



We don't want you to miss out on any important updates or events going on at Greenbrier Learning Center. So to avoid missing something add GBLC@vresp.com to your addressbook and our emails will never get lost in Junk Mail folders!

Dear Friends of Greenbrier,

As summer draws to a close, I am thrilled to report on the many successes of the children and families we have served over the past year. In no small part, it is because of you – our volunteers, community partners, idea-mavens, advisors, and donors – that we have had the privilege to be a part of their achievements.

Greenbrier Learning Center continues to serve children in grades 3-5 each day afterschool at two sites: Greenbrier Baptist Church and Virginia Gardens Apartments. The program staff have been hard at work developing and refining our new Learning ROCKS! program. Named by the students (who are emphatic about it having the exclamation mark at the end...), the new program model ensures greater collaboration among staff and students. Some exciting activities that are implemented through Learning ROCKS! include Literature Circles (students reading and discussing the same books at both sites), Pen Pals (students exchanging letters across sites), and our second annual Science Fair Extravaganza that took place in May with support from the Ben Burdetsky Fund.

Learning ROCKS!' focus on language and literacy skills is paying off! In the 2007-08 school year, 78% of our students made gains in their reading scores with several students increasing their reading skills by an entire grade level. Students also showed improvements in their Grade Point Averages, homework completion, and attendance. We are especially proud of these accomplishments considering that 70% of the students we serve qualify for special services for language, learning, or behavior challenges; and 75% receive Free/Reduced Lunch at school.

In this newsletter, you will find more information about GBLC's programs and activities, including the current happenings in our Parent Program and this year's summer camp: Greenbrier Goes for the Gold! As always, our programs are greatly enriched by your support in all of its many forms. On behalf of our students, parents, staff, and Board of Directors – THANK YOU!

In partnership,

Courtney C. Reeve
Executive Director

PS – Don't forget to check us out on Facebook!

Greenbrier Goes for the Gold!

By: Emily Snyder

To get the kids pumped up for the 2008 Summer Olympics, we at Greenbrier have decided to enact our own version of the games. Campers are divided up into Team GREEN and Team BRIER, and the competition between the two teams has been intense!!! Not only are the kids earning medals for performance in the games, but also they are earning medals for behavior and good sportsmanship.

Each day the children are excited to come and participate in the events, which include anything from sports and fitness, book clubs, arts and crafts, swimming, journaling, service learning, and of course, water games for really hot days!

Through our Olympic theme, the children are practicing the concepts of good sportsmanship, healthy competition, being a team player, and setting individual goals. It has been exciting to see kids confronted with challenges and then surprising themselves with their own abilities. One child arrived at the batting cages fearful of not being able to hit any balls, but ended up going home proud of his 7 hits after some coaching from a volunteer! Let the games, fun, and learning continue!



Learning ROCKS! 2nd Annual Science Fair

By: Amy Halvorsen

The Learning ROCKS! 2007-2008 school year has come to an end and what a year it was! We had the opportunity to explore many different themes, such as nutrition, animal care, sports, building literacy skills, cultural awareness, teambuilding, social skills, the arts, and last but not least Science. Our Learning ROCKS! programs at Greenbrier and Virginia Gardens came together for our 2nd Annual Science Fair. This year's Science Fair was held on the evening of May 29th at the Greenbrier Learning Center. It was a time for students, parents, staff, and community members to come together and see all the hard work our students put into their projects.

Excitement was in the air. As people arrived the students eagerly greeted our guests at the door and proudly passed out the evening's program. Next, our courteous students served refreshments to all those who came out to see the show. Following a brief introduction of the projects it was time for the demonstrations and viewing. The room was a buzz! Everywhere you looked there was action. We had volcanic explosions, blind folder taste tests, gum testing, acids & bases experiments, and even putting out some flames.

It was a fun event for everyone and the proud smiles on the students' faces said it all. We look forward to Learning ROCKS! 3rd Annual Science Fair and hope you can join us!



Connecting with Parents at Greenbrier and Virginia Gardens!

By: Lauren Cranman

Our parents were almost as busy as the kids this school year! Parent Connection at Virginia Gardens met weekly and Greenbrier at Night met monthly enjoying GBLC's great partnership with Arlington County's Parent Education Office. This year they offered on-going parenting "charlas" ("chats") with bilingual facilitators. It was a perfect opportunity for parents to share experiences and learn how to incorporate more positive parenting into their lives.

Back by popular demand this summer is Operation Frontline at Virginia Gardens! This is a six-week nutrition course taught by trained cooks and nutritionists from the Capitol Area Food Bank. Participants will learn how to read food labels effectively and how to use the Food Pyramid to their benefit. Most importantly--they'll learn (and sample!) delicious--and nutritious--food!

Greenbrier Teams up with AmeriCorps*VISTA

Greenbrier is proud to join the many nonprofits around the country that host an AmeriCorps*VISTA Volunteer with support from the Corporation for National Service. VISTA stands for Volunteers in Service to America and has been working to strengthen thousands of nonprofits since its founding in 1965.

Beginning this month, VISTA Sarah Bordeaux will be working with GBLC as a full-time (40 hours/week) volunteer all year to help us build our Volunteer Program and Parent & Community Outreach Program. Sarah recently graduated from James Madison University where she studied history. She knows she will learn a lot from working with the staff and hopes someday she can start her own non profit. GBLC allows her to work behind the scenes promoting education in kids which is a passion of hers so she is excited to meet everyone and get started.

Having a VISTA is recognition of the benefits and potential of Greenbrier Learning Center and promises to be an unforgettable year of growth and development. We are excited to have Sarah join our team!

Volunteer Spotlight

By: Lauren Cranman

Our "Volunteer Spotlight" is on Susan McNally. Susan has been donating her time and energy to the Greenbrier Learning Center since November of 2007 and has logged over 87 volunteer hours during the school year making her an wonderful asset to our programs! Known for her sense of humor and welcoming personality, Susan connects in a meaningful way with the children supporting them with homework help or acting as a phenomenal reading coach. She is flexible and helps out whenever--and wherever!-- she is needed, whether in learning activities, homework, or reading. One instance where she has gone above and beyond the call of duty was when she chaperoned our bowling trip this Spring and had a great time doing it! And her volunteering doesn't end with the school year, taking advantage of our fun summer activities, she's been helping out on various field trips making outings like mini-golf a total success!

Thank you, Susan, for all your time and dedication! We couldn't do it without you!



[Join Us On Facebook!](#)

Greenbrier is now on Facebook! Come join our group which will give you updates and important information about what we are up to- OR- join our cause, an application on Facebook that you can add to show your support and help spread the word about our mission.

Just log on and type "Greenbrier Learning Center" in the search box and check us out!

Want to support the programs at Greenbrier Learning Center?

Click on the link below and it will take you to our Network for Good page where you can place donations to GBLC.



[Donate](#)

Want to get involved?

Click the link bellow and learn how you can help.

[Volunteer](#)

Thank you to our many community partners whose support benefits GBLC's programs and activities in numerous ways:

AHC, Inc.: Arlington County Cooperative Extension: Arlington County DHS, Parent Education Program: Arlington County Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources: Arlington County Schools especially Carlin Springs Elementary and Randolph Elementary: Arlington County Volunteer Office: Best Buns Bread Co.: Capital Area Food Bank, Kids' Cafe & Operation Frontline: Delta Theta Sigma Sorority Alumni and Reading is Fundamental: Educational Theater Co.: George Mason University, New Century College & Center for Service and Leadership: Kiwanis Club: Manor Care:

Marymount University:. MTFA Architecture:. REEP:. Volunteer Fairfax:. Whole Foods Market, Clarendon:.

Board of Directors

Lisa Pope, Chair; Todd Endo, Treasurer; Jacobus Joubert; Kathie Panfil, Secretary; Robert E. Pope; Courtney C. Reeve, Executive Director; Shally Stanley; Robert Stern; and Chris Sutton.

And special thanks to outgoing board members Anne Biedscheid and Adam Levithan for their service to GBLC.

Hope you've enjoyed the great things Greenbrier is achieving and thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

--Greenbrier Learning Center, going for the gold!