



Garrett Park Nursery School

P.O. BOX 314 | GARRETT PARK, MD 20896 | (301) 933-5254 | WWW.GARRETPARKNURSERY SCHOOL.ORG

March 27, 2020

Dear GPNS alumni, families, and friends,

I am writing to invite you to support Garrett Park Nursery School during its annual auction, which is being held online from March 28 – April 4, 2020. While the silent auction is always an important part of the GPNS operating budget, it is even more critical this year as the preschool has been severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

During this mandatory closure, GPNS will honor its teacher contracts and other obligations to ensure that when our preschool re-opens, it can continue to provide the same safe, supportive, and nurturing environment in which so many of your children have thrived. However, tuition losses from the current closure leave the preschool facing a potential budget deficit of \$25,000. The annual auction is the primary fundraiser for the preschool and helps to meet normal operating costs.

You can help support us during this difficult time by shopping at the online auction or by making a donation directly to the preschool. 95% of the auction sales go directly to GPNS. The remaining 5% covers expenses due to the online format forced by coronavirus. The online auction can be found at <http://www.32auctions.com/GPNS2020>. Donations can be made to the school using the donate button at the top of the auction page, through the Support GPNS page on the preschool website, or by mailing donations to the preschool.

Despite the current difficulties, our teachers have continued working to support our students and their families and to help the children maintain a connection to the school and one another. The teachers established a GPNS Storytime Channel on YouTube, uploading videos of themselves reading stories several times each week. Additionally, they host online meetups, during which they read stories, perform science experiments, suggest crafts and other activities, and allow the children to engage with each other. My daughter, a student in Ms. Jenn and Ms. Laura's Explorers class, looks forward to these each morning. Despite the distance, her amazing teachers have ensured that she still feels loved, confident, and curious about her world.

I have been a parent in the preschool for the past eight years, and I've watched my three children grow in independence, compassion, and knowledge during their time there. Our family has made lifelong friends, and we've seen the GPNS community come together to support each other through challenges both large and small. I know that the current situation will be no different, and that GPNS will come out of it stronger. In the meantime, the preschool really needs the help of its alumni and local community. Please support us if you can.

I look forward to when we can once again gather as a community. When the social distancing restrictions have been removed, we will host a community gathering at the preschool to make up for the opportunity to be together that we lost when the auction moved online. Until then, on behalf of GPNS, I wish you all health and safety.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen E. Petroni". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Colleen Petroni
President/Parent
Garrett Park Nursery School