



Dear Friends of Greenbrier,

We are back in full swing this Fall with many exciting new changes and upcoming events. Both Virginia Gardens and Greenbrier are growing and changing, bringing new staff, new students, and great new activities.



CONNECT THE DOTS Children's Art, Auction, and Reception

You're INVITED to our 3rd Annual CONNECT THE DOTS Children's Art, Auction, and Reception!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 from

6:30 - 8:30 pm at the

ARLINGTON ARTS CENTER (3550 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA)

Join us for live music, drinks, door prizes, and the emcee stylings of Arlington's own:

the Honorable Walter Tejada!

There is a suggested donation of \$25.00. Come prepared to bid on some inspiring artwork done by our students and area artists, as well as other fantastic items.

If you can't join us, consider making a virtual toast to Greenbrier. Click the link below to make an online donation.

[Virtual Toast! Click here to donate](#)

Learning ROCKS! Kicks off the Fall Right at Virginia Gardens

The Learning ROCKS! program at Virginia Gardens has gotten off to a “rocking” start! We are currently serving 18 students from Randolph, Claremont, and Patrick Henry Elementary Schools. Our days have been jam-packed with art projects, outside games, math competitions, and, of course, homework and reading!

We have been enjoying weekly walks to Barcroft Park to play soccer and play on the new playground. Program Assistant Saman Berenji has also been instructing the students in basic yoga poses--come join us some time and see how flexible you are! We have some fabulous volunteers with us this Fall: Reina Escobar, Julia Stefanelli, Jessica Estrada-Ramos, Olivia Truland, Lyne Picard--thanks for all you do!

We are excited to have our new Site Coordinator Erin Garnett begin on October 6. Erin is a graduate of Dartmouth College and has taught elementary school for two years in the Marshall Islands.

Welcome Erin!

Learning ROCKS! Grows Serving Up to 40 Students at Greenbrier

Learning ROCKS! welcomes 20 new students to the program at the Greenbrier Site this Fall as well as three new staff members: Aaron, Jacky, and Jocelyn.

The transition to a larger group has been smooth and students and staff are bonding. Divided into teams Green and Brier students from different school are working together for common goals. A great part of our new big group is watching even more students gain from the program! Director of Learning ROCKS! Comments, “It’s amazing to look across the rooms and see 40 students engrossed in their books!”

All of this success could not have been possible without our amazing new and returning volunteers! Their time and dedication is truly valued in our Program. Thank you everyone for all of your amazing support!



Volunteer Spotlight

Katie Wilmes is our Buddy Night all star! Helping out at both Virginia Gardens Learning Center and Greenbrier Learning Center she is a huge help to us and more importantly to our families! Always smiling she comes week after week, often times the only volunteer, to have fun with the children of Virginia Gardens. She can always be relied on

to be there whenever we need her. She is a great helper and playmate and this months Spotlight Volunteer! Thank you Katie for all your hard work!

Greenbrier would also like to thank all its new and returning volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

Our Parent's Are Busier Than Ever!

Our "Parent Charlas" or "chats" are in full swing happening every other Tuesday at Virginia Gardens and once a month at Greenbrier. Led by facilitators from the Parent Education Program at the Arlington County Department of Human Services parents are able to discuss issues and learn new ways to deal with tough situations.

On Tuesdays at Virginia Gardens when parents are not meeting for "charlas" they are working on some pretty exciting things. In August they held a food sale in torrential down pours that raised over \$400! Now they are gearing up for a Zumba class, a workshop with Gladis Bourdouane to discuss school options in Arlington County, and a workshop with Kathleen Donovan who will talk about the Special Education Resource Center and what it has to offer.

There is also a new program GBLC is offering this year! In partnership with Escuela Bolivia we will be hosting English Language Instruction classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00-8:00 pm at Greenbrier Baptist Church and every Saturday at Claremont Elementary. Classes are still taking students so if anyone wants to register they can come by any Tuesday or Thursday night. Child enrichment will be offered to parents taking classes.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,
--Greenbrier Learning Center