

The Principal's Corner Glover School

February 26, 2017

Hoping for the best, prepared for the worst, and unsurprised by anything in between
-Maya Angelou-



Brian Ota
Principal

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I hope everyone had a wonderful vacation! I must admit having record temperatures was just an added bonus. But, this is New England and Saturday night it dropped from 69 degrees to 41 degrees making it chilly again and the forecast for the week is back up into the 50s. Hard to believe this is the end of February. With the weather bouncing up and down sometimes as much as 30 degrees it's hard to figure out what kind of outerwear to send the kiddos into school with. As my Mom used to say, better to have warm clothes you can take off then not to have it when you are cold.

School Hours: [This is a reminder that our doors open at 8:05 and school begins at 8:15.](#) We are experiencing a large increase in tardiness. This is creating a few problems. During the winter it takes longer for students to shed coats, hats, mittens, boots, etc. before they can enter the classrooms. Our lunch orders must be shortly after school begins and when students are tardy their lunch orders may not get to the cafeteria on time. If you know your student will be tardy for example because of a doctor's appointment, please call the office and give them your students lunch order if they order a lunch.

The very first activity in all of our classrooms is the Morning Meeting. This time is critical in the development of socio emotional learning. It is a time students work together to build positive relationships. Morning Meeting is when the schedule for the day is reviewed so that the students can prepare themselves for the day's activities.

Having worked in the Village School and in middle schools, sadly, tardiness can become an ingrained pattern in some students. The best way to prevent this is by focusing on getting to school on time every day in the lower elementary school.

Fill Rocky With Love: The Fill Rocky With Love Campaign was a great success. The students were so excited to be able to initial their own hearts and place them on Rocky. Rocky looks like a lobster now and is completely covered with hearts. He is hanging in the Cafetorium so please stop by and see what a handsome addition he has made to the school. We raised \$327 dollars which will buy the wristbands we give out on spirit days.

Fit February: The normal amount of activities was sorely impacted with the snow days. Jump For Heart Health will end on Monday, February 27.

The food drive planned for February will be rescheduled into April. Barbara Thomas (Kindergarten) and Dawn Murray (school nurse) will be working to make the food drive part of our Service Learning. "Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities." (definition of Service Learning Fayetteville State University).

March Reading Madness: Is just around the corner. We will kick off the month of reading madness on March 2nd at our all school Community Meeting. Please see the attachments for the planned activities for the month of March.

Book Fair: The book fair will run March 2nd and 3rd, Thursday and Friday.

½ Day Professional Development: *Our next half day Professional Development is scheduled for March 8 with a noon dismissal.* There have been concerns raised about the number of ½ day professional developments we have every year. These half days are essential to ensure our staff is given the best tools they need to provide the best educational experience to our students. This professional development will be focused on Anxiety and Oppositional Defiance Disorder. It is being led by Jessica Minihan, a well-recognized leader in this field. She is in very high demand. It took me a over a year and a half to book her engagement.

MCAS: The 3rd grade is the first time students take the MCAS. This year Massachusetts has changed back to MCAS instead of the PARCC exam. MCAS 2.0 blends the established MCAS with elements of PARCC. Our 3rd grade teachers are preparing our students for MCAS using sample tests from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). They are also training students how to take open response questions and various strategies in test taking. We spend a lot of time teaching students how to take such a long test because it is highly stressful for them and the more familiar they are with the test format and with test strategies the easier it will be for them.

The tests are scheduled as follows:

ELA is on April 25, 26, and 27th
Math is on May 2nd and 3rd

One of the measurements taken by DESE is attendance during testing. Please do not take vacations or schedule doctors' appointments during the days of testing. If you must schedule a doctor's appointment, please try to do so in the afternoon. There are makeup days, but that requires staff and rooms to hold them.

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:

- Jump Rope for Heart ends Feb 27
- March Reading Madness begins March 2nd.
- ½ day Professional Development March 8th early release
- Daylight Savings is March 12th
- 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