



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2024



February is Black History Month and was founded by [Carter G. Woodson](#) (1875-1950), who was an educator and historian in Washington, DC. Woodson believed that it was essential to teach and learn about Black history and life to counter the lack of information available and as a means of resistance to racial violence. In the spirit of Black History Month, we are sharing information about [Anna E. Murray](#) (1857-1955), who lived in DC and was active in the Colored Women's League, whose mission was to consolidate the power of Black women to address racial and gender injustice. Anna Murray believed that kindergarten has the power to promote racial justice and democracy. Her work extended beyond opening kindergarten programs in the city to include teacher education for Black women. Many believe that her efforts laid the foundation for DC's current work in public early childhood education programs, as seen in the city's universal pre-kindergarten program.

This month and every month, Wonders educators share stories and explore history with age-appropriate, hands-on learning activities. These learning experiences are the building blocks children need to be engaged, just, and active participants in their communities.

Sincerely,



Joanne Hurt
Executive Director

PS - Books are a great way to learn about history! The Wonders Politics & Prose Book Fair is this Saturday, February 10. Information can be found in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Make an Impact on the Future of Wonders

Join our Board of Directors!

Did you know that Wonders, as a non-profit organization, is overseen by a Board of Directors? Wonders is currently seeking board candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds to serve three-year terms on its [Board of Directors](#) (beginning fall 2024). We aim to ensure that the Wonders board reflects the diverse perspectives of the families, staff, and communities we serve. We welcome interest from folks who have a wide range of lived experiences, a commitment to equitable practices in governance, and a passion for the Wonders mission of creating and advancing high quality, diverse educational communities that teach children the foundations of life-long learning and social responsibility.

All those interested are strongly encouraged to apply. Board members have found board service to be a very engaging and rewarding experience, and a wonderful opportunity to give back to the Wonders community. Not sure if board service is for you? Contact Wonders Vice President, Kara Stein (karahstein@gmail.com), with any questions.

Wonders News & Highlights

A Wider Circle Family Day of Service



Thank you to the families and staff who participated in our annual family day of service at A Wider Circle on January 13th in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It was a special day to make a positive impact for the families who benefit from A Wider Circle's services. As families around the region participated in community service projects, we were grateful to join A Wider Circle once again!

Early Learning Chili Night!



Our Early Learning centers hosted their annual chili night fundraiser! Parents and family members of our Early learning centers purchased chili, cornbread, and treats made by our classrooms, teachers, and staff. Our early learning centers raised \$1,660 in Chili Night contributions to benefit Wonders Carol E. Smith Lifelong Learning Fund, providing grants to Wonders Early Learning teachers who are actively seeking a certification or degree to further their learning and meet NAEYC accreditation requirements. Thank you, everyone, for your chili contributions and donations to make this event a success!



It's not too late! Make a contribution to the Carol E. Smith Lifelong Learning fund here: <https://shorturl.at/fGIY2>

Out of School Time Conference

Wonders Professional Development Consortium hosted the second Out of School Conference for 30 Montgomery County youth educators from the Excel Beyond the Bell Network. Workshop topics were Bringing Yourself to Work, a training session focused on tools for educators to improve the social and emotional climate in their programs; Curriculum Planning and Implementation, a hands-on training that explored ideas for full participation of all students; and Community Building, an exploration of creating community with a focus on equity-based teaching and learning. Each session included opportunities for self-reflection, interactive games, and peer discussions. We want to extend special thanks to the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for making this training day possible. We look forward to future opportunities to partner to support out of school time learning in Montgomery County.



Upcoming! Parent & Guardian Workshop



Dani MacAlister
Wonders Early Learning
at Leland



Ndara Miles
Wonders Early Learning
at Edgemoor

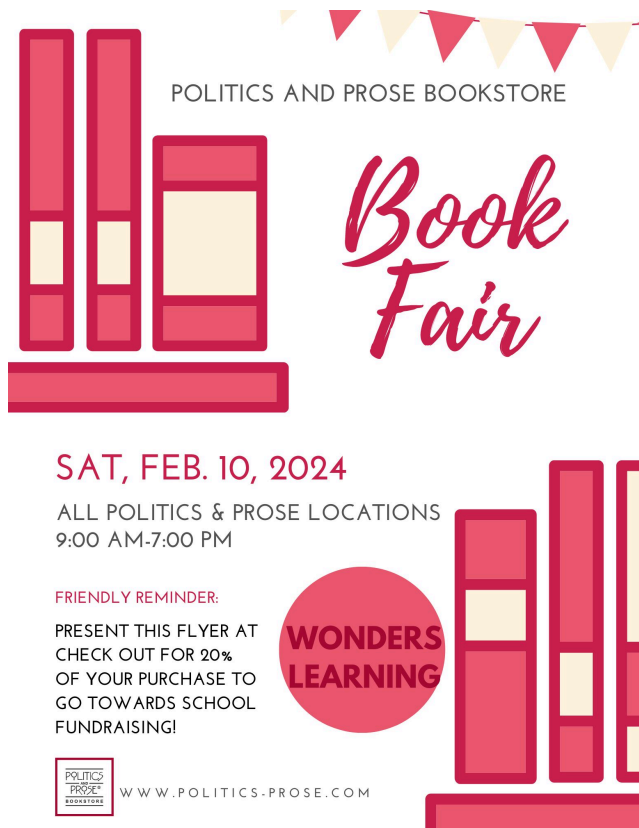
Parents and guardians of young children are invited to join us on Tuesday, February 13 at noon for an informative discussion on Equity in Early Learning. Ndara Miles and Dani MacAlister, Wonders EELI Specialists, will be presenting a workshop that focuses on:

- **Understanding Equity in Early Childhood Education:** Gain insights into the importance of equity in early learning and how it contributes to the overall development of young learners.
- **Building Inclusive Communities:** Explore strategies and practices that promote inclusivity within our school community and at home.
- **Parental Involvement:** Learn about the role of parents in creating an equitable learning environment and supporting their child's growth.

This workshop is free and open to the community! Register on Eventbrite for the Zoom Link: <https://equityinel.eventbrite.com>

This Saturday!

Shop In-Store at Politics & Prose Bookstores



This Saturday, February 10th, Politics and Prose will donate 20% of all IN-STORE purchases to Wonders! Online and special orders will not count towards this event. [To ensure that your purchase counts towards this giveback event, please show this book fair flier when making your purchase.](#)

- Share this flier with your community.
- Coordinate a time to visit any of the 3 Politics and Prose Bookstore locations family and friends.
 - [Connecticut Ave.](#)
 - [The Wharf](#)
 - [Union Market](#)
- Purchase a book to donate to one of our early learning classrooms or extended day programs.

A Wonders team member will be at the Connecticut Ave. location (5015 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008) from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm to answer your questions and to collect donated books for our classroom libraries. Stop in and say hi!

Books & Resources

Exploring Black History Month with Children

- ["Let's Talk About Race! A Family Guide to Positive Racial Identity Development for Young Kids"](#). Equity in Early Learning (EELI) Toolkit for Families.
- ["Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices"](#) is a 12-episode series that can be found on Netflix Jr. This series showcases books that celebrate black stories and culture, read aloud by well-known singer-songwriters, actors, authors, and other notable personalities. It's a fantastic way to discover, expand, and enrich your knowledge about diversity, community, and the importance of self-love.
- Books can be a great tool to help children understand diversity and facilitate conversations about equity and inclusion beginning at a young age. In celebration of Black History Month, here is a list of [Children's Books](#)

A Guide for Finding the Right Early Care and Education Program

Tips for finding child care programs that meet your family's child care needs.



We meet several families each week as they tour our Early Learning centers. We love showing families around and answering questions about our program, teachers, philosophy, meals, and learning goals for each child. We share the ways that we create welcoming, respectful, and equity-focused environments where every child and their family can thrive. Our commitment to meeting diverse needs is a critical part of Wonders' philosophy and mission.

To assist families in their quest for high-quality programs, we've crafted a helpful resource titled "[Starting Your Search for Early Child Care & Education.](#)" This pamphlet serves as a practical guide for navigating child care options, offering insights and considerations to aid parents in making informed decisions aligned with their child's and family's needs. Whether embarking on the journey of parenthood or seeking the right childcare fit, our resource is designed to alleviate stress and empower families in choosing the best environment for their child's growth and development.

Summer is Just Around the Corner

Reserve your spot in Wonders Summer Camp!

Calling all campers,
ages 5 - 12 years old!

wonders summer camp

at Bethesda
June 17 - Aug 9
7:30 am - 6:00 pm

- ◆ 8 weekly sessions
- ◆ Registration: \$50 per child
- ◆ Rate: \$480 per week

LEARN MORE



SUMMER CAMP WEEKS

Week 1: June 17 - June 21*

Week 2: June 24 - June 28

Week 3: July 1 - July 5*

Week 4: July 8 - July 12

Week 5: July 15 - July 19

Week 6: July 22 - July 26

Week 7: July 29 - August 2

Week 8: August 5 - August 9

THEME OF THE WEEK

Great Outdoors

Around the World

Super Hero Academy

Summer S.T.E.A.M

Super Hero Academy

Great Outdoors

Wacky Olympics

Wonders Carnival

FIELD TRIP OF THE WEEK

Wheaton Regional Park

National Zoological Park

Splashdown Waterpark

National Air and Space Museum

Washington Mystics Game

Cabin John Park

Bowie Baysox Game

Wonders Carnival

www.wonderslearning.org/summercamp

Join us with a contribution!

Teaching children through play and a nurturing and diverse community.

[Make a donation today to ensure access to quality care and education.](#)

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