



### A Note from the Leadership Crew

Each month, you will receive a digital and hard copy of this school newsletter. In each issue, you will find information that will answer many questions you may have wondered and provide updates on different school happenings. Please read and keep it as reference for event dates, times, and contact information.

The front page will always have a small "table of contents" to let you know where to find this information.

- Please reach out if you have any questions.
- Elizabeth Mascitti-Miller, Interim Executive Director
  - Kemouy Bhalai, School Director - RMSC Campus
  - Christine Farrell, School Director - FC Campus
  - Chris Dolgos, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
  - Maureen Milke, Director of Operations

### Connect With Us:

-  [GCCS WEBSITE](#)
-  [GCCS FACEBOOK](#)
-  [GCCS TWITTER](#)

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#### GCCS Board of Trustees Family Representatives

- Kiersten Blankley ([kshinrock@gmail.com](mailto:kshinrock@gmail.com))
- Benjamin Clarke ([benjaminhclarke@yahoo.com](mailto:benjaminhclarke@yahoo.com))

#### Family Association Officers

Email us at: [GCCS\\_FA@GCCSchool.org](mailto:GCCS_FA@GCCSchool.org)

- **Co-Chairs:** Blake Crowley ([blake.crowley@gmail.com](mailto:blake.crowley@gmail.com)) & Carolyn Anderson ([carolynhdanderson@gmail.com](mailto:carolynhdanderson@gmail.com))
- **Secretary:** Karla Carey ([karlarae5@gmail.com](mailto:karlarae5@gmail.com))
- **Treasurer:** Isha Torres ([iyt6977@gmail.com](mailto:iyt6977@gmail.com))



## A Note from the School Director

Dear GCCS Families,

During the month of February, we continued to enrich student learning with field studies. Students went to the RMSC, Strong Museum and the Gandhi Institute. Students also engaged with guest experts who came to the school to deepen their understanding of what they are learning.

For Community Circle this month, we had line dancing facilitated by Mrs. Johnson and also had the privilege of having a Grammy award winner, Mr. Jahshanti Henry, share his talent as a flutist. We are truly grateful for these enriching experiences that broaden our students' horizons.

As we move into the month of March, some things to know:


- Exhibition Nights are happening (*schedule is on page 4 and teachers are sharing the information in their newsletter*)
- Family Conferences are approaching and information will be shared by teachers
- Three weeks of Community Circle will focus on the student talent show. Join us and support them!!
- The FA hosts their Spring Fundraiser and Spring Fling (*check your emails for communication that has been sent out*)
- Lastly, our Habits of Character focus is **PERSEVERANCE!!** Discuss with your child how this is being demonstrated.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in fostering our students' growth. I can be reached at [kbhalai@gccschool.org](mailto:kbhalai@gccschool.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

***"The moment you give up is the moment you let someone else win."***

**- Kobe Bryant -**

Kind Regards,

  
Ms. Kemouy Bhalai  
[kbhalai@gccschool.org](mailto:kbhalai@gccschool.org)  
(585) 697.1960

## MARK THE DATES...



### MARCH 2025:

- Mar 12 -: Exhibition Night Week
- Mar 19
- Mar 14: Family Conferences - Early Dismissal at 11:45am
- Mar 15: FA Spring Fling
- Mar 21: NO SCHOOL - Staff Professional Development
- Mar 24 -: 6th Grade Overnight Field Study
- Mar 27
- Mar 26: Board of Trustees Meeting

### April 2025:

- Apr 14 -: Spring Recess
- Apr 18
- April 10 -: NYS Exams: 3rd - 6th grade
- May 13 (*Schedules will be shared shortly*)

### Community Circle Highlights:

- Wednesday, Mar 5<sup>th</sup>: GCCS Talent Show
- Wednesday, Mar 12<sup>th</sup>: GCCS Talent Show
- Wednesday, Mar 19<sup>th</sup>: GCCS Talent Show
- Wednesday, Mar 26<sup>th</sup>: ROC Crews (*students only*)

### OUR MISSION

The Genesee Community Charter School provides a rich educational experience that values intellectual rigor, respect for diversity, and community responsibility. Our local history-based and globally-connected program immerses our diverse population of children in investigation and discovery, extensively using the cultural and natural resources of our community. We nurture children's natural abilities to be reflective questioners, articulate communicators, critical thinkers, and skilled problem solvers, enabling them to reach exemplary standards.



## Fostering Conflict Resolution in Children: *Beyond Behavior*

Conflict is a natural part of childhood, but how we approach it can shape a child's emotional development. Instead of focusing on behavior alone, it's important to understand that children are not defined by their actions but are navigating emotions and experiences that may be difficult for them to express. **By shifting our perspective from "misbehavior" to "misunderstood behavior",** we can guide children toward healthier conflict resolution strategies.

When conflicts arise, whether at school, home, or with friends, the key is to help children recognize their feelings and the feelings of others. Start by teaching children to identify emotions such as anger, frustration, or sadness, and how those emotions can influence actions. Use simple language and examples that help them relate.

Encourage active listening. Let children take turns talking about their side of the story, ensuring both parties feel heard. This builds empathy and promotes understanding. Model calm responses during tense moments, showing that conflict can be resolved without aggression.

Lastly, provide opportunities for children to practice conflict resolution in real-life situations. The more they experience and learn these skills, the more confident they'll become in navigating disagreements, fostering positive relationships, and developing emotional resilience.

## Your brain is like your hand, and it has some special helpers!



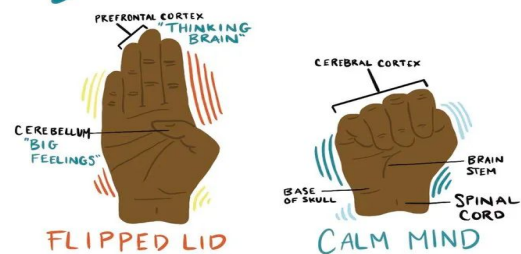
**Wise Owl** (Prefrontal Cortex - Fingers) Helps you make smart choices, solve problems, and stay calm.

**Guard Dog** (Amygdala - Thumb) Protects you and reacts fast when you feel scared or angry. Sometimes, it barks too much!

**Elephant** (Hippocampus - Palm) – Remembers things and helps you learn from the past.

When you get really upset, your Guard Dog takes over and scares away the Wise Owl—this is called “flipping your lid”! To bring your owl back, take deep breaths, count to 10, or talk to someone. That way, your Wise Owl, Guard Dog, and Elephant can work together!

## FLIPPING your lid



You lose access to your prefrontal cortex, your “thinking brain.” Your amygdala activates the fight, flight, freeze response, and you operate from a place of fear.

Since all of the parts of your brain are working in harmony, you feel calm, balanced, and alert yet relaxed.





# Currents



Genesee Community  
Charter School  
at the Rochester Museum & Science Center

## Volume 24, Issue 7

## February 2025

### REENROLLMENT TIME

It is that time of year again GCCS families: re-enrollment! **Re-enrollment packets** will be provided for current students in March. These forms are used to gather information about which students will be returning next school year and finalizing transportation requests.

All current students who plan to attend GCCS next year must complete and submit the forms to school in order to hold their spaces. If you indicate your child(ren) will not be returning, they will be withdrawn for the next school year.

**You will receive more information soon!!**

### State Exams

State exams are quickly approaching for our students in 3rd - 6th grade. Exams will take place the end of April and the beginning of May. The schedule will be shared once it is finalized.

To support your child's preparation, here are some helpful resources:

- Previous Exams: <https://tinyurl.com/PastExamsGCC>
- Computer Based Testing Information: <https://tinyurl.com/ComputerGCC>
- Reading Site: [www.k12reader.com](http://www.k12reader.com)
- MathHelp: <https://tinyurl.com/MathPracticeGCC>
- Math with Mr.J: <https://tinyurl.com/MathwithMrJGCC>
- MathAntics: <https://www.youtube.com/@mathantics>

### WE ARE HIRING!!

**Do you know anyone looking for a job?!** We are beginning the hiring process for the Flour City and RMSC Campuses. Available positions include teaching staff (K-6) and TA positions. Please go to the school website, <https://www.gccschool.org/employment-2/>, for additional information.

### Exhibition Nights

Exhibition Nights provide another opportunity for students to share their learning with families and other members of the GCCS Community. We hope that you can attend!!

The next Exhibition dates and times are:

- **Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>:**
  - 2nd Grade: 5:45 - 6:45 pm
- **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>:**
  - 3rd Grade: 5:45 - 6:45 pm
  - 5th Grade: 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>:**
  - 1st Grade: 5:45 - 6:45 pm
  - 6th Grade: 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- **Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>:**
  - Kindergarten: 5:45 - 6:45 pm
  - 4th Grade: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

### ATTENDANCE REMINDER

There are many illnesses still going around, which we know will negatively impact attendance. A reminder to inform teachers or the main office when your child is absent. Missed days accrue and results in learning loss. Please ensure that your child(ren) is at school every day. We want the best possible outcomes for all our students.

### ATTENDANCE Why is it important?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

**89% or below**  
Drastic effect on  
academic achievement

**96% - 90%**  
Cause for Concern

**100% - 97%**  
Excellent!



### Fundraising for Field Studies

We are continuing to fundraise for field studies to offset the increased costs of buses and event costs. We are grateful for any and all contributions to support this program. If interested in making a donation, please contact Chris Dolgos, [cdolgos@gccschool.org](mailto:cdolgos@gccschool.org) OR visit the website: <https://gccschool.org/donate/>.