



# FAMILY NEWSLETTER



GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

May 2010

*The school year is flying, so I want to be sure you're updated on what's happening the final weeks of school! There are a lot of exciting things, so mark your calendars and be you're your children don't miss any school! Remember to check our website for updates!*

**NATIONAL TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK is May 3-9!** Your child's teacher cares deeply about your children and works hard to help them in all aspects of their lives. I hope you take time to let them know they are appreciated throughout the year, but this is the special week to remember! Thanks to volunteer, Evelyn Jarvis, who has been organizing some special thank you surprises this week! shhh.....! ☺

**NEW FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT, Thursday, May 6. 6:30-7:30PM** Please let friends know about GCCS and invite them to attend this one hour program to get more information about the school, meet staff and tour!

**RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE** – Remember – anyone you recruit to attend our great school next year will give you the opportunity to have \$50/enrollee taken off your child's Special Programs Fee, if interested! We still have some spaces available, so spread the word!

**PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING – Monday , May 17 at 7PM** during the GCCS Board Meeting. You are invited to view and comment on the proposed 2010-11 GCCS budget.

**PARENT GROUP for ASD, Tuesday, May 18, 8:45AM-9:30+AM** TOPIC: If you have a child or loved one who has Autism, Asperger's or even ADD/ADHD, you might find this a great get-together to join. This informal time will be led by parent, Kati Coe, who lives the life and has developed a great perspective about it all. We've asked her to share some of her ideas with other parents. I think you'll find it's just nice to be able to talk with others who may be going through the same thing you are while raising a child who might fit these descriptions.

- **GCCS "GARDEN PARTY" FAMILY FUN NIGHT, Thursday, May 20. 6:30-8:00PM** This will be our special end-of-year celebration for all students and their families! It will include:
  - Potluck Dinner
  - Special Appreciation Program for Volunteers & Departing Teachers
    - Class Performances
  - Videos & Picture Shows from all classes showing their year in pictures
    - Art Show and Student Learning Displays
    - ....and special event "Love for Lucy"\* fundraiser

**"LOVE for LUCY" \*** (see letter from Lucy O'Leary's teacher, Lisa, on our website explaining her serious situation regarding the cancer just found near her eyes. Doctors haven't been able to determine what it is to treat it and some doctors refuse to look at her without advance payment. Students and staff want to help her and hope you will join them. Plans include:

1. "Love for Lucy" Fundraiser. Students will be selling hearts for \$1 each on Friday, May 14. These hearts will be strung across the school with the hopes of "wrapping it up with love for Lucy" and gathering enough money to help the family in their travels to doctors to find a cure. These hearts will also be available to buy at the 5/20 "GCCS Garden Party".
2. Donations may also be made through an account set up by Lucy's friends and family at Bank of America.
3. Students are creating cards, etc to send to Lucy to remind her that we are behind her and care about what is happening.

**ART STUDIO RENNOVATION, Tuesday June 1** – Parent, Bart Gepner, is organizing this project where the art studio will be enlarged by removing a wall. He needs some volunteers to help him tear out the wall – in addition to “finishing” it to look nice! Please let Director Cindy or Bart know as soon as possible if you are able to help. He plans to start at 9AM and work through the day until the project is complete! What a great difference this will make to the space for the children to learn!

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL** met to discuss *changing the name of the school* during their April meeting. I recommend you see the GCCS website for the detailed minutes from this meeting as it was a very creative meeting full of good discussion! You can also contact your parent rep to the GCCS Board, Michael Tetrault, at [mtetrault@cableone.net](mailto:mtetrault@cableone.net).

### STUDENT TRANSITION DAY/NEW TEACHERS & CLASS LISTS

- **Transition Day is Wed, June 2, 2-3PM** All current K-7 grade students will visit their 2010-11 class for fun activities to meet their classmates and teacher (yes – even the newly hired teachers!). Students who are staying in their same multi-age grouped class help the teacher be hosts, so it’s very special for them to learn how to make the new students welcome! (This is one event we don’t use parent volunteers as it’s important for the students to make new friends on their own.)
- **New Teachers & Class Lists:** Our goal is to have new teachers hired and class lists completed by May 26 so students and their families will be ready for next year. Change is hard for all ages, but please trust that we are doing some re-structuring of teacher placements that will be incredible and help our school and students grow stronger! Your positive attitude will be very important to help your child through this transition, so please help them stay upbeat and know it will all be just great!

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, Friday, June 4**, half day for kinders/full day for 1-8 grade

If you’d like to help your child’s class, please check with their teacher to see what kind of help might be needed. *Please remember to send your 1-8 grade children a sack lunch!*

- 8:45-11AM - Individual class activities for grades K-8
- Approximately 11AM-2PM – for grades 1-8
  - Swimming & Rock Climbing at the West Y (*fees will be covered through our Healthy Schools grant*)
- 2:15-3:00 – Community Circle & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation. We hope 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents will plan to attend!

**STUDENT ART PUBLISHED!** Last year the art work of one of our second grade students was chosen as grand champion from all submitted art grades K-12 to the Idaho Humanities Council! We are now proud to see it published on their advertisements for various activities they are promoting! We have had a lot of student art and inventions gain a lot of attention at public art displays and contests!

**SPECIAL THANKS** to:

**OFFICE VOLUNTEERS** who helped the school welcome visitors and answer our phones – in addition to saving us over \$20,000 to get through a tough budget year! Our appreciation goes to those who were able to help consistently each week: Shauna Buttars, Katie Coe, Mary & Carlos Grant, Patricia Angel, Sharon Fiske, Alixe Satterly, Marti Monroe, Michelle Sutton, Jeanna Vickery, and Evelyn Jarvis. Others who helped when possible are also special to us!

**ART STUDIO GUEST ARTISTS:** Thanks to the professional artists who helped me teach students during their Art Studio “art for art’s sake” sessions: photographers Mindy Scott and Melanie Folwell (thanks to the organization from Barb Hamon & Mary Rong), yoga by Jean Doyle, watercolor painter Sidda Smith, portrait photographer Anne Curillo, jewelry artist Karyn Meyers and soft sculpture artist Kristina Katinka.

As you can see, we have a busy month ahead! Please be sure to contact me if you have any questions or concerns as I always appreciate hearing from you!

Sincerely,

*Cindy*

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377-0011 or [cindy.hoovel@gardencityschool.org](mailto:cindy.hoovel@gardencityschool.org)

## **Garden City Community School rallies around one of its own.**

by teacher Lisa Courchane

Third grader, Lucille O'Leary, is a fun-loving, curious little girl. But Lulu, as she likes to be called, is now in the fight of her life. After extensive tests and a surgery to discover the cause of her frequent headaches, doctors discovered a rare, but slow-growing cancerous tumor growing behind her left eye.

While the diagnosis has turned her family's life upside down, Lulu keeps a cool head, a sense of humor and a great attitude.

As her GCCS school family, we want to do what we can to help keep her happy and get her healthy.

Her 3rd/4th grade classmates are writing letters to our legislators encouraging them to bring about the changes in insurance coverage needed so that people who are ill, can get the best help possible without worrying about being turned down due to coverage. All classes are creating letters and cards to let her know we care and are thinking of her.

To help the family with the financial burden of medical and travel expenses, we are hosting a fundraiser.

Students will be creating paper hearts as part of our "Love for Lucy" drive.

Each heart costs \$1 and our goal is to string enough paper hearts to stretch around the entire playground! Hearts will be sold during school on May 14th and at the May 20th GCCS Garden Party family event at the school.