

July 2009

Dear Parents,

I hope your summer has been a good one! Here is the promised letter of information about the 2009-10 school year. If you have any questions after reading this letter, please call the school at 469-0140. If I am not there, please leave a message on the answering machine and someone will return your call.

- **If, for any reason, your child will not be attending Greenwood Forest Children's Center in September of 2009, please let us know.** There are parents who would like to know if their child will have a place in a particular age group. Due to the economic situation, our numbers are low in the Transition classes. We are assuming that the children we have will be here in the fall. Let us know if this not the case. *If you know of any parent who is considering Transition for their child, please send them our way!*
- Please check your child's information on the roster. If there are errors in zip codes, subdivisions, spelling, numbers, etc., please call and give us corrections. **Please check e-mail addresses for accuracy.** If your e-mail is incorrect, please respond to gfcc110s@gmail.com.

### 1. Come to Visit

Your child's teachers will return on August 17. They will work quickly to inform you of your time to "Meet the Teachers" by getting invitations in the mail or e-mail to you. This will be a time for you and your child to come in and meet the teachers, see their classroom, and meet other students and their parents. This visit will last about 30 minutes. If you plan to be out of town on our "Meet the Teachers" visitation date, please make arrangements with your teachers for your child to come in for a visit.

- **Wednesday morning, August 26--MW 2s, MW 2 1/2s, 3x3s, 3x4s, and Transition**
- **Thursday morning, August 27--TTH 2s, TTH 2 1/2s, 2x3s, 2x4s, and 5x4s**

(You may bring medical forms at visitation time or the first few days of school.)

### 2. Dates and Hours

- **Tuesday, September 1**, will be the *first day of school for T/Th 2s and 2 1/2s, 2x3s, 2x4s, 5x4s, and Transition classes.*
- **Wednesday, September 2**, will be the *first day of school for MW 2s and 2 1/2s, 3x3s, and 3x4s classes.*

(Please note the arrival and pickup times for your child. This will prevent long traffic lines. It will also insure your child's not missing important parts of the daily program.)

### 3. "Tissues & Tea"

Parents, new to GFCC, will come for an information session called "Tissues and Tea". If you are a returning GFCC parent, you are also invited to join us, if you would like to do so. Please look for the signs on the doors.

<b>Tues. Sept. 1</b>	<b>9:20- 9:45</b> <b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>Transition, 2x4, 5x4, 2x3</b> <b>2s and 2 1/2s</b>
<b>Wed. Sept. 2</b>	<b>9:20- 9:45</b> <b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>3x3, 3x4</b> <b>2s and 2 1/2s</b>

While your children are becoming acquainted with their new surroundings, new friends, and teachers, you will have an opportunity to meet other parents, ask questions about the school and get information on snacks, allergies, carpools, school events, etc.

#### 4. GFCC Philosophy of Learning

This is a time to remind you that GFCC's goal is to prepare your child for their entry into Kindergarten. Our philosophy is that children do not learn these preparation skills through flash cards and worksheets. They learn them by moving, exploring, inquiring, and learning how to relate, what they have discovered, to their parents, teachers, and peers. I believe that all the life skills a child needs to learn are learned on the carpet with a pile of blocks, on a smaller scale, of course. If a group of children are working on building a tower, they are:

- Working as a team along with alternating leadership roles
- Learning how to create a vision, make a plan, recalculate mistakes, compromise with their teammates, develop negotiating skills, meet a deadline, and move forward if mistakes are made

Does this sound familiar to you? A child's play is an adult's work. Children do not learn this from a worksheet. Your children will be exposed to textbook curriculum for the next 17+ years of their lives. The mastering of ABCs, counting to 100, and reading will come quickly when they start Kindergarten. If your child wants to learn these things, please sit down with them at home and satisfy that need. GFCC is a place for your child to enjoy learning a broader scope of basic skills through play. If you are uncomfortable with this philosophy, please rethink your choice of GFCC.

#### 5. Tuition

For your convenience, the year's tuition has been divided into monthly payments. You may pay for the year, several months at once, or monthly. **THE FIRST TUITION PAYMENT IS DUE AUG. 1st; LAST CHECK IS APRIL 1st.** Payments are due on the 1st day of each month. We accept checks and cash at this point. Please bring your check into the office or mail it in. Do not give it to teachers or your child. Please make the check out to GFCC (or Greenwood Forest Children's Center). To ensure proper credit, please put your child's name on the bottom of your check. Tuition fees will be considered late after the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and a \$10.00 late fee will be charged. The TUITION BASKET hangs right inside the office door, above the light switch. There is also a price guide right over the basket.

OR

#### *Tuition Express is now here!*

For those of you who never carry your check book or write checks, this is for you. Tuition can be deducted from your savings or checking account (no credit cards) by filling out the enclosed form. This is for tuition payments only. Payments for T-shirts, Lunch Bunch, etc. are separate from Tuition Express. If you have questions, please call the office. You will also be able to go to the Tuition Express web-site and pull up your account to check the status of your tuition payments.

#### 6. Activity Fee

A one-time Activity Fee will be charged to cover expenses for field trips and other on-sight activities for your child. Here is the break out of what is covered for each age level:

2 ½'s	\$10.00	Miss Margaret's Storytelling
3's	\$16.00	Miss Margaret's Storytelling, Fish the Magish
4's	\$36.00	Miss Margaret, Fish the Magish, Carlos Venzulas (Native American), Dragonfly Nature Program, Cowboy Days, "Handwriting Without Tears" workbook, and T-shirt for field trips
Trans.	\$70.00	Miss Margaret, Fish the Magish, Carlos Venzulas (Native American), Dragonfly Nature Program, Lake Crabtree, Marbles Museum, "Handwriting Without Tears" workbook, and T-shirt for field trips. The cost variance from 4's allows for some resource persons to be in Transition more that once a year...such as the Dragonfly Nature Programs.

## **7. Donations of snacks and supplies**

GFCC has always provided snacks and all supplies for our students. This year, tuition rates remained as is or increased very little, even though our cost for supplies increases. To offset this expense, we are asking parents help with donations of snacks, Clorox wipes, hand wipes, etc. Your teachers will have more information about this at the Meet the Teachers day. We will still honor the no peanut products and will make sure that children, with allergies and dietary restrictions, are safe.

## **8. Clothes for School**

We recommend simple clothing that is free of complicated fastenings and is large enough to allow freedom of body movements such as running, jumping, climbing and stretching. We paint, play in water, do messy projects and we play outside except for rainy or bitter cold days and code red ozone days. For quick and easy identification, **label jackets, sweaters and mittens.**

## **9. Book Bags**

GFCC bags are provided by the school for 2, 2 1/2, 3 and 4 year olds. Each class puts their own special artwork on them; they are easily carried and stored. Transition children bring their own backpacks.

## **10. Shirts**

The cost of Transition and 4-year-old GFCC shirts for field trips, are included in the Activity Fee. T-shirts are also available for siblings and parents in sizes 2-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 14-16, as well as adult sizes S - XXL. All T-shirts are \$7.00. Sweatshirts are available for \$13.00.

## **11. Usborne Books all year**

Usborne Book representative, Shelley Morrissette, has sponsored book fairs for GFCC in the past. This year she is working with us to provide an "All year on line Usborne Book Fair". If you are in need of a book from Usborne at any time during the year, you can go to the web-site [www.UsborneBooksNow.com](http://www.UsborneBooksNow.com) or [www.Ubah.com/BF3252](http://www.Ubah.com/BF3252) and click on Greenwood Forest in the top right hand side. Happy shopping!

## **12. Enclose Article**

The article enclosed titled "Continuous Learning Aids Preschooler" provides parents with practical and fun "around the house" activities to do with your preschoolers that will prepare them for the preschool or public school classroom. I thought you might enjoy it.

## **13. Parking**

Please remember that whenever you park and come into the building between 8:40 and 1:15, you will need to park on the opposite side of the parking lot

**Please leave about 10 parking spaces, for church staff and church visitors. These spaces are in front of the sidewalk going up to the church office (in the Kilmayne Road parking lot).**

## **14. Traffic Patterns & Carpools:**

Please try to carpool with other children in your neighborhood. Carpools help make "pick-up" lines shorter. Children love them! *And think of the gas and money you can save!!*

There will be a carpool sign-up sheet at the "Tissues and Tea" the first two days of school or you can leave a note in the office. Please give me your lists ASAP. We would like to have carpool assignments by the second week of school. In an effort to shorten carpool lines, we have staggered arrival and pickup times.

*The first week of school is an abbreviated schedule. Starting and ending hours are as follows:*

### First Week of School Hours

#### Week of Tuesday, Sept.1 through Friday, Sept. 4, 2009

2 and 2 1/2 classes	9:30-10:30	Wed. and Tues./Thurs.
2-day-3 classes	9:15-10:45	Tues. & Thurs.
3-day-3 classes	9:15-10:45	Wed. & Fri.
2-day-4 class (no lunch)	9:00-11:30	Tues.
2-day-4 class (bring lunch)	9:00-1:00	Thurs.
3-day-4 classes	9:00-11:00	Wed.
3-day-4 classes	9:00-12:00	Fri.
5-day-4 classes	9:10-11:10	Tues. & Wed.
5-day-4 classes	9:10-12:10	Thurs. & Fri.
Transition classes (no lunch)	9:00-12:00	Tues. & Wed.
Transition classes (bring lunch)	9:00-1:00	Thurs. & Fri.

### Regular School Hours

<u>Class</u>	<u>Carpool Times</u>	<u>School Hours</u>
2s and 2 1/2s	9:20-9:30/11:45-11:55	9:30 - 11:45
	(Carpooling for 2s and 2 1/2s begins at the discretion of teachers.)	
2x3s and 3x3s	9:00-9:10/12:00-12:10	9:00-12:00
2x4s	8:50-9:00/1:00-1:10)	9:00-1:00
3x4s	9:00-9:10/12:00-12:10	9:00-12:00
5x4s	9:10-9:20/12:10-12:20)	9:10-12:10
Transition classes	8:50-9:00/1:00-1:10	9:00-1:00

*A late fee WILL be charged for late "pick ups". If you know you will be late, please call so we can reassure your child that you are on the way.*

We look forward to you and your child having a great school experience at GFCC.

With warmest regards,

Sandy Duncan  
Director, GFCC

PS-Remember, you can view the Parent Handbook, this July Parent Letter, and future Parent Letters, on our web-site at [www.gfccary.com](http://www.gfccary.com).