

The Principal's Corner Glover School

January 17, 2017

"It's hard to beat a person that never gives up."
Babe Ruth



Brian Ota
Principal

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Good Morning Glover School Families:

While watching the Patriots Saturday I had an epiphany. Once you believe in Growth Mindset you can't shut it off. As I watched the Patriots start off incredibly strong and then seemingly implode with penalties, interceptions, and Brady being sacked I felt that this was not good. Well, they went to the locker room at halftime and came back stronger; adjusting the defense and offense. Here is where my epiphany happened. I started thinking they did it, they looked at how they were failing, analyzed it, thought it through, and then applied new thoughtful strategies and came back out and won 34-16. If this isn't a real life use of Mindset, then what is? We use the strategies of Mindset every day in class and hopefully students will incorporate it into their learning so that one day they will automatically adjust their learning to overcome any obstacle they face.

Pickup/Drop Off Lane:

I am sure many of you are aware that the morning drop off has become very difficult. Last year I was able to have four paraprofessionals cover the morning drop off. Unfortunately, all of them have moved on to new positions and were unable to continue. This year I was only able to find one person to do the drop off line and in December she became a teacher and can no longer continue. Despite many efforts I have not been able to find anyone to cover the drop off line. I will try to get out there when I can, but unfortunately many of my meetings take place before school. A few teachers have stepped forward to voluntarily help for a short time. This is only a temporary fix because they need to be in their rooms setting up for the day and greeting the students.

Some parents have expressed a desire to see if they can brainstorm a solution. If you are interested in joining this parent led effort, please let me know. I can be reached at ota.brian@marbleheadschoools.org or at 781 639-3190. I will put together a meeting where we can share ideas.

In the interim it is up to all of us to follow these simple rules.

- Stay in your car
- Have your student dressed and ready and exit on the passenger side
- Only drop your student off in the drop off lane.
- Pull your car all the way up to the end of the line

It is absolutely acceptable to politely remind a parent not following the rules of what the rules are.

School Spirit Day: *We will be having a school Spirit Day on Friday.* Students are encouraged to wear patriots clothing, any combination of red and blue, Glover Spirit wear, or any Marblehead Team Sports clothing.

Professional Development: There has been concern raised with the number of ½ day professional developments. These half days are extremely important so that we can continue to provide teachers time to work on the various projects and programs that directly impact your student's learning. We spent the afternoon discussing Second Step (SS), a socio emotional development program. Second Step has been in the district for many years. It has not been consistently applied by the teachers. This year the district ensured all teachers had the updated programs. The 3rd grade used a different program called, "Steps to Respect." This year they switched over to SS. This ensures that students from K-6 will be given Second Step. The teachers discussed in their grades on how they were using SS, what worked well, and what they needed to ensure success. At the end of the sessions they reported out to the entire faculty their findings. From here the true learning for the whole staff happened. We are implementing changes, such as starting the bullying modules in October rather than waiting until later in the year. A request was made to central admin to buy Pre-K kits. The same format was used to discuss PBIS and Mindset. Overall the staff was able to begin connecting SS, PBIS, and Mindset into a whole integrated approach. We will continue this integration work throughout the year.

3rd Grade Fine Arts Night: The Fine Arts Night Concert is on Wednesday January 18th from 6:30-7:15pm (snow date January 19th) for an evening of music and art. The walls of the school are bursting with incredible grade art. Just look at the snowmen and birch tree art in our Cafetorium to see how incredibly talented the students are. Walking by the music room doors, you can hear some beautiful xylophone music bursting forth. I hope you can join us for what will be a wonderful evening of art and music.

PBIS Parent Information Night Showcase: Please join Marblehead Public Schools for a PBIS Parent Information Night Showcase on Tuesday, January 17th from 6-7pm at the Marblehead High School Library.

Virtual Backpack: There are a lot of exciting activities and events taking place in the community. 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:

- PBIS Parent Showcase in the High School library January 17, from 6-7:00
- 3rd Grade Fine Arts Night January 18th 6:30-7:15
- Glover Spirit Day Friday January 20th.

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

Regards,

Brian