

The Principal's Corner Glover School

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer
It sings because it has a song
-Maya Angelou-

April 10, 2017

On Saturday, I attended a conference called Edcamp. Edcamps are an interesting confluence of teachers and administrators. They meet in a host school and the first thing they do is post topics of interest they would like to discuss. The facilitators then schedule these topics into classrooms and you attend the ones that interest you. Some are led by people specializing in that topic, however just as many have no leader but are open forums in which teachers and administrators talk about these topics. I attended ones on teacher evaluation in which we discussed teacher peer observation, cross disciplinary topics that tie a variety of disciplines together. The last I sat through was called "Teach Like a Pirate." This one was very interesting in that it tied teaching to the acronym of **P**-Passion, **I**-Immersion, **R**-Rapport, **A**-Ask and Analyze, **T**-Transformation, and **E**-Enthusiasm. This was a group led by teachers. Unfortunately, it was only an hour discussion that touched on the highlights of the program. The underlying premise was re-igniting the passion in our teachers which in turn will give our students a love of learning that will become their life song.

Brian Ota
Principal



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Staff Appreciation Lunch: On behalf of our staff I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the PTO for the wonderful luncheon last Friday. We cannot adequately express our gratitude to all the parents who brought food in, set up the library, and covered the classroom, recesses, and lunches so that every member of our staff from our lunch aides to our teachers could spend time together to enjoy such a wonderful repast. It was a delightful lunch and topped off with the barrister. I have to admit after eating so many different tasty things, I had to have a double espresso before heading back to my office to prevent a food induced afternoon nap!

School Spirit Day: On Wednesday we will be having a spirit day for all our hockey fans. The Bruins enter the Stanley Cup playoffs on Wednesday. Students are encouraged to wear any Bruin's clothing, or any clothes that are black, yellow, or white.

Lockdown Drill: Once again we worked with the Marblehead Police Department to hold another lockdown drill on Friday. It went extremely well. We continue to hold both lockdown and fire drills to ensure our students and staff know exactly what to do in an emergency. We want it to be automatic, that when an alarm is sounded everyone knows what to do. After each drill we analyze what went well and any area that needs improvement.

Transition Planning: If you feel your child has needs *that we may not be aware of*, you will need to comment on those issues, in writing by April 28, 2017 using the enclosed Parental Request Forms (PRF). We will be unable to accept a PRF after April 28th.

Please remember that requests for a student to have a specific teacher will not be accepted.

Last Day of School: The School Committee approved the last day of school is June 23rd. They also approved the last day will be a half day.

Service Learning: During the month of April, the Glover School will partner with the Marblehead Food Pantry. Our goal is to improve our students understanding of the need for a food pantry in Marblehead and what Glover families can do to support our neighbors.

What do they need at the pantry? (The pantry has a wish list including: beans, soups, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, low sodium canned goods and paper products are always welcome.)

We welcome all donations at the Glover school. A donation box will be located in the front lobby. Mrs. Thomas (Kindergarten teacher) and Dawn Murray (Glover school nurse) will be at the food pantry on Thursdays from 3:15-3:45 delivering donation items. The food pantry is located in the Star of the Sea Community Center, 80 Atlantic Avenue.

If you have any questions regarding this community service project, please contact:

Barbara Thomas thomas.barbara@marbleheadschoools.org
Dawn Murray murray.dawn@marbleheadschoools.org

Turkeys: As you know Marblehead has been experiencing a huge explosion in the population of turkeys. Unfortunately, Animal Control does not deal with wild turkeys. We have spotted a few bird lovers feeding them on school property. **PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!** We do not want them to stay at Glover because they find food here. They are very aggressive and are larger than some our students and are a potential danger.

Those of you who experienced the traffic problem during pickup one day, when they refused to move, will understand the need to not welcome them here.

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:

- No school April 14th, Good Friday.
- April Vacation April 17-21.
- MCAS for 3rd grade: ELA is on April 25, 26, and 27th and Math is on May 2nd and 3rd.

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

Regards,

Brian