, they may come to the office for a change of clothing. We are really in need of girls and boys shirts and pants in size 6 or 8. If your child has any pants that they have outgrown, we would really appreciate the donation! Items can be placed in the donation box in the health office, or brought in to school with your child.

HOME & SCHOOL COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Time continues to fly by quickly. We had some snow I think ☺ February was definitely a short month for Home and School. We thank our presenters from last month's Home and School meeting Maria Rygalski and Kelly Chapman, our Literacy Specialists. We also thank the following people for an amazing Dr. Seuss Day: The Cat-Gregg Karasik, The Cat's helper-Julie Karasik, A.M.Thing I & II-Wendy Foss and Rupal Saraija and P.M. Thing I & II-Christine McCarry and Patty Treston and our Photographers Julie Karasik, Jennifer Amato and Eileen Iacarus. Of course we can't forget to thank our Librarian Mrs. DeAngelis and our music teacher, Mr. P, for making the day even more special with their enthusiasm for their love of books and music. We look forward to our spring class pictures on March 8th and 9th. We thank Veronica Moos, our chairperson, who puts a lot of time into the scheduling of these days. We also look forward to a furry animal that will be greeting the children and welcoming spring. Save the date, March 24th, for our presentation by Jennifer Magee on children expressing themselves through sign language.

SAVE THE FUTURE DATES for our Family Nights for our Scholastic Book Fair...April 12th and April 15th. Volunteer sign up sheets will be sent home shortly along with Scholastic preview flyers. Lastly, Home and School Council and the students of Grenloch would like to congratulate Dori Millisky on being awarded "Teacher of the Year". We welcome spring!

PRINCIPAL'S POST SCRIPT

NJ SCHOOL REPORT CARD NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center is the first step in each child's journey in the Washington Township Public Schools. Our school provides a safe and nurturing environment for all of our children to grow and to learn. Our center is totally committed to meeting the needs of our district's youngest students, and providing our parents with a welcoming first school contact!



The Early Childhood Center includes several programs. Our half-day kindergarten is our largest program. Our kindergartners discover the joy of learning and become readers, writers, and investigators through our fully integrated curriculum, which is aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. Each day is filled with reading, writing, counting, mathematical thinking, and discovery integrated around a common theme. Additional instructional support is provided right in the classroom through our literacy center staff; individual progress is maintained by the classroom teacher in a portfolio. Other support services include speech, a full-time school nurse, and a full-time guidance counselor, and special education, as needed.

A continuum of services provides for the needs of our special needs kindergarten children. Currently, full day kindergarten, a half day inclusion model called our team-teaching class, and an in-class support model known as our collaborative classes provide a variety of settings to meet the needs of all students. Services and delivery models are adjusted according to the changing needs of our population.

The Early Childhood Center is home to our district's preschool disabled program. Three and four-year-old children in need of special services attend half-day classes four days a week. Speech specialists integrate services with learning activities in the classroom and are an integral part of this language-rich program. Physical therapy and occupational therapy are offered in accordance with each child's individual educational program. Home visits are an important part of this program and occur in rotation on Fridays.

Our school is particularly proud of our developmentally-appropriate instructional practices. Children are guided through the writing process with a technique known as "Kid Writing" and a program called "Being a Writer." Reading, speech, and classroom teachers collaborate monthly on each child's progress and on program components. Songs, chants, journals, word walls, big books, shared readings, and writing experiences within a print-rich environment support the emergent language of our eager students. In mathematics, the children use "hands-on" methods to develop number sense based upon daily classroom routines, such as creating charts and graphs of the weather, comparing daily juice and milk counts using greater than and less than symbols, and using daily classroom attendance figures to practice concepts of addition and subtraction.

The Early Childhood Center has been recognized by New Jersey Magazine as one of the top 31 schools in the State. In addition, the New Jersey Association of Supervision and Curriculum

Development, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of Partners in Education have each recognized our program as "Exemplary" at the state level. This recognition has been based on our children's accomplishments in the areas of phonemic awareness, word recognition, comprehension, and sound/symbol correspondence (phonics), all of which are identified by the National Reading Panel as key to reading development. American Sign Language (ASL), our world language component, is used to support literacy instruction. All teachers incorporate ASL to support letter recognition and sight words. ASL is also used to support classroom management. In the fall of 2009, Grenloch was awarded a three hundred dollar grant through the New Jersey Parent Information Resource Center (NJPIRC) to support our parent orientation program.

Many opportunities for parent involvement occur throughout the year. From "Meet the Teacher" to our "Special Endings" (end of the year celebrations of learning), parents and children alike have an opportunity to feel at home at ECC. During the year, "Back to School" Night, Home and School Council activities, and classroom participation let our families know that parents are always welcome at Grenloch!

A unique parent/child orientation at Grenloch is our popular "bus tour." Representatives of our district's registration and transportation departments, the school principal, office staff, and special area teachers work along with our Home and School Council to give each of the newly registered students and parents a "sneak preview" of their new school and a courtesy bus ride together!

Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center values our community partners which include Rowan University, Gloucester County College, Camden County College, Washington Township Parks and Recreation Department, Washington Township Fire Department, and the local VFW. High school theater students bring their talents to our children in the form of plays, captivating our young audience. As well, our middle school musicians provide special music as the Winter Holiday season approaches.

From the initial visits by our new students and parents through our end-of-the year celebrations of learning, it is our ongoing mission to keep our children safe, while capturing the natural excitement and curiosity of our young students and setting the stage for a successful, life-long journey of learning!

Wendy Crawford
GTECC Principal

www.wtps.org (you can also find the NJ Report Card on the website)



Please Note the following:

The NJ School Report Card can also be found on the website www.wtps.org.



Mark your Calendar with the following dates:

PM Only Make-up Snow Day for K & PSD students only:

April 9th – Schedule will follow

Fun Day:

May 26th – Wednesday (Rain or Shine)



First Grade Trip:

June 1st – Tuesday (K students visit their 1st grade school)

Special Endings Program:

June 9th – Red Wing

June 10th – Blue Wing

June 11th – Green Wing

Snow Make- up Days

June 18th – K/LD Students only

June 21 – All Students K/LD/PSD

June 22 – All Students K/LD/PSD

June 23 – All Students K/LD/PSD

June 24 – All Students (Last Day for Students)

