



Dear Friends of Greenbrier,

The daffodils are blooming and today marks the first day back from Spring Break for our students. And they are coming back to a lot of exciting plans for the last few months of the 08-09 school year! We have a series of workshops planned with Educational Theater Company (ETC) to support students' ongoing language development and expressive abilities; an upcoming Science Fair for which our students have been hard at work hypothesizing and investigating; and an end-of-year race planned for Greenbrier's spring Running Club, led by Carlin Springs Elementary School's own 5th grade teacher Ms. Johnston. As you will see from the articles below, these build on an exciting winter in which our students went ice skating, visited the National Aquarium, and more!

As always, Greenbrier Learning Center greatly appreciates the strong support of the Arlington community! With your help, we have raised over \$20,000 this year through our Annual Giving Campaign. We've also received recent support from the Arlington Kiwanis Club; thank you, Kiwanis! Finally, we have 30 fantastic and active volunteers working with our students, parents, and in our offices every day – two of whom are spotlighted this month on Arlington's cable network (more below).

Happy Spring to all of our community partners, contributors, and volunteers. You put the SPRING in our step!

In partnership,
Courtney Reeve
Executive Director





Spring Time In The Learning ROCKS! Programs

Learning ROCKS! this spring is in like a lion, keeping busy with fun field trips, science fair activities, and so much more. In March, ice skating was the perfect goodbye to cold weather. It was a first for many of our students so they tested their skills and (only after a few falls) started to get the hang of it. Overall, it was a wonderful end to winter!

The next trip was to the National Aquarium in Washington, DC. Students saw a presentation on sharks and walked around the fishy halls learning about our aquatic neighbors. It was a wet and wonderful preview of our "water-themed" full day summer camp that will start in June!

Next on the list was our spring Literacy Fair and spring Reading is Fundamental (RIF) book distribution. Leading up to the event, students at both Virginia Gardens and Greenbrier worked hard on developing presentations on the books they have been reading in their literacy circles. We saw skits, board games, and dances! Their creativity was flowing! After their presentations, each student was allowed to pick his or her very own book from the wide selection. Thank you to Delta Sigma Theta alumnae for a great day and great books!

During the week, Learning ROCKS! has been continuing with its cultural cooking with more and more students sharing stories and food from their native countries. We are also starting the science projects for our annual science fair which will be in full swing once we get back from Spring Break. Some of the experiments we have in the works include volcanoes, chewing gum analysis, and a homemade viscometer! (Don't know what a viscometer is? Come to our Science Fair in May to find out!)

Last but not least, Greenbrier Learning Center's afterschool program, Learning ROCKS!, has had the honor this month of being featured in the Arlington Public Schools' newsletter, News Check. Click on the link below to read the article!
[News Check- Article on Greenbreir Learning Center!](#)



Parents Taking on Spring

Parents are taking on a new challenge this month, working on developing a fundraiser for April that will allow them to buy new benches for the playground area. They will be hosting a food sale April 25th selling homemade Latin food. The group is holding planning meetings all month and working together with local organizations to get donations.

Come support our parents at Virginia Gardens April 25th and try some delicious homemade food!

Coming up for the rest of Spring: A Women's Health Workshop, Reading Connection presentation on the importance of reading with your kids, and Zumba, a combination of aerobics and Latin dance!

Volunteer Spotlight

This month under our spotlight are two volunteers, Greenbrier's very own dream team, Nhu-Y and Cuong Tu. A brother and sister pair who are Friday heroes! And Greenbrier isn't the only one taking notice. Cuong and Nhu-Y have recently been spotlighted on Arlington's Government Cable Station, AVN, as community volunteers, which will be airing this month. They told their story and talked about their work at Greenbrier Learning Center. Click the link below to watch the "Here and Now" segment.

Living in the neighborhood they serve, they have been able to connect with our students in a meaningful way. Nhu-Y has been volunteering with us since her sophomore year in high school and she is now a student at George Mason University. Her brother, who is now a sophomore in high school, joined her this fall volunteering every Friday.

Fridays are "cultural cooking" days at the Greenbrier site. It's a time where students bring in food from their native country and talk with a parent about how it is made and tell special stories about their countries. Cuong and Nhu-Y jumped at the chance to bring in a dish and talk about their native country, Vietnam. They brought in rice paper, lettuce, shrimp, pork, and their special sauce, a combination of hoisin and peanut butter. The students learned about Vietnamese culture and were all able to make their very own spring rolls, mmmmmm!

Thanks, Nhu-Y and Cuong, for all you do for the Greenbrier Learning Center and congratulations!

[Nhu-Y and Cuong on AVN! Check it out!](#)

The Kudos Container Was Hungry!

We are trying something new at Greenbrier and Virginia Gardens: The Kudos Container! It works like this: to give a kudos to someone is to say good job, or to say "kudos to _____ for doing _____." Students, staff, and volunteers are able to give and receive kudos for a job well done. Each newsletter we will feature kudos from the previous month.

Here are March's kudos:

Kudos to Jimmy for cleaning out his backpack and catching up on all of his homework!

Kudos to Jacky, Sam, Patrick, and Jordan for helping out with our video project. Best dance competition on record!

Kudos to Julia and Susan for attending the Math workshop on March 19th!

Kudos to Patrick for using "I" messages during book group at Greenbrier!

Kudos to Sara for being a nice person to me. Thank you! [From one student to another]

Kudos to Julia S. for reading our fortunes for the Persian New Year! From Saman

Kudos to Anna for teaching us all AMAZING dance moves for our Persian New Year's Celebration! From Saman & Erin

Kudos to Victoire and Jamitress! "Thanks a lot for coming all the way from France! It was "trés" fun." From Jose Santander

Kudos to Saman and Peggy for the superstar spring clean-up! VG looks great! From Erin



Kudos to Ms. Jeannette from Claremont! Thanks for coming to talk to us at Program! From Kevin Florimon

Board Member Spotlight

We are pleased to share with you an interview with the Chair of our Board of Directors, Lisa Pope.

Q. How long have you been on the Board at Greenbrier?

A. I have been on the Board at Greenbrier since its founding in 1994. I started out as part of the planning committee that established the Center, working in partnership with the Arlington Community Foundation. It has been very gratifying to start with an idea and see it go all the way through to fruition.

Q. What compelled you to work with Greenbrier Learning Center, compared to another organization?

A. I saw a need in the community. This type of organization did not exist in this area, so I saw a strong need for an afterschool program that would provide tutoring and academic support, in addition to recreation. Starting early with academic support is so important, as is making learning fun and reaching out to parents and other family members as well. Reaching out to parents and working with the entire family has always been a goal of Greenbrier, so to see the parent programs growing is really exciting.

Q. What is your role with the Board of Directors?

A. I serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors. I also serve on the Board's Governance and Finance Committee and Board Recruitment Committee..

Q. How did you decide to become involved with GBLC as a Board member? Why a board member and not another type of volunteer (e.g. tutoring kids, etc.)?

A. I started with the Board and never left! It has been a great experience and, with my work schedule, it is hard to come in and tutor during the day time. The Board gives me a role and allows me to still support the organization. As a Board member I also get to represent Greenbrier Learning Center and spread the word about our outstanding programs and the wonderful work that we do. It allows me to heighten Greenbrier's profile in the community.

Q. Tell us about yourself... Your work, your interests, your skills -

A. I grew up in Arlington and went to Glencarlyn Elementary, which is now Carlin Springs, one of the elementary schools we serve. This is another reason why being involved at Greenbrier is so meaningful to me. My background is as a writer and editor and I currently am Publications Supervisor at Woodward Communications in Washington, DC. I have a life-long love of reading and writing, which is why being involved in an education based organization is so important to me.

Q. Are you an Arlington resident? If so, how long have you lived in Arlington? What makes this community special to you? If not, why is it important for you to be involved in an organization in Arlington?

A. I currently live in the Fairlington neighborhood in Arlington. I love that Arlington has always had a commitment to the community and a long tradition of civic activism and strong neighborhood associations.

Q. Why is it important to you to give back to the community?

A. I think it is important to continue the tradition in Arlington of supporting the community. My family was very involved in the community and supporting the local schools as I was growing up, so continuing that has also been important to me. I want all children to have the opportunity to learn and succeed, both in school and in life.

Q. What is your most memorable experience with GBLC?

A. I would have to say the ribbon cutting when we opened in 1994. There was so much planning and time that went into creating the center and a lot of hours spent visiting other afterschool programs in the area, such as the Darrell Green Learning Center in DC, which actually became a model for us. Seeing Greenbrier actually open its doors was very exciting. We started by serving a small number of students and seeing the programs expand over the years has also been exciting.

Q. How might others become involved with GBLC?

A. There are many opportunities to volunteer. In addition to the volunteers who come and tutor and work with students each week, different community members have also come in over the years to make presentations to students about their jobs and hobbies. Another way to get involved is to become a Board member. We are currently accepting resumes for new board members. Serving on the board is an important way to support the organization if you can't volunteer during the day. Right now we are looking for potential board members who have skills in fundraising, marketing, and finance. We are also hoping to enhance board representation from the local business community. You can also support the organization through your financial donations. With a small nonprofit such as Greenbrier, you can see your money go to work immediately and see it go directly to our programs and to support students. In this challenging economy, donations are more important than ever to nonprofits such as Greenbrier. Join us and help us continue making a difference every day in the lives of children, youth, and their families in Arlington!

Tennis Tournaments Raising Money For Greenbrier!

Arlington County Tennis Association (ACTA) is hosting a Charity Doubles Tournament in which they will be raising money for local charities including the Greenbrier Learning Center! The cost will be a minimum donation of \$60 per team with all of the proceeds benefiting local charities.

The tournament will be on Saturday April 18th at 9 am and Sunday, April 19th at 4 pm (in the case of inclement weather, the tournament dates will be pushed to May 16th and 17th) at Arlington tennis courts.

Please contact socials@actatennis.org if you have any questions.

[Click here to learn more about the ACTA Charity Doubles Tournament!](#)

Special thank you to our generous supporter:

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