



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March 2025

Community can be defined in many ways. Recently, I have been thinking about how we define community through our actions at Wonders. In late February, I sent an email to Wonders families addressing how Wonders will support families and staff impacted by the federal mandates and other changes impacting our region. Our strategy reflects what we have always done when responding to challenges: prioritize stability for children and their families, support our staff, and adapt where we can. Last week, we hosted Dr. Michael Thompson, who led a teacher workshop and a parent/community discussion about boys' emotional development and how learning communities can better address their needs. It was a day of thoughtful learning that was insightful and energizing.

The warm response to the letter and the open and honest discussions at the Michael Thompson events reflect the strength of the Wonders community. Reciprocity and mutual respect are the foundation of this strength, and it is reassuring to know that this strength will be shared and received as we collectively continue to navigate challenges and opportunities.

Sincerely,

Joanne Hurt
Executive Director

March Updates

Highlights & News

Milton Gottesman JDS



This February, we explored Black History as it relates to arts, music, activism and more. Our students completed activities that included discovering African American inventors by building makeshift traffic lights, creating Black History posters highlighting notable individuals and their achievements, as well as learning agriculture by planting crops and plants.

John Francis Educational Campus



Students at JFEC also embarked on an exciting journey exploring Black History, deepening their understanding of the contributions and achievements of Black individuals throughout time. In addition, we created self-portraits that reflect our unique perspectives and identities, showcasing what we see when we look in the mirror. These portraits not only celebrate our individuality but also encourage us to appreciate the diversity within our community.

Building Emotional Courage in Boys: Our Talk with Dr. Michael Thompson

Earlier this month, parents, teachers and members of the community were treated to a special night in conversation with noted clinical psychologist Dr. Michael Thompson, author of *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*. With decades of experience, Dr. Thompson engaged our audience in insightful and meaningful discussion about the ways in which the emotional education of boys is underdeveloped and insufficient for preparing them for school and adulthood. He emphasized the deep importance of teaching boys emotional literacy in ways that would resonate with them and give them the tools to navigate our ever-changing world. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Dr. Thompson for spending the evening with us and sharing his work and wisdom. We also thank the approximately 50 attendees for participating in our learning community by sharing your questions and perspectives.



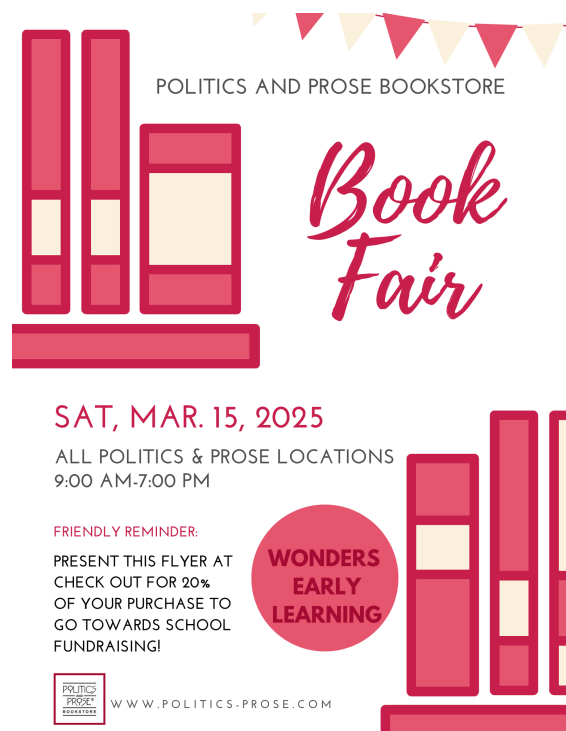
2025 Corporate Highlights!



We would like to thank our current corporate donors for their generous contributions to our Corporate Giving campaign. **NFP Meltzer, Ntiva, and Sandy Spring Bank** are helping us to create flourishing educational programs for our students and continue doing the great work that we do for our community.

[To learn more about our corporate sponsors and partnership opportunities, please take a look at our website here!](#)

Community Events



Politics & Prose Book Fair

Date: Saturday, March 15, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: All Politics & Prose Locations

On Saturday, March 15th, Politics & Prose Bookstore is hosting a book fair for Wonders! 20% of in-store purchases will be donated to Wonders. Our teachers have curated a special [WISH LIST](#) for families interested in making a book donation to your child's classroom.



Parent & Guardian Workshop Series

Workshop Topic: Kindergarten Readiness

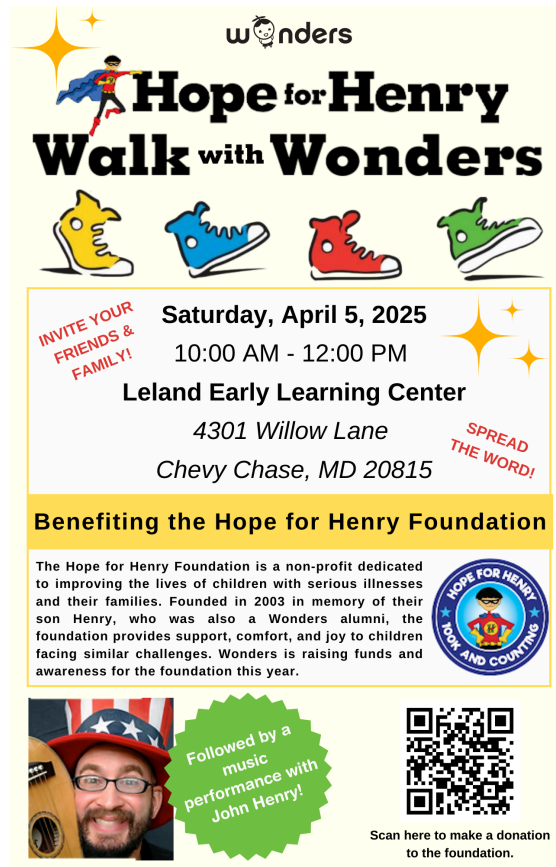
Date: Friday, March 21, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Register now: <https://bit.ly/3Wy61qD>

How can parents prepare their children for kindergarten? What strategies can you use to help your child feel comfortable as they approach this big milestone? How can you incorporate pre-academic readiness skills (such as reading, writing, and math) into your daily routine in a way that fosters a lifelong love of learning? What books and games can help develop these readiness skills? And, what books can you share with your rising kindergartener? Bring your questions, and Amy will share her top tips!



Hope for Henry Walk with Wonders

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Wonders Early Learning at Leland (4301 Willow Lane)

Put on your sneakers and join our Early Learning community for a special walk benefiting the Hope for Henry Foundation! It's sure to be a day full of joy, connection, and fun. Whether you're walking with family, bringing along your furry friends, or cheering from the sidelines, your support helps make a lasting impact. Learn more about Hope for Henry here: <https://hopeforhenry.org/>.

Help brighten the lives of hospitalized children by donating [HERE](#) — and come celebrate the season at our Hope for Henry Walk with Wonders! This relaxed, family-friendly walk wraps up with a lively spring fair and musical performance by John Henry.



Parent & Guardian Workshop Series

Workshop Topic: Strategies to Help the Fussy Eater

Date: Friday, April 18, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Register now: <https://bit.ly/3XvwENL>

Summer is Just Around the Corner!

Reserve your spot in Wonders Summer Camp!

wonders summer camp

Calling all campers,
rising k - 6th grade!

June 17 - August 8

Camp Location + Hours

Bethesda
Bethesda
Elementary School

7600 Arlington Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

Monday - Friday
7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Registration Information

Registering for camp is easy! We offer weekly sessions with a different theme each week. Limited spots are available for camp weeks. Check out our website to learn more and register today!

Registration fee: \$60 per child

Weekly rate: \$520/week**

What We Offer

- ✓ weekly pool visits*
- ✓ weekly field trips
- ✓ daily snacks
- ✓ arts + crafts
- ✓ S.T.E.A.M.
- ✓ sports
- ✓ cooperative games
- ✓ camp special events

SCAN ME



**SAVE THE
DATE!**
**SUMMER CAMP
OPEN HOUSE**
2025

*pool visits and outdoor activities can be canceled due to weather advisories.



APRIL 5, 2023

wonderslearning.org/summercamp

**Week 1 has a reduced rate of \$416

Donate to Wonders

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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