



## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

May 2025

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This week is Teacher Appreciation Week, an annual event that offers us a chance to express gratitude and appreciation to the people who teach and care for children. We are celebrating this week at Wonders and as you can read below, there are some creative and heartfelt activities taking place.

Since our founding in 1976, Wonders has had a deep commitment to its educators because the effectiveness of a diverse, well-prepared and well-compensated staff positively impacts children's learning experiences. Supporting professional careers for our staff has benefits - as highlighted below by the milestone anniversaries being celebrated this school year. To add perspective to the milestones, the longevity of service across the teams strengthens our programs. Currently, 22% of our staff have been with Wonders 10 or more years; 9% of our staff have been with Wonders 5 to 9 years; 38% of our staff have been with Wonders 1 to 4 years; and 29% of our staff are new this year (read more about recruitment initiatives below).

Wonders is fortunate to have educators and leaders who are knowledgeable, dedicated and caring. We are grateful to them this week and every week!

Joanne Hurt  
Executive Director

P.S.

We are kicking off our [Teacher Appreciation Bonus Fund](#). This special Wonders gift-giving tradition started many years ago, and the tradition has continued ever since. End the school year by showing gratitude to the people who impact children's lives every day. Your generous donations directly fund bonuses for the Substitutes, Floaters, Teachers, Lead Teachers, Program Assistant Directors, and Directors, who each play a vital role in providing high-quality and valuable experiences for the children in our care. By contributing to the

fund, we collectively recognize teachers' daily dedication and commitment throughout the year. Thank you - we are grateful for your support!

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## May Updates

### Highlights & News

## Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week



We proudly join the nation in celebrating **Teacher Appreciation Week May 5- May 9** - a special time dedicated to recognizing the incredible educators who spark curiosity, inspire growth, and leave a lasting mark on the lives they touch every single day. Our families have planned a week full of thoughtful activities to express our gratitude! Some of the special activities include: Message Monday; hand written notes of appreciation from the students to educators. Trivia Tuesday; trivia games featuring fun facts about your favorite Wonders educators. Role Reversal Wednesday; our friends will become Wonders teachers for the day- leading games, giving directions, and calling the shots! Twin Day Thursday; dress alike with a friend or a Wonders teacher! Favorite Friday; wear something that represents your favorite whether that is a sports team or superhero, the possibilities are endless!

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## Growing the Workforce

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**Anila Rawasia, Recruitment Specialist Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day**

The importance of the child care workforce was amplified during the COVID pandemic as well as the challenges of the sector. There are lessons to be learned from the experience and subsequent studies. One such study, Child Care Industry Trends During the Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic ([hhs.gov](https://hhs.gov)), confirms what we know in our area - Maryland lost 22% of its child care workforce between February 2020-June 2022 and DC lost 16% during the same time period.

Wonders emphasizes workforce stability and longevity by prioritizing staff compensation and benefits in its budget. With pandemic recovery generating enrollment increases, workforce recruitment efforts have been an important focus. As part of a creative effort to recruit educators, Wonders has been approved to participate in the Apprenticeship Maryland Program and is partnering with both Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and American University to provide meaningful internship and apprenticeship opportunities. Through MCPS's Work-Based Learning program and American University's experiential education initiatives, students gain hands-on experience while we connect with emerging talent. These partnerships allow us to contribute to student development, enrich our team with fresh ideas, and deepen our roots in the local community. It's a win-win that supports both education and Wonders' mission!

#### **2024 - 2025 Recruitment Snapshot since August 2024:**

29 new hires

275 candidates contacted - 54 first interviews - 31 in-person interviews conducted

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### **Employee Milestones**

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**Each program year, Wonders staff are honored for their milestone anniversaries with a monetary bonus - a small token of appreciation for their dedication to Wonders' children and families.**



**Gerald Bolden**

**20 years of service**



**Jennifer Corpuz**

**20 years of service**

**Liza Pringe**

**15 years of service**





Shameika Hodges	10 years of service
Amaya Garey	5 years of service
Alajah Minkens	5 years of service
Nick Moon	5 years of service
Rachelle Saint Jean	5 years of service
Alani Tydings	5 years of service

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**We would to give a warm friendly welcome to our new staff member**

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**Caryn Warner is Wonders' new Staff Accountant.**

**Welcome to the Wonders family, Caryn!!**



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## First Friday Reader

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**Mary Harrill**

**Senior Director**

**Higher Education, NAEYC**

NAEYC, National Association for the Education of the Young Children. Thank you so much for your partnership, Mary. The children loved spending time with you and special guest reader, Gordie!



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## 2025 Corporate Highlights!



We would like to thank our current corporate donors for their generous contributions to our Corporate Giving campaign. **NFP Meltzer, Ntiva, 20Degrees, 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!](#)

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## Community Events

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### Parent & Guardian Workshop Series





**Workshop Topic: Developing Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills in Young Children**

**Date:** Friday, May 16, 2025

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

**Location:** Zoom

[Register now](#)

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## **Summer is Just Around the Corner!**

**Reserve your spot in Wonders Summer Camp!**



# wonders summer camp

Calling all campers,  
rising k - 6th grade!

**June 18 - August 8**



## Camp Location + Hours

### Week 1 - 7

**Bethesda Elementary**  
7600 Arlington Rd, Bethesda, MD

### Week 8

**Chevy Chase Elementary**  
4015 Rosemary St, Chevy Chase, MD

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\*
- ☒ field trips
- ☒ daily snacks
- ☒ arts + crafts
- ☒ S.T.E.A.M.
- ☒ sports
- ☒ cooperative games
- ☒ camp special events

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



We look forward to seeing you this summer!

**wonderslearning.org/summercamp**

**\*\*Week 1 has a reduced rate of \$312**

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.](#)

## Follow Us On Social Media



## Contact Us

### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*

\*{{Organization Address}}\*

\*{{Organization Phone}}\*

\*{{Organization Website}}\*

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