



## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2022

**The theme of this month's newsletter is gratitude.** This is an obvious choice due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday; less obvious perhaps, is our gratitude for having gotten through the first two months of the new school year!

Over the years, more research has been devoted to studying the [benefits of gratitude](#). Gratitude practices can be adapted to everyday family routines. My family likes to tease me about the period in our lives when I instituted the practice of sharing what we are grateful for at the start of each dinner. But now, on the rare occasions when the adult children are home and we are all together, it's one of the kids who initiates the gratitude sharing practice when we gather around the table.

As I sit at my desk and reflect on these first two months of the school year, I am grateful for:

- Wonders teachers and leaders
- Wonders children and their families
- Wonders Board of Directors
- Wonders administrative team
- School leaders who partner with us
- Creativity, Flexibility, and a Sense of Humor

Today and everyday, all of us at Wonders are grateful to our veterans and to those who are serving our country now.

With thanks,

Joanne Hurt  
Executive Director

P.S. - If you are looking for some ideas to spark gratitude practices, this [calendar from Greater Good Science Center](#) has prompts for each day of the month.

### October Snapshot

Early Learning + Extended Day Highlights



October launched our annual giving campaign, Wonders Forward. Wonders Forward is an investment in our ability to enhance accessibility for families through tuition assistance and teacher development that supports classroom continuity and engagement. We are currently at 8% of our fundraising goal of raising \$35,000 by December 31st . **We appreciate everyone who has contributed to Wonders Forward - Thank You!**

**Thank You!**  
Wonders Board of Directors

Wonders Board of Directors lead our annual giving efforts by making or pledging their personal annual commitments by October 1st. This year, our board has committed a total of \$34,900. We are truly grateful for this incredible example of leadership and personal commitment to the Wonders mission - Thank you Board of Directors!

**Pilates Playtime!**  
*Early Learning Initiative*

Pilates Playtime is a fitness program designed for the toddlers - Pre-Kindergarteners in our two early learning centers, developed by Leland's Program Assistant, Dani MacAlister. This exciting program offers children a fresh look at fitness while building upon skills they learn everyday!

**Kick-Off to Fall**  
Celebrating the season

Our early learning and extended day programs celebrated the change in season with a variety of fall-themed events and arts and crafts. Thank you for the creativity and fun all around!



**WondersTeam Raffle**  
*November Raffle Winners*

Thank you to our generous in-kind donors for their contribution to Wonders November raffle event: Gaylord National Resort and Conference Center, Kendra Scott, Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza, and CAVA MEZZE.



Nick Moon  
Program Assistant, Little Falls



Miciel DeMarco, Early Learning  
Program Director  
and Yelena Montenegro-Glezer,  
Lead Teacher, Edgemoor



Rachelle Saint-Jean  
Executive Assistant, Kenwood

**Staffing Updates**  
Welcoming Educators

This month, we welcomed seven new team members into our Early Learning and Extended Day programs. Please join us in welcoming: Shawntay Cook, Sa'mone Bailey, Tynisha Murphy, Tiffany Huff, Joshua Kellogg, Antonio Jolivet, and Kellie Forde!

Wonders continues to seek qualified teachers for our programs. We currently have 7 positions open in our early learning classrooms and 14 positions available among our extended day

programs. [For more information and how to apply visit us online or contact our office today.](#)



### **Educator Workshops**

Join our PDC in a workshop

Wonders Professional Development Consortium (PDC) has monthly, virtual workshops on a range of topics beneficial to early childhood and OTS educators! [Download the calendar of upcoming workshops and share this news among your networks.](#) Workshops are \$10.00/person and discounts and reimbursements are available for eligible educators. [Learn more by visiting us online.](#)

### **Register Now!**

November 17 at 5:30 pm

Registration is open for the, "Proactive, Positive and Responsive Approaches to Behavior Guidance (3 COK hours) a virtual session on November 17th, 5:30pm - 8:30pm. Join Saba Ahmed, M.A. ECE Trainer, in developing strategies that help support children and teachers in having a successful day. Register with this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/proactive-positive-and-responsive-approaches-to-behavior-guidance-tickets-446057679527>

### **OTS Educator Conference**

Coming in 2023!

This Winter, Wonders Professional Development Consortium will host three 2-hour workshops for out of school time educators in a day-long conference. Workshops will meet MSDE requirements for Core of Knowledge training for participants who work in MSDE licensed programs. Topics will include; Equity focused teaching and learning practices in Out of School Time Programs, Creating Literacy Rich Environments for School Age Children, and Trauma Informed Care for School Age Programs. Details of the conference will be announced soon!



### **Consultants Corner**

What is Self-Regulation?

This month in the Consultants Corner, the Child Development Consultants (CDC) discuss self-regulation and how parents and educators can help their young children develop self-control, pay attention, and follow directions at home and in the classroom. First, what is self-regulation? [Click here to learn more!](#)

---

### **Staying Informed**

*Articles and Announcements that grabbed our attention*

- [Transforming Kindergarten,](#) New America
  - [Two measurements tell two stories about the strength of U.S. employment,](#) The New York Times
  - [100,000 Workers Are Missing,](#) The New York Times
-

Join us with a contribution today!

Teaching children through play and a nurturing and diverse community.  
[Make a donation today to ensure access to quality care and education.](#)

Contact Us

Our Contact Information  
\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
\*{{Organization Address}}\*  
\*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
\*{{Organization Website}}\*  
  
\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*

Follow Us On Social Media

