



Monthly Update from Gabriela ~ December 2017

In the Spirit of Thanks-Giving, I am most thankful for our wonderful GPCP community!!!

As we enter the Holiday Season, I would like to extend my appreciation to each one of you for the many ways in which you contribute to our school. After eighteen years of working with families in strong collaboration, I continue to value this unique and special style of being in partnership to offer the best quality experiences to our children!

“Participation is the value and the strategy that defines the way in which the children, the educators, and the parents are stakeholders in the educational project; it is the educational strategy that is constructed and lived day by day in the encounter with others and in the interpersonal relationships.” From *Indications - Preschool and Infant-Toddler Centers of the municipality of Reggio Emilia*.



One of the most meaningful ways families participate in our school is by being in the classrooms working as parent helpers. It is very inspiring to see happy and confident children working side-by-side with supportive parents and strong educators. Day after day I find myself smiling as I spend time in the different classrooms and witness beautiful interactions between children and adults.

“Listening - In participated education, an active attitude of listening between adults, children, and the environment is the premise and context of every educational relationship. Listening is an ongoing process that nurtures reflection, welcoming, and openness towards oneself and others; it is an indispensable condition for dialogue and change.” From *Indications - Preschool and Infant-Toddler Centers of the municipality of Reggio Emilia*.



Equally important is the attention given to the environment. A beautiful and organized space is essential for facilitating rich learning experiences. Therefore, I give many thanks to all who participated in workdays so far this year! I also appreciate the participation of parents on the Board and your willingness to serve as committee chairs. I thank each board member & committee chairs for their



tremendous commitment to the school, for the many talents they bring and for all the hours they volunteer each month. The commitment shown by each of you is admirable!

In addition I want to say “Muchas Gracias” to all who have participated in our various fundraisers so far. The strong participation of GPCP families in the Candlelight Tour of Homes is one of these examples. Your efforts to raise money to support our budget are very much appreciated.

The bar has been set high at GPCP, and I am forever thankful for continued collaboration, learning and growing, striving to make GPCP the best educational environment possible for our children.

Personnel Update



We recently welcomed Cameron Farmer to the GP Campus team. Cameron has taken over the educator assistant role in the Swans class and she is also covering extended day hours until 4:30pm together with Ms. Patrice. If you have not met Cameron yet, please be sure to introduce yourself and extend a warm welcome.

"I was born in Texas, but have lived here in Atlanta for most of my life. I graduated from East Valley High School in Washington St. After high school I started to further my schooling at Hollins University in Roanoke Virginia, then transferred to Georgia State. I have three sons, Austin, Dallas and Ethan (twins). My grandmother has been an educator for 45 years and my mother was an educator as well. I grew up babysitting my neighbors' children and family friends. Later I went on to take future

teacher development classes during my high school years. I am very excited to be a part of the GPCP family and look forward to being here in the future." ~ Cameron

Tuition Express Coming in January!

With the help of Kennard Garrett, our fabulous Board president and Liza, our Operations Manager, we have been able to set up online payments through Procure. Stay tuned for details on how to make payments coming up in January 2018 ☺.

Las Posadas:

Las Posadas is a fun and picturesque Latin American celebration that GPCP has embraced as one of our traditions as part of the Spanish Program. At our school, we focus on the cultural elements of the celebration, rather than the religious aspects. The GPCP tradition involves a procession that starts at the school and takes us to different houses in the neighborhood, caroling and singing Spanish Holiday songs.

All children and families are invited to participate in the celebration! Please note: if your child does not attend school on the day of the celebration, your child can still be part of the event as long as an adult accompanies him/her.

As usual, Ms. Clara will be practicing GPCP's Holiday Spanish songs, "Brilla, brilla estrellita", "Cascabel" and "Feliz Navidad".

Las Posadas Celebration will take place on the following days:

Wednesday, December 20th at Cabbagetown Campus

Friday, December 22nd at Grant Park Campus

We will leave the school at 10:30am to begin the procession, caroling around the neighborhood. The event will culminate with the breaking of the piñata at the Cabbagetown Park for the CT campus and at the school's playground for GP campus.



Happy Holidays!

CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 20th – Las Posadas at CT Campus

Friday, December 22nd – Las Posadas at GP Campus

December 25th 2017 – January 5th 2018 – Winter Break

Monday, January 8th – School Resumes for Children & Staff

January 2nd - 5th – Winter Mini Camp at CT Campus