

The Principal's Corner Glover School

October 17, 2016

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Volume 2 Issue 10

Good Morning Glover School Families:

What beautiful weekend weather. Bright clear brisk days filled with the colorful changing foliage. I have to say in my younger days I welcomed fall because it soon meant winter and snow. Now, well let's just say I prefer this be spring with summer coming!

Growth Mindset: On November 2nd at the Professional Development ½ day we are going to formally launch our work on making “Growth Mindset” an intricate part of our school culture. We will begin this process with a Mindset workshop hosted by David Castleline of Teachers 21. We will start the afternoon learning about Growth Mindset and then spend the rest of the time in a workshop learning how to apply it in our school. Growth Mindset is sweeping across the country not as a fad, but as a learning theory that makes sense, is realistic, and can be implemented without changes to the curriculum.

The traditional view of intelligence is that it is a static ability. As I have said in past newsletters we used to believe that you are either smart or you are not. You either have a high IQ or you do not. This view of intelligence resulted in the notion of “Fixed Mindset.” A student with a fixed mindset will stop trying when confronted with a challenge because they've convinced themselves that they're not good in math or writing or whatever the subject is. Growth Mindset teaches students that intelligence can be grown through effort and the use of thoughtful strategies to solve the challenge.

In the early days of Growth Mindset many believed you only focused on the effort. Effort is certainly a key component, but it is not the only element. What is key, is for teachers and students to recognize a gap in learning. By acknowledging this gap, the student and teacher work together to continue developing thoughtful strategies to solve the challenge. By understanding when and why a particular strategy failed then trying new approaches to solve the problem; true learning is the result. The task of teachers and parents is to work with their students to help guide them in developing a variety of approaches, which is why Growth Mindset is often referred to as “the Power of Yet.” In other words, your first attempts at solving a problem may not have been successful. The students learn that by trying several thoughtful approaches they will end up with success, hence the reason many call Growth Mindset the Power of Yet.

Growth Mindset will be optimized if the concept is carried home and parents and teachers work together using the same strategies. The Glover PTO recognizes the value of Growth Mindset and has contracted David Castelline from Teachers21 to do a presentation of Growth Mindset in the evening of November 2nd from 7:00-8:00 at the Glover School.

David Castelline brings a wealth of classroom and administrative experience to his work at Teachers21. With nearly 20 years of experience as an elementary school principal in Newton, MA, along with varying classroom and instructional assignments at the middle and elementary school levels, Dave has developed a deep understanding of the challenges for all aspects of schools today. His expertise in areas such as supervision and evaluation, curriculum review and design, professional development, community relationships, culture building and student achievement make him an invaluable resource. He provides guidance to teachers through Teachers21 courses, coaching, leading support groups and supervising practicum work. Dave is one of the most sought after speakers on Growth Mindset at Teachers21.

More information on this presentation will be posted on the Glover PTO web page.

Professional Day: Last Tuesday, the district Pre-K-8 faculty met together at the Veterans School for a full day of professional development on our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS). The day began with a presentation on behavior goals from the May Institute. After that the lower elementary schools met by grade and worked on a series of assignments from the morning presentation. At the end we reported out to the entire lower elementary and shared the results of our work.

Woodworkers Needed: On the transom of the FriendShip is an open door. *If any of you are into woodworking we would love to have a door made for it.* This will keep the snow out of the hold in the coming months. We also need sliding hatches for the two hatches on the main and upper deck. If you are willing to help, please contact me and I can show you what we need.

Lost and Found: Lost and found is now located underneath the main hall stairwell. We will be depositing lost articles daily. We will be donating un-claimed clothing to the Magic Hat at the end of each month. It is highly recommended you label clothing and especially water bottles and lunch boxes. Magic Hat will not take either so unclaimed bottles and lunch boxes end up in the trash every couple of weeks.

Picture Retake Day: The picture retake day is Monday November 14th.

Important Dates:

- November 2nd early release day dismissal at noon.
- November 2nd 7:00-8:00 the PTO presents David Castleline on "Growth Mindset."
- Picture retake day November 14th.

On behalf of our very caring, dedicated, and most excellent staff have a great week.

Regards,

Brian