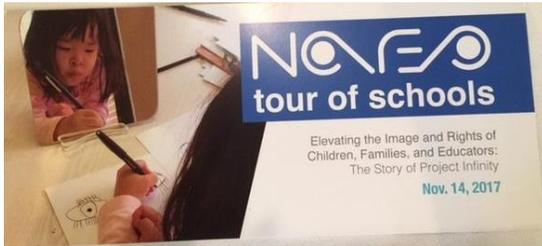




# Monthly Update from Gabriela ~ November 2017

## Professional Development: an on-going investment at GPCP

Investing in the professional growth of our staff members is a priority at our school. Together, with our colleagues in Project Infinity\*, we develop opportunities for our educator's growth each year. The study of the Reggio Approach is an ongoing effort at GPCP. Initiatives such as The New Teacher Experience and Educator Exchange Days, hosted by each of the schools in the Project each year, are one of the many examples of these initiatives.



This year, we have an amazing opportunity to showcase our school, and share our work during the NAREO Tour of Schools Conference on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. GPCP will be closed for children on this day and parents from the Pedagogical Support committee will support this effort. Presenting work at conferences and opening our school to other educators helps us see our work through the eyes of others.



**The Stroller-K** was a successful first fundraiser for Project Infinity. I was proud to have such strong Staff participation. The weather was just perfect and we had a lot of fun. The icing on the cake was Nathaniel winning second place on the run.



Thanks to Margie Cooper's strong leadership and generosity, we have been benefiting from Project Infinity's investment for the past 17 years. We have been fortunate to have the opportunity to learn first-hand from Amelia Gambetti, a former educator from the schools in Reggio Emilia. Starting this year, we will begin collaboration with Tiziana Filippini, a Pedagogista from Reggio Emilia. Tiziana will be in Atlanta during the week of December 4<sup>th</sup> and Candace and I, together with the pedagogistas from the other schools in the Project, will work closely with Tiziana for four days. In addition, the Project Infinity Pedagogical Group (Candace and I from GPCP) will participate in a Study Tour in Reggio Emilia in May of 2018. This Study Tour will be geared to the work of pedagogistas as a way to help us support the educators at each school. Two other GPCP educators, Natalie Rosbottom from GP Campus and Amanda Atwell from CT Campus, will travel to Reggio as well, to participate in a Study Tour geared towards first time participants.

We are forever thankful to have the opportunity to learn from our colleagues in Reggio and visit their schools. The inspiration gathered during these visits ignites our passion and creativity.

\*Project Infinity, an initiative of Inspired Practices, is an action research project involving schools for young children in Atlanta and Greenville, SC. The Project is a non-profit organization that promotes the exchange of ideas & points of views regarding the education of young children and in on-going dialogue with the Reggio Emilia Approach since 2002. GPCP is a founding school member of the Project.

## **Class Meetings – Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00pm –**

Class meetings are an opportunity for educators to share an overview of the work and experiences the children have been having since the beginning of the school year. This is also a time for collaboration and exchange. Please make plans to attend. We look forward to collaborating with you. Childcare will be provided.

## **CACFP Grant ~**

### **a Message from Ms. Taylor - Farm to School Coordinator at GP Campus:**

As Ms. Gabriela recently shared in her August letter, our school got approved to participate in the USDA's CACFP grant reimbursement program. This is the reason we have asked each family to fill out IES forms with financial and racial data. We appreciate your cooperation!

In order to be in compliance with the Grant requirements, GPCP is changing a few things in our lunch procedures:

- Serving in the classroom must be done by trained staff members only. Servers also have to wear hairnets and gloves. Parent helpers can be helpful during lunch service, by connecting with the children and sharing your own experiences with food.  
Bonus points if it's pertaining to the daily menu! "I like turning my leftover garbanzo beans into hummus...yum; broccoli reminds me of trees...the oranges are so brightly colored and juicy in your mouth..."
- Per federal guidelines, 1-year olds will be served whole milk and 2-5 year olds will be served skim milk. In the Ladybugs room, children will be given  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of milk when they turn 3 years old. 1-2 year old children get  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup.

Besides this change, GPCP is in compliance with meal pattern requirements. We strive to serve the healthiest lunch and will continue to improve our offerings to benefit our children. We appreciate your support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with any questions or concerns.

## **CALENDAR**

Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – Class Meetings 7:00 to 9:00pm

Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Workday @ both Campuses

Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – School Closed – Professional Development Day – NAREA Tour of Schools

Week of November 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Break (School closed)

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – Las Posadas at CT Campus

Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Las Posadas at GP Campus

December 25<sup>th</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Break (School closed)

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> – Winter Mini Camp @ CT Campus

Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – Children return to school