



## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2022

### Welcome to Our New Program Year!

Our monthly administrative newsletter brings news and helpful resources to our community of alumni, families, and partners. We want to share with you some of the many ways that Wonders positively impacts the lives of children and families in the community. **Look to this space to find information about parent education workshops, Wonders-wide events, and opportunities to connect with our work.**

We are very excited to announce that we have expanded this year. In late August, we opened two new extended day programs. Welcome School Without Walls-Francis Stevens and Murch Elementary! **Wonders is now operating 11 locations in Montgomery County, MD, Washington, DC and Fairfax, VA.** Each Wonders program is unique and reflects the children and families who we serve. All of our programs share the same mission – to create and advance high quality diverse educational communities that teach the foundations of life-long learning and social responsibility.



### Board of Directors 2022-2023

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### News and Special Announcements

**Children's Opportunity Alliance:** *Grant Recipient*

The Children’s Opportunity Alliance (formerly the Children’s Opportunity Fund) selected Wonders [Professional Development Consortium \(PDC\)](#) to receive a grant for the 22-23 school year. The grant will enable Wonders PDC to offer professional development workshops in equity focused early childhood education. Wonders PDC will also support ECE educators, specifically Black and Brown educators, in reaching qualified status to independently develop and lead ECE workshops. [Learn more about Children's Opportunity Alliance.](#)

**Leading for Children:**  
*Equity in Early Learning*

Earlier this spring, Wonders program directors and leaders participated in a study group in partnership with Leading for Children. Meeting over several weeks, participants used the reflective practice journal, [\*The Five Commitments of Optimistic Leaders for Children\*](#). The work is designed to support educators as they strengthen their roles as leaders in the field to advance collaborative, equitable learning environments for young children. We hope to expand this opportunity to more members of the Wonders community this year. This learning opportunity was made possible through a gift from the Crispell-Weinstein family to increase professional development opportunities for Wonders educators on topics of social-justice and anti-biased education.

**Story Tapestries:**  
*Arts Collaborative*

Wonders early learning centers are partnering, for the third consecutive year, with the Story Tapestries Ensemble (STE) in a 5-session residency to bring arts-centered learning into the classrooms. Art education positively impacts children academically, socially, emotionally and artistically. Through this partnership, children and their families will have the chance to engage in a range of theatre and storytelling performances aligned with MSDE fine arts standards and English Language Arts standards of learn. [Learn more about the Story Tapestries mission.](#)

**Second Step:**  
*K - Grade 5 Curriculum*

Wonders extended day educators will be using web-based trainings and classroom toolkits to implement the Second Step Curriculum in all nine of our extended day programs. Second Step is a research-based, social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum designed to help social- emotional skills like community-building, empathy and kindness, and growth mindset to children from Kindergarten through Grade 5. [Learn more about the Second Step Curriculum.](#)

**Children Discovering Thier World:** *Pre-K Curriculum*

Wonders early learning centers are a recipient of a MSDE grant to provide ECE educators coaching and materials to effectively implement the Children Discovering Their World curriculum for preschoolers and preK. Children Discovering Their World (CDW) is a comprehensive curriculum developed by the University of Maryland in partnership with the Smithsonian, that is fully aligned with MSDE’s Early Learning Standards and their Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. CDW is organized around project-based inquiry and provides daily math and literacy small group experiences. [Learn More.](#)

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**Weekend Family-Fun Events**



This weekend is **Children's Day at Brookside Gardens**. Explore the art and science of gardening through child-driven art projects and engaging science activities.

[Register Today](#)



Join **Tara Hoot** and **Rainbow Families**, Saturday, September 24th for a family story-time brunch.

[Tickets](#)



Don't miss the **last family movie nigh**t of the year at Tysons Corner Plaza. Friday, September 30.

[Event Details](#)



Join us **Saturday, October 15th**, at the Town of Chevy Chase Annual Fall Festival! **All are welcome and no registration is required.**

[Event Calendar](#)

## Summer Days, Drifting Away

Wonders held two summer camp programs this year; Summer Learning Extended Day Camp at Chevy Chase serving children from Bethesda and Chevy Chase Elementary Schools attending summer school classes and Wonders Summer Camp located at Little Falls and Horace Mann. Our camp councilors enjoyed spending time with all our students, attending field trips, and continuing STEAM learning through the summer. Thank you!



At Wonders, we deliver impactful programs for children, educators, and working families alike.  
[Make a donation today to increase access to quality education for all.](#)

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