

The Principal's Corner Glover School



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Dear Glover School Families:

Lately I have had great deal of time to reflect on the Glover School. What makes a school special? What qualities do great schools possess that bring them to the forefront of education? The physical school itself helps. Newer buildings such as Glover are designed to provide the technology needed, the classroom and building layout are thoughtfully created to invite learning and innovation. But in my mind that is only a part of the total equation. What makes a school stand out is the staff. There used to be an old outdated axiom that in the classroom the Teacher is an island unto themselves. That within their four walls they taught the way they wanted to and employed their experience and materials to be the best. I can remember back when I began that there were really great and excellent teachers who never shared their practice. Like all living things you must evolve to survive and those islands are no longer in existence. What you have today are communities within a school. They are called Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Every grade beginning at the pre-k level right on up to 3rd grade (at Glover) is centered around the PLC. Classroom teachers share their best practices and discuss areas they are having difficulties in. They work together with the specialists (music, media, art, and physical education) to integrate the curriculum so the students can integrate learning in as many ways as possible. The PLC work with their colleagues in the grade below and above to ensure transitions from grade to grade go smoothly and seamlessly. Beginning in Pre-K they bring in services such as OT/PT, speech and language, and behavior specialists to ensure every child is given the support they need to continue to push and stretch their limits. In kindergarten and up, every child is tested and observed so that our excellent reading, language arts, and math tutors can give them extra support coordinated with their classroom teachers. This works so well that each upper grade requires less interventions and by 3rd grade many of these students no longer require tutoring. Does the process stop here? No it does not, we as a staff are always looking for ways to improve our practice. Through our professional development we have adopted Growth Mindset. We had learned about anxiety disorders and how they impact learning, and more importantly how to address them. We learned a great deal about Executive Function and what effects it and how to improve it. Lastly and just as important is parent involvement. We at Glover are blessed with heavily involved parents. Our teachers work to keep parents involved and to encourage volunteerism. The 2nd grade PLC has created an annual Math Game Night to help parents understand the math concepts that their students are learning at school.

This missive could go on much longer, but I'll stop here. What makes a school outstanding is this simple equation: Teachers who work together to inspire their students to learn and grow. Teachers who are always eager to expand their practice and bring innovation to their PLC. Last but not least it is the strong partnership with parents who support the school.

Professional Development: November 15 will be a half day professional development. The three lower elementary schools, Bell, Coffin/Gerry, and Glover will combine resources to host Dr. Chris Willard in presenting to our faculty on applying grit and growth mindset to build resiliency. Dr. Willard (PsyD) is a psychologist and an educational consultant. He is the author of *Childs Mind* (2010), *Growing up Mindful* (2016) and *Raising Resilience* (2017)

Dr. Chris Willard will present to our faculty how to apply grit and growth mindset to build resiliency in students. He will also discuss methods to find balance through our stress laden world for both students and teachers.

The PTOs from the three schools are also sponsoring Dr. Willard to host a one hour presentation for parents beginning promptly at 6:30 in the Glover Cafeteria.

School Committee Meeting: Glover had the privilege of hosting the School Committee Thursday. The 3rd grade presented the three service learning projects they had selected for this year. Service learning is a combination of teaching and learning that integrates meaningful service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience. The three project selected were; disaster relief, aqua farming and recycling. The slides are attached that explains the three projects in more detail. Five 3rd graders presented their experiences to the school. Congratulations to the 3rd grade for an excellent presentation. A special thanks to Ms. Shevory and Ms. Graziano for organizing the presentations.

First Grade STEM Enrichment: Friday, the First Graders attended a STEM workshop run by the Museum of Science which had the students solve the problem of two friends separated by a river. The children used engineering to solve the problem and help the two friends reconnect. They broke into groups to design and build their own bridges and then tested the weight of an arch bridge. They all learned a lot and had a lot of fun doing so!

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered today to help run the program and thank you to all the volunteers at the Magic Hat. ***This program was paid for by the money earned from your volunteer hours at the Magic Hat!***

Magic Hat: Our next Magic Hat week is October 31st –November 4th. I know how hard it is to give up time to volunteer at the Magic Hat, but an hour investment results in the PTO receiving money that funds so many of our enrichment programs

The work is easy and an hour goes by very quickly. If you can invest the time the signup genius is:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B49A9A822A46-glovermagic11>

Lost and Found: We are gathering more pullover sweaters and jacket than ever. We will be taking any item left in lost and found and donate it to the Magic Hat on Monday October 30th. Any water bottle or lunch box will be thrown out.

AHERA Notification: Schools are required to send out an annual Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) notice. A copy of our district's Asbestos Management Plan is available in each school and at the main administrative office during regular school hours. The district continues to update and improve the AHERA Asbestos Management Plans. Any inquiries regarding the management of asbestos containing materials in our schools should be directed to our district's AHERA Designated Person, Kenneth Lord, Executive Director of Technology & Operations who can be reached at 781-639-3140 x23 or lord.kenneth@marbleheadschoools.org

Virtual Backpack: *There are a lot of exciting activities and events taking place in the community. For example Cub Scouts and Girl Scout signups. Don't miss out on any of these wonderful events. You will find a complete listing on the district website;*

<http://www.marbleheadschoools.org/index.php/quicklinks/virtualbackpack>

Important Dates:

- Magic Hat October 31st-November 4th
- 2nd Grade Math Night! Join us on Thursday, November 2nd from 5:30 - 6:30 in the Cafetorium.
- Picture Make Day Monday November 13.
- Professional Development November 15th early release at 12:00
 - PTO sponsoring a Parent presentation with Dr. Chris Willard at 6:30 in the Glover Cafeteria
- MCAS dates: The English Language Arts test dates are Sessions 1-3 April 24-26th and the math dates are Math sessions 1&2 May 10-11th

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

Regards,

Brian

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