

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

May 2026

We kicked off the month celebrating the 50 years of the Wonders community at Wonderspalooza and what a joyful event it was! A special thank you to the Wonders staff and Board members who volunteered to make the event so special.

Community is a word that I often hear when parents describe what they first notice about Wonders. I think of Wonders as a caring community because of the attention given to welcoming and belonging. When children enter our classrooms and programs, they are greeted by caring educators who are actively and intentionally building a learning community.

Teaching is a craft that is an ongoing learning process with caregiving being integral to the work. This past week we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week with treats and food, but a week hardly feels sufficient to recognize the dedication demonstrated each day by the Wonders staff. As an organization, Wonders knows the importance of this work and is committed to ensuring that staff can build careers at Wonders. The Wonders Board of Directors recently approved the FY27 budget and once again, approximately 80% of our expenses is staff compensation. We know that an investment in educators is an investment in children and as a community, is something we can all be grateful for.

With gratitude,

Joanne Hurt
Executive Director

Celebrating Our Incredible Wonders Educators

Teacher Appreciation Week

It was a celebration last week when we recognized **Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4–May 8**. This annual event is an opportunity for all of us to recognize the impact made by the teachers in our lives. Here at Wonders we celebrate the week honoring the incredible Wonders educators who spark curiosity, inspire growth, and create connections with the children in their care.



Heart Of The Classroom

A Message From Our Wonders Teachers

Enjoy these special videos from a few of our Wonders teachers as they share the moments that make their days so meaningful!

Early Learning Program Highlights

Leland and Edgemoor were recognized with 100% monitoring visit results!

Wonders Early Learning at Leland and Edgemoor programs operate in spaces managed by Montgomery County's Child Care in Public Space Program (CCIPS). This competitive bid program sits within the Department of Health's Early Childhood Services and is designed to increase access to high quality early care and education in the County. The qualified private providers who are awarded these spaces benefit from a public/private partnership that includes below market rent and collaborative support in managing the facility. Recently, the rebid process was modified to include a monitoring visit by a member of the DHHS Child Care Support Services team. This replaces the previous automatic 7 year re-bid process. Scoring on the monitoring visit could trigger a remediation of the problem area or a rebid process. Both Leland and Edgemoor had their monitoring visits last week and each scored 100% on the report. Our Early Learning educators and leaders work hard to create nurturing and educational learning environments - the external recognition is icing on the cake. Here is an excerpt from the monitoring summary:

"This is an outstanding accomplishment and a true reflection of your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to excellence. This is a wonderful achievement and a testament to the hard work, dedication to maintaining high-quality standards, and the exceptional care and support you provide to the children and families you serve. Well done to you and your team. Your success sets a gold standard for others to follow and demonstrates what can be achieved through collaboration and perseverance. Keep raising the bar and inspiring us all!"

Celebrating Our Community

Wonderspalooza 2026: A Celebration to Remember

Thank you to everyone who joined us on May 2 for Wonderspalooza! More than just a carnival, and just like its name, Wonderspalooza is a vibrant celebration of community, creativity, connection, and joy. Carnival games, moonbounces, face painting, and airbrush tattoos welcomed over 200 children and their families throughout the day. A special performance by Telitas & Tiritas delighted all ages and the interactive mural creation led by Katie Macyshyn invited young artists to contribute to this community art work.

Wonderspalooza was a fantastic way to wrap up our 50th Anniversary events. Thank you to all of the Wonders staff, Board members, and parents who volunteered to make Wonderspalooza a very fun and special day. Based on all of the smiles, we will be making Wonderspalooza an annual event to celebrate our community!

We have a few limited edition Wonderspalooza t-shirts available.





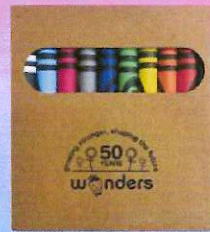
WondersPalooza



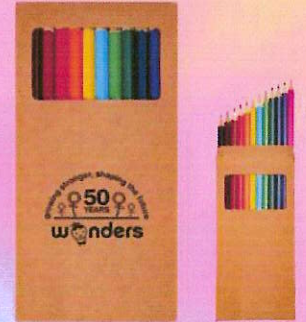
\$15
Bear Keychain



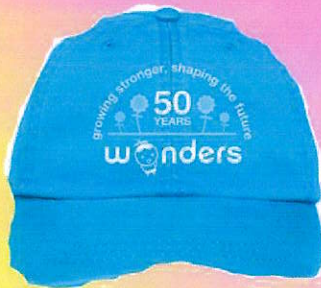
\$15
Penguin Plush



\$3
Crayon Set



\$5
Colored Pencil Set



\$28
Adult Baseball Hat



Scan to purchase



\$28
Youth Baseball Hat



\$20
Youth T-shirt
Sizes: XS-XL



\$25
Adult T-shirt
Sizes: XS-4X



\$15
Toddler T-Shirts
Sizes: 2T-5T

From Celebration To Community Action

Let's reach \$150K—together!

The 50th Anniversary Events may have come to a close, but our Campaign for the Wonders Reserve Fund is picking up steam. We are getting closer to our overall goal of \$150,000.

We are \$6,000 away from meeting the \$25,000 match donated by Sharon and Robert Buchanan. We are \$97,972 away from our overall goal of \$150,000.

Your gift to the [50th Anniversary Campaign](#) will help Wonders:

Protect continuity of care for children and families during times of uncertainty

Invest in innovative programs that strengthen early learning and extended-day experiences

Support and retain the exceptional educators who are at the heart of our mission

Expand access to high-quality programs for more children and families in our community

[Make your gift today](#) and help us unlock the full match before this opportunity ends. You may give a one-time contribution or make a pledge to be fulfilled by August 31, 2029.

For more information about giving or pledge options, please contact [Brittney Stern](#), Development Manager.

Make your gift today!

Summer Camp 2026 Is Just Around The Corner

It's not too late to join Wonders this summer!

Get ready for a summer full of adventure! Join us for exciting field trips to Rollingcrest Pool & Waterpark, bowling, KID Museum, LEGO Discovery Center, Regal Cinemas, and so much more. There's something for everyone—come explore, play, and make unforgettable memories with us!

wonders summer camp

Calling all campers,
rising k - 6th grade!

June 22 - August 7



**REGISTER
NOW!**

What's Included:

- weekly pool visits
- weekly field trips
- daily snacks
- arts + crafts
- age-appropriate groups + activities
- S.T.E.A.M.
- sports
- cooperative games
- camp special events

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

wonderslearning.org/summercamp