

# F.A.C.E. TO FACE

## MONTHLY UPDATE

### PARENT UNIVERSITY SPONSORED EVENTS/COURSEWORK

Sign-up for January & February's upcoming family engagement events and courses at **Parent University**.

#### ATTENDANCE MATTERS: INCREASING SCHOLAR ACHIEVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

Join us for a 3-part, online Professional Development series presented in partnership with Attendance Works to learn proven, evidence-based, tiered strategies to promote attendance and engagement using a team approach. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear what works and to exchange ideas with your peers.

**WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS?** Attendance is a leading on-track indicator for scholar success. Beginning in preschool, chronic absence can predict lower 3rd grade reading scores. **By middle and high school, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign of high school dropout for all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status.**

#### PART I - TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. – [Register by Google form](#) or email Sarah Ramirez [ramirez@grps.org](mailto:ramirez@grps.org)

#### PART II - TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. – [Register by Google form](#) or email Sarah Ramirez [ramirez@grps.org](mailto:ramirez@grps.org)

#### PART III - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

4:30-5:30 p.m. [Register by Google form](#) or email Sarah Ramirez [ramirez@grps.org](mailto:ramirez@grps.org)

#### PLAY & LEARN

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

5:00 to 6:30 pm – GRPS University (1400 Fuller Ave. NE)

This 90-minute event offers caregivers and young children, ages 0-5, an opportunity to socialize and interact. Participants will learn about child development and receive a complimentary children's book. Play and Learn GRCC activities are made possible due to the generosity of the Kent County taxpayers and the voter-approved Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage.

#### GRCC - A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

9:30 - 10:30 am – [Zoom Link](#) | 5:30 to 6:30 pm – [Zoom Link](#)

Learn how to navigate resources available to you at GRCC. GRCC provides relevant educational opportunities that are responsive to the needs of the community and inspires students to meet economic, social, and environmental challenges, to become active participants in shaping the world of the future.

#### SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ SCHOLARS

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023

9:30 - 11:00 am – [Zoom Link](#) | 5:30 to 7:00 pm – [Zoom Link](#)

Parenting is challenging and rewarding. Learn how to support your lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) child. Discuss common LGBTQ+ terms and discover how to become a strong ally within the LGBTQ+ community.

#### HEALTHY VS. UNHEALTHY TEEN RELATIONSHIPS

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

5:30 - 6:30 pm – [Zoom Link](#)

Join Safe Haven Ministries and learn how to recognize unhealthy relationship patterns, and effectively communicate with your scholar.

#### WINTER FESTIVAL & SCHOOL EXPO

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

4:30 - 6:30 pm – City High/Middle (1720 Plainfield Ave. NE)

GRPS is proud to offer the region's largest, most comprehensive selection of school choices in all of West Michigan including neighborhood schools, theme schools, and more. You are invited to come for dinner and explore all of the educational options in our dynamic district.

#### ELEPHANT & PIGGY "WE ARE IN A PLAY"

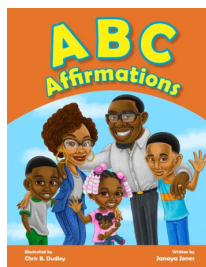
#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023

2:00 - 4:30 pm – GR Civic Theater (30 Division Ave N.)

[Register to attend](#) the hilarious live performance of Elephant and Piggie, in *We are in a Play*, written by Mo Willems, at the Grand Rapids Civic Theater.

## F.A.C.E. & COMMUNITY

FACE, along with the GRPS Early Childhood Department, has proudly partnered with Ms. Janaya Jones and Chris Dudley Art to offer all Great Start Readiness Preschool (GSRP) families with an opportunity to hear local author, Janaya Jones, read from and demonstrate how to use her book, **ABC AFFIRMATIONS**. Ms. Jones has dedicated her career to helping every child realize their personal value.



Chris Dudley, the illustrator of **ABC AFFIRMATIONS** and a proud GRPS alumni, is an Award-Winning Artist. He began drawing before entering preschool and has never stopped. Dudley dabbles in all things art! He's had the privilege to draw many commissioned portraits over the past 25+ years, in addition to receiving acceptance into many juried exhibitions. While he stays busy with commission work, he also spends much of his time illustrating children's books and teaching art. Mr. Dudley's most recent work can be found at the "World of Winter Festival" children's display, located on 303 Monroe Avenue NW, from January 6, 2023 – March 5, 2023.

GSRP FAMILIES: Throughout the entire month of January, Ms. Jones, will visit every classroom to share her book **ABC AFFIRMATIONS**. All GSRP families will even receive their own copy of the book!



### TASTE BUDDIES

On December 8, 2022, GRPS families participated in TASTE BUDDIES. Participants created a delicious and nutritious lasagna for the entire family to enjoy!

Our next TASTE BUDDIES experience will be held on **Thursday, February 16, 2023 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

[Registration is mandatory and spaces are limited!](#)



We are pleased to announce that almost every GRPS school has a PAL! We are still looking to fill PAL positions in the following schools. If you know someone who might be interested, please contact Katie Joseph at [josephk@grps.org](mailto:josephk@grps.org).

- Cesar E. Chavez Elementary School
- East Leonard Elementary School
- Kent Hills Elementary School
- Riverside Middle School
- Ottawa Hills High School
- Union High School



Check out January's edition of [Power Parent Magazine](#).

- Discover some fabulous Early Childhood Apps in **GOOD TO KNOW: Resources for Early Literacy**.
- Did you know that more than 32% of our world's countries, and more than 51 languages are represented within GRPS? Check out **SETTING GOALS: English Language Learners (ELL)**.
- Within **CHECK IT OUT: Resources for Elementary Literacy**, you'll encounter recommendations on how to fine-tune your scholar's reading and writing skills.
- "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose." Dr. Seuss. Uncover a complete list of 2022's best children's books in **NETWORK FOR SUCCESS: Top Books of 2022**.
- In **NAVIGATING ACHIEVEMENT: Resources for Middle & High School**, you'll learn creative ways to motivate your middle school readers.
- Skim through a list of literacy resources, compiled by our district's very own curriculum team, in **FAMILY CONVERSATIONS: GRPS Curriculum Resources**.

### FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Jamie Lewis Masco, Supervisor  
(616) 819-2867 | 1331 Martin Luther King Jr. St. SE |  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

[PARENTS.GRPS.ORG](https://parents.grps.org)

