

The Principal's Corner Glover School

“Indeed, as I made my critique, the problem seemed to me not that there are differences but rather how we value these differences.”

— Sue Monk Kidd-

April 3, 2017

We award Rocky our mascot every two weeks to the classroom that has collected the most tokens in their grade. After the winner is announced the winners get to spin a wheel and receive an additional reward of such things as: Lunch with a teacher of your choice, an extra recess, no homework, lunch with Mr. Ota and a few other things. So often I get the lucky spin and have lunches with a lot of different classrooms. The winners of Rocky get the long tables in front of the windows and have free seating. It does not matter if it is a kindergarten class or a 3rd grade class they almost always split boys at one table and girls at the other. I have learned to start lunch with the girls first. The contrast is incredible. I bring a couple of questions as conversation starters to ask the kids at the table. When I am with the girls they politely wait for each other's turn. They listen to what is being said and if someone gets stuck they come up with suggestions on how to answer. Mid-lunch I switch to the boys table. The two tables are like night and day. The minute I sit, the boys jump up and start bouncing around. When I ask them the question they all try to answer at once, they cut each other off, and they answer with intense energy, and use their bodies to illustrate their answers. It is like going from Swan Lake to a Guns and Roses rock concert. At the end of 10 minutes I feel totally numb. Don't get me wrong, I love these lunches, but it is amazing how stereo typical these divisions are. I wonder how and when they learn these things. It is an interesting question to ponder.

Brian Ota
Principal



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Transition Planning: We are now well under way with our 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.

March Reading Madness: Our students did an excellent job of reading those minutes at home. Our goal was 100,000 minutes and we ended up with 129,952 minutes!

Magic Hat: I want to thank all of you who donated your time this week to the Magic Hat. With your support we will be able to continue the very full enrichment programs in the planning for next year.

Kindergarten Parent Volunteers: This week we recognized our Kindergarten parent volunteers at our Community Meeting. The lifeblood of our school are the parent volunteers. Glover depends on parents to chaperone the field trips, help in the library and other places. Room parents go one step further and work closely with their classroom teacher coordinating events, field trips, and so much more.



They are from left to right: Ms. Coe, Ms. Dickinson, Ms. Hogan, Ms. Waters, Ms. Greely, Ms. Kucharsky, Ms. Sterio, Ms. Wilson. Absent are Ms. Black, Ms. Rhodes, Ms. Hershfield

Glover thanks you for your volunteerism, time, and effort.

Service Learning: We CAN make a difference! 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.

Please take time to discuss and introduce the vocabulary needed to better understand this topic. “Can drive”, “food pantry”, “donate”, “community service”, ...

“*The Can-Do Thanksgiving*” by Marion Pomeranc illustrates a child’s interest in wanting to know, “Where will my peas go?”

Questions to guide student learning include:

- What do you know about a food pantry...?
- What do you wonder about a food pantry...?
- Why would a family need to visit a food pantry? (health/illness, loss of a job, family changes,...)
- How many people visit the Marblehead food pantry? (50-60 families per week.)

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.

As an intricate part of Service Learning, students will be asked to write and/or illustrate a reflection piece to demonstrate their understanding of the need for a community food pantry and/or their experience donating and/or delivering items to the Marblehead food pantry.

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

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

Parent Workshop:

The FMPS grant included an evening session for parents who are interested in learning more about Executive Function. The evening session is free and will take place in the Glover School Cafetorium on April 5th from 6:30-8:30 PM.

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:

- Sarah Ward Parent Executive Function presentation April 5th from 6:30-8:30 in the cafeteria.
- 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