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GECRC April 2011 Newsletter



Upcoming Events

Glen Ellyn has it's own World Cup this Spring

The Soccer season is underway and GECRC students are out in force! 33 of our kids will be playing soccer on four 2nd-8th grade teams. Our students represent 8 different countries so it is a World Cup of sorts!

It truly is a global effort on the part of the Glen Ellyn community. Glen Ellyn Bible Church has provided coaches, donated shin guards and cleats and enrolled children to round out the teams. Church of the Resurrection helped to recruit coaches. The Glen Ellyn Park District and GEYSO gave scholarships to our kids so they could play. Quench helped recruit coaches and family buddies that help our kids get to weekly practices and games. And the Parkside Apartment Network helped to combine all of these organizations. The GECRC is so excited to be able coordinate this extra opportunity for our children. Last year was our first appearance in park district soccer with just one team. We are thrilled that we can double this positive experience!

Stop by the GECRC and catch us in Action

Exciting things are happening daily at the Resource Center.

Stop by and you will see our kids exploring, learning, interacting, and playing. Some of current and upcoming activities are as follows:

Boys Club is for, of course, the boys! Led by four Wheaton

Grant News

The **Glen Ellyn Rotary Club Foundation** presented the GECRC with \$2,500 to support our after school literacy and life skills program.

We deeply appreciate their support.

Get Involved

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

Summer Program Volunteers -

June 27 - July 28 we will be looking for volunteers to assist with our GECRC summer school. Email volunteer@gecrc.org for more information

Karate Instructor - We're looking for an experienced Karate instructor to work with some of our male students once a week starting in the summer or fall.

After School Snack Host - Want to give a treat to 60 kids? Care about too much junk food? Bring a healthy snack to our After School Program. Stay a while and talk with students. You will

College students, this focuses on positive interactions and responses among our male population. They meet weekly on Thursdays.

Girls on the Move is returning this April and May for our girls, grades 2-5. Volunteers, Susan Elger and Gail Wiedman work with the girls on Tuesdays. The group not only run together, but they discuss working together as a team. They will conclude the program with a 5K run, Hoof it for Hepzibah on May 30th.

Choir with Emily Ellsworth of Anima. The ELL children sing weekly on Tuesdays.

Animation Workshops take place every Wednesday for 7 weeks. Volunteers from the People's Resource Center work with the kids to develop to create stop-motion art. This program is available to all of the GECRC kids.

Health Department Workshops on bullying and being healthy and active took place in April.

GECRC Summer Program



- Dates: June 27-July 28 (Mondays - Thursdays), 8:30am-12:30pm
- Place: Churchill Elementary School
- Our summer partners include:

The Glen Ellyn Pak District, which will offer a one week swim lesson session to GECRC students, grades K-3, the week before the summer program

Victory Sports Camp, who will run a one week soccer skills program, July 25-28.

The Glen Ellyn Public Library will offer a Family Literacy Program on Fridays to GECRC families.

Norman B. Barr Camp will offer scholarships to up to 24 students for a sleep away camp experience July 18-22.

help keep their energy up for challenging school work, and everyone will appreciate your thoughtful gift.

Wish List

- Healthy after school snacks (like Fruit, Granola bars, Crackers, String Cheese, Gogurt, Juice boxes
- Clear sheet protectors
- [Pocket dividers](#)
- Pencils and erasers
- Empty tissue boxes
- Ping-pong balls
- Beads and other craft supplies
- Composition books
- Pillows and Rugs for Reading Corners
- Dryerase markers
- Gift certificates to Dollar Tree, Staples, or Target to buy supplies

Interested in volunteering this summer? Contact Lauren at volunteer@gecrc.org for more information

What You Missed



SPELLAPALOOZA

March 11 - 7:30pm - Glenbard West Auditorium

Spellapalooza, part three took place Friday, March 11 and the ABC's from the Glen Ellyn Public Library were the champion spellers. The ABC's, Kate McCarthy, Maria Tachna and Al Walkat, were clearly the winners of the event. There was, however a battle for second place between the Wildcat Warriors of Hadley Jr High School and God is Still Spelling, the senior high youth group from 1st Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn. Neither team could outspell the other, so they ended in a tie. The Wildcat Warriors included teacher Kelly Coleman and 7th graders Caroline Makauskas and Concetta Syracuse. Holt Jones, Joey Sackett and George Sanders were on The God is Still Spelling team. This friendly community spelling bee was hosted by Police Chief Philip Norton and raised \$5,000 to benefit the programs of the GECRC.

Meet Our Staff



Did you know we serve an average of 58 students each day? We couldn't do it without our volunteers or our outstanding staff! *(Left to right in the photo above, Katie Galli Holden, Monica Lightner, and Lauren Sempsrott.)

Katie Holden is our Program Director. She joined the GECRC team in June 2009 as the English Language Coordinator before moving to her current position in August 2010. Her broad work and volunteer experiences have given her familiarity, practice and skill working with English Language Learners and other diverse communities. Katie has this to say about the GECRC, "Besides our GECRC students, whose smiles and enthusiasm for life make coming to work a joy, I love working at GECRC because I have the daily privilege of seeing people from our community coming together to support our GECRC students and their families - providing positive relationships, critical academic support, enrichment activities like art, choir, and soccer, and behind-the-scenes support!"

Lauren Sempsrott - Literacy and Volunteer Coordinator. Lauren joined the GECRC in January 2010. A graduate student at Wheaton College with several years of teaching experience, Lauren brings a passion for working with children and a desire to learn alongside them. She loves being a part of the Resource Center and says, "The more involved you get with GECRC, the more involved you want to be!"

Monica Lightner - ELL Coordinator

Monica began with GECRC as a volunteer in September 2010 and moved to her current position in January 2011.

Prior to that, she worked in the business world for many years, but now, she claims, she has "THE BEST JOB EVER"! Monica loves seeing the impact that the GECRC

has on the kids' lives.



GECRC Send Notes to Japan

After the recent tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the GECRC kids are reaching out to their friends in need. 35 students wrote notes and drew pictures for students in Japan. Patty Breun, a Glen Ellyn mother of two and former substitute teacher at Lincoln Elementary School will hand deliver these notes when she returns to Japan this month. She currently teaches English at 6 Japanese schools and knows the kids will appreciate the words of encouragement.



Garfield Park Conservatory Field Trip

On February 24th, 30 GECRC students headed to the Garfield Park Conservatory to catch an early glimpse of spring (We are still waiting!). After school, we enjoyed a chili lunch (which they had made themselves the night before). Then 3 full vans headed off to the Conservatory! Each group enjoyed exploring rooms full of blooming flowers and plants from all over the world - we even saw turtles, goldfish, and waterfalls. Many of our refugee and immigrant students especially enjoyed finding plants from their native countries. We worked together to complete scavenger hunts the Conservatory had provided for us. Thanks again to all our volunteers who joined us on this fun afternoon!

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