

The Principal's Corner Glover School

October 31, 2016

Brian Ota
Principal



RL

Volume 2 Issue 12

Good Morning Glover School Families:

Being at Trunk or Treat Friday night was such a wonderful affirmation of why my job as principal of Glover is really the best job I have ever had. The event was postponed two weeks ago and last Friday it was cold, windy and wet. The PTO decided to go forward and move the event indoors. So at 3ish I sent an email to all families that we were moving indoors and tables would be set up instead of car trunks outside. It was amazing how many people rallied and the cafeteria was filled with all kinds of haunted scenes from a Rocky table to witches dens. The kids began to pour in and were screaming and jumping in delight. The sheer joy kids showed dressed as Captain America or the mummy just warmed your heart right up. Thank you all for keeping childhood alive and buzzing!

Treats for Troops: I know when my adult children were little it was a constant struggle to keep their teeth healthy and their sugar levels normal after their massive collections of Halloween Treats.

To help reduce tooth decay and sugar highs, our teachers are offering the highly successful program of Treats for Troops that we did last year. Students are encouraged to bring in un-opened candy from November 1st to the 10th. The candy is then collected and brought to the police department as part of the Treats for Troops Program. Other items being collected for care packages include: toiletries, socks, DVD's, CD's, and encouraging cards.

What is so wonderful and heartwarming is the student's genuine happiness at donating their candy for our troops. On Tuesday, they will run in the front door and hold up their bags for me to see what they are giving! It is wonderful to know that our motto of "Choose Kindness," is really a part of our students hearts.

Magic Hat: Our Magic Hat days are coming up next week from November 8-12. The Magic Hat is one of the PTO's biggest fund raisers and the money goes directly to all of the enrichment programs. An hour of your time equates to things like NS Nature Programs, Top Secret Science, Animal Habitats, Art Quest, Mad About Math and many more. These are programs that our students would not experience without the contributions from the Magic Hat.

The sign up for Magic Hat is:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b49a9a822a46-glovermagic4>

Community Meetings: We hold an all school Community Meeting (CM) every Thursday. They begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, our school song, and a daily reflection. This is followed up by a movement exercise. The final part of the CM varies. We will do the Rocky Awards that recognize the classrooms that have exemplified our Core Values or the Rocky Rockstar Awards that recognize individual students who exemplify our Core Values. These are alternated by week. Often the CM will have a special presentation by a specific grade such as Hallway Safety presented by the 2nd grade students. CMs are used to provide social emotional development at a school level.

There has been a request to allow parents to come in and view a CM. The staff welcomes the idea, but are concerned that the purpose of our CM is to work on our social emotional learning and having parents attend the meetings may exert an unknown external influence on our CM. After much discussion, as a trial, the staff would like to open up our CM to allow 5 parents to attend at a time. We have selected meetings that can be viewed by this wider audience.

To allow as many parents to attend as possible over the next few months, we ask that you only attend one CM and just one parent or guardian per child. There is a signup genius for our Thursday CM. It is: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4EA9AF2BA64-community>

3rd Grade Election Lesson: The election of the President of the United States, comes along once every four years. It is a learning opportunity that cannot be overlooked. The 3rd grade wanted to use this teachable moment but did not want to use the real the candidates because of the acrimonious and negative nature of the campaigns. They have come up with a very creative way to achieve this goal. As Ms. Shevory informed the team's parents, "We have devised a unique way to talk about the election process completely appropriate for this age level. We are going to vote on characters from Frozen. Students will study the character traits of each character, divide into teams to run campaigns. They will write speeches, and eventually vote on who they want for "President." I realize this seems a bit unique- but hey, this election is unique. Students will be taking home a sheet where they will do a character analysis for the characters. We are not watching the movie at school. Please find some time to watch the movie, even if you have already seen it, over the next week. Next Thursday and Friday we will be getting together as a third grade to put this plan into action. Once again, our goal is to talk about the election process, not the political points of views or the backgrounds of the present candidates. We figured that Frozen is well known enough to give us types of traits you would look for in a leader. A good way to support the class would be talking about traits you look for in a leader, see if the students can identify any of those traits in our characters."

As you can see teachable moments are always welcome and using creative thinking allows the students to learn about important events in a manner they can understand.

Growth Mindset: We continue building our understanding of Growth Mindset on Tuesday at our professional development. We are going to have a discussion lead by David Castelline from Teachers 21. After the discussion we will be engaged in a workshop that includes all our staff; general ed, special ed, specialists and services. We have been working on Growth Mindset at several of our faculty meetings and the staff is raring to go.

If the same learning principals are used at school and at home, it will truly become a part of your child's ability to grow their intelligence. To encourage this to happen the *PTO has retained David Castelline to hold a Mindset workshop for parents On November 2nd from 7:00-8:00 in the Cafetorium.*

Please don't send candy into school for your student's consumption.

Important Dates:

- November 2nd early release day dismissal at noon.
- November 2nd 7:00-8:00 the PTO presents David Castleline on “Growth Mindset.”
 - See the Glover PTO webpage for more information.
- Picture retake day November 14th.

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

Regards,

Brian