

The Principal's Corner Glover School

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“
Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”
Margaret Meade

Good Morning Glover School Families:

One of the greatest gifts I have ever received was to be given the honor of being the principal of the Glover School. The staff here is so creative and dedicated. They work hard to ensure that they are doing everything possible to ensure our children leave Glover with the love of learning. In the last few months they have created such innovative ideas as the 3rd grade using the characters from the movie Frozen to teach the election process during the highly contentious race, and this week's 2nd grade Math Game Night to help parents find ways to reinforce math at home. Too often you hear politicians claim the need for more charter schools when they ignore the absolute truth, that public school teachers pour their intelligence, hearts and souls to ensure their students get the best possible education there is.

Parent Volunteers: We are in need of parents who would be willing to help in our cafeteria when one of our lunch aides is out. This happens occasionally and we would like to have a pool of parents willing to help out when this happens. The hours are very flexible; If you want, you could volunteer just for a specific grade. As an example 1st grade would be from 12:00-12:40, or you could volunteer the entire school lunch/recess cycle from 12:00-1:30. You would either be in the cafeteria with a grade and then rotate outside doing lunch/recess duty or visa versa. Each recess or lunch period is roughly 20 minutes long. If you are interested, please give me a call and I can explain exactly what you would be responsible for.

We also need volunteers to help during drop off. We have no supervision before 8:05 and it would be great if we could get a couple more parents to watch over the kiddos until the doors open and school begins.

Winter Clothing: The frigid temperatures as well as our first dusting of snow is here. [The students go out to recess as often as possible.](#) They will only be allowed outside if they are dressed properly. If they are not, they will have to sit outside the office during recess because the staff is outside watching their classes. We highly recommend boots, snow pants, jackets, hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens. They slide down the hills on their knees the minute snow hits the ground so snow pants are essential. We also recommend a bag with a change of clothing be sent in that can be kept in their lockers until needed.

Plummer House: Thanks to the hard work of our students we have raised \$1328. This is a wonderful effort and the money will be given to the Plummer House early this week. *If you have not sent in your student's donation, please do so today.* We are setting up the wrapping and card making day and will send this out as soon as Plummer tells us when all the gifts will be purchased. So stay tuned!

Maple Street Crossing: With winter coming and snow and ice on the way please do not jaywalk across Maple Street. The practice is extraordinarily dangerous and *I truly do not want anyone to become the next "Remember Allie," bumper sticker.*

Parent Conferences: Our next parent conferences are on the 15th and 20th. These are early release dates. Please be sure your student knows who is picking him/her up. *It is also very important that you pick up your child on time.* The last few early release days we have had students sitting in the office waiting for quite a bit of time for their rides to come.

School Improvement Plan (SIP): This year we began to look at the Goal 4 in our SIP. This goal is to: "Develop a Statement, which includes: our purpose & values." I felt it was necessary to wait until after I spent a full year at Glover before addressing this extremely important goal. We will work on this goal over the course of the year. It is critical that the mission and vision is clear, concise, and measurable. As we get closer to finalizing the Glover Mission I will send this out to the community for inputs. The only way a mission statement is valid and attainable is when it is supported by students, teachers, and parents. If you are interested in reviewing the entire SIP, you will find it on the Glover web site under Improvement Plan.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE): I attended a DESE focus group of early education principals. The purpose of this group was to share with each other and DESE our experiences as principals of PreK-3rd grade schools. In my group there was a wide dispersal of principals from districts such as Brookline, Weymouth, Lynnfield, a charter school and others. It was very valuable to be able to hear other districts concerns, successes, and needs. One very important recommendation to DESE was to hold these groups together to continue to meet and discuss single group selected topics. The group felt it important to be able to sit across the table from each other building camaraderie rather than listen to faceless voices in a teleconference. DESE was interested in this recommendation.

2nd grade Math Game Night: Thursday night the 2nd grade hosted Math Game Night. It was a resounding success. The cafeteria was packed with students and parents. The 2nd grade team spent a lot of time preparing a dozen math games to help students gain proficiency with their math facts. The tables were manned by teachers and math tutors and our special guests Maryann Perry, Superintendent, and Dr. Brad Smith, Assistant Superintendent. They ran the base 10 table much to the delight of students and parents. The parents left with a packet that had all of the instructions and materials to be able to continue the games at home. The night was designed to address parents requests, identified in our end of year survey, to provide help in supporting math at home. Based on the high level of energy at this event, I am sure this will become a yearly event.

Save the Date for Third Grade Fine Arts Night: Our third grade students are hard at work creating artwork and practicing songs, instruments and dances for our Fine Arts Night Concert next month. Please join us on **Wednesday January 18th from 6:30-7:15pm** (snow date January 19th) for an evening of music and art.

-Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Guthartz, and Mrs. Miele

Magic Hat: Our Magic Hat week is December 20-24. I don't know how we ended up with another tough week to fill, but I guess that is the luck of the draw. It would be great if you can help.

The sign up genius is: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b49a9a822a46-glovermagic5>

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:

- December 15th, and 20th are early release days for afternoon parent conferences
- Magic Hat December 20-24th
- Winter Break is from December 25th-January 2nd. Students return January 3rd.
- 3rd Grade Fine Arts Night January 18th 6:30-7:15

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

Regards,

Brian