

Here Comes Spring!

We have really been enjoying Spring Break with lots of fun filled adventures all week long! If your student did not attend extended care, we hope you had the best Spring Break yet and enjoyed time together as a family. We look forward to hearing about all the trips and memories made once we return.

It's Re-enrollment Time! (and don't forget June and Summer)

Enrollment for new students for the 2023-2024 school year will open April 1st. If your student is returning to Julia Green next school year and you would like to save your spot, please send us a message on ProCare. In addition to informing us of the student's return, this is also the time to mention if they have a sibling that you would like care for, as well. We are pleased to announce that after conversation with our licensing coordinator, we will be able to offer care for fifth graders. We are overjoyed to know our fun with this year's fourth graders doesn't have to end. Please inform us of your plan to continue care for the 2023-2024 school year **before April 1st** to reserve your slot, and take advantage of a discounted re-enrollment fee of \$50. After April 1st, the enrollment fee will be \$65 and you will risk being on the waiting list.

Please do NOT re-create ProCare accounts for students who are already enrolled in the program. If there is any medical or emergency pick up information that needs to be updated, you can message us about that any time.

As a reminder, Julia Green is an MNPS promising scholars location during the month of June and we will have our regular before/after school care. You can sign up for that on our website (jgec.info). Summer sign ups are also still open and we would love to have your student be a part. We are looking forward to our weekly themes full of adventure, fun, crafts, and learning opportunities. Those sign ups can be found on jgec.info, as well.



Ticket Talk !

I believe it is safe to say that our ticket system has made its appearance in conversations at home. The students love to receive tickets and the staff loves to reward tickets for noteworthy behavior. Here are a few things to know about our ticket system. First, tickets are rewarded for many different reasons providing students with many opportunities to accumulate tickets throughout the week. Students can earn tickets from something as simple as walking correctly in the hallway or as grand as earning a good grade on a test. We reward tickets for being a kind or helpful friend, being a great leader, a first time listener, a competition

winner, and the list goes on. The tickets serve as a great incentive for good behavior. In the same breath, if students are exhibiting poor behavior their consequence is losing a ticket. The purpose of our ticket system is of course to encourage good behavior, but also to teach responsibility and the concept of saving. We cash out our tickets on Fridays, with the exception of the students that don't attend aftercare on Fridays. It is the students' responsibility to keep up with the tickets they have earned throughout the week; we do not replace lost tickets. We have noticed some nice methods of keeping up with tickets from coin purses to ziplock bags. Whatever method works best for your students to responsibly keep up with their tickets is greatly encouraged. Lastly, our ticket store prices range from small prizes for 3 tickets, 5 tickets, 10 tickets, and 20 tickets for our grand prizes. We can't wait to see who will be our first student to save up for one of the grand prizes!

National Reading Month!

March serves as National Reading Month. We have been observing this by spending a short time after snack reading. Students are encouraged to bring a book of their choosing to optimize their enjoyment during this time. Many students have asked why we read; there are many reasons. Here are a few: reading stimulates imagination and their understanding of the world, exercises the brain and improves concentration, expands their vocabulary, and improves overall wellness. Please see the links below for more information on the benefits of reading:



<https://www.highspeedtraining.co.uk/hub/why-is-reading-important-for-children/>

<https://kidskonnnect.com/articles/why-children-should-read-20-minutes-a-day-and-how-this-impacts-your-kids-development-at-any-age/>

<https://www.toledolibrary.org/blog/5-reasons-to-read-everyday>

ProCare Mobile Sign-Out

Thank you so much for your willingness to learn how to complete sign out from your phone. A common issue we have discovered that prevents sign out from your phone, is failure to turn on your location services for the ProCare app. As always, we are here for any questions to make this process the smoothest it can be.

A Friendly Reminder

As the energy of spring fills the air and we enter the final quarter of our school year, our students are finding themselves getting rowdy. We're having problems with students keeping hands, feet, and other objects to ourselves. While we encourage appropriate touch (like high fives during a game), it is imperative that our students remain kind and respectful. Hitting, kicking, tackling, spitting, etc will not be tolerated. Our rule is to keep hands feet and other objects to ourselves. We encourage awareness of our bodies even when playing games like tag to be sure we only tag on arms or high on the back to avoid accidental touches of private parts. We do not tolerate hitting, kicking, or smacking of bottoms, or private touching. Please partner with us to be sure your children are aware of these guidelines.



We Need Your Help

Being that we are a nonprofit, it is through donations, fundraisers, and grants that we are able to provide quality care to your children. We are in need of quite a few things that would strengthen our program. This ranges from things like walkie talkies to craft supplies. We are taking the time to survey the materials we have and the ones we stand in need of. Following this we will create an Amazon wishlist. You are welcome to purchase items from our wishlist or send in a donation to purchase these things. Once equipment needs are met, we would utilize donations to re-establish our scholarship fund, which was completely wiped out during COVID. Any monetary donations are tax deductible as we are a 501(c)3 non-profit. We can currently accept gifts via PayPal (jgecdirector@gmail.com), check (made out to JGEC), or Venmo (@JGEC1).