

# The Principal's Corner Glover School

*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire"*

—William Butler Yeats

March 27, 2017

Sadly, government regulations and accountability metrics and budget restraints are focusing more of our time on pure academics. Please do not misunderstand this to mean we do not believe in academic rigor. One of our guiding principals at Glover is to develop the whole student; to give them a well-balanced experience that includes the many enrichment activities we have at Glover. Over the school year your students are exposed to dance ensembles, ways to experience science outside the classroom, exposure to published authors that help students develop and love the art of writing, and so much more. Much of this is achieved through our excellent PTO and the selfless contributions of the myriad of parent volunteers that grace our halls.

On behalf of our staff and our students, we thank you all for all that your do.

Brian Ota  
Principal



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**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Parent Volunteers:** This week we recognized our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parent volunteers at our Community Meeting. The lifeblood of a school is its parent volunteers. Schools depend 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. Siden, Ms. Halpern, Ms. Kelleher, Ms. Curtis, Ms. Adams, Ms. Ball.  
Not present: Ms. Messina, Ms. Beane, Ms. Doran

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

**Health Policy for Sick Students:** As a lower elementary school our students have an increased susceptibility to illness. They hug, hold hands, share all kinds of things, and work and play in the same spaces all during the school day. Our teachers go through a ton of disinfecting wipes trying to keep their rooms as germ free as possible. To ensure our students have the healthiest classroom experience as we can, we ask you to do the following: If you call your student out sick, please explain the nature of the illness. For example; does your child have a fever (100 degrees or more), is vomiting, or experiencing diarrhea, or have a cold/flu.

*Keep your student home if he/she:*

- Has evidence of a newly developed cold/flu (runny, stuffy nose, persistent cough, sneezing). The greatest period of contagion is the first 2-3 days after onset of symptoms.
- Has an elevated temperature, over 100 (degrees) within the past 24 hours.
  - [Your student may return when the fever is gone for 24 hours without medication](#)
- Has an undiagnosed rash.
- Has a sore or discharging eye(s) or ear(s).
- Has had an upset stomach, vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
  - [Your student may return when he/she is not vomiting or experiencing diarrhea for 24 hours without medication.](#)
- Has a contagious disease (i.e. strep throat, tonsillitis, bronchitis, conjunctivitis, etc.) until he/she has been on medication at least 24 - 48 hours from the first dose.

If your child should develop any of these or other symptoms hindering the child's availability to learn during school hours, the school nurse will notify you and the child will be dismissed.

It is very important to keep your emergency contacts updated as they will be notified for a dismissal if you are not available.

*Please pick up your student in a timely manner to reduce the spread of illness to other students and staff.*

**Transition Planning:** One of the goals at Glover is to provide an appropriate support structure to help students learn and grow, and to assume more responsibility for their own learning. As part of this support structure, students are divided into carefully balanced classes in order to achieve a representative cross-section. The placement of students is a very complex process that considers: a student's academic needs, gender distribution, learning styles, peer relations, and social dynamics. 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 PRF after April 28<sup>th</sup>. We will use this information as one more factor to consider when placing your child among our excellent faculty at the Glover School. Carefully balancing classes is our highest priority. **\*\*\*Parental requests for a student to have a specific teacher will not be accepted.**

**March Reading Madness:** So far our students have read over **92,822** minutes at home and we are almost at our goal of 100,000 minutes! Please continue to encourage your students to keep reading!@

This week's events:

[Wacky Sock Day:](#) Wear wacky socks to school on Wednesday.

[Thursday:](#) Dress as your favorite book character.

## **Magic Hat:**

Our Magic Hat week is this week; March 28-April 1.

Enrichment is the key to expanding our student's world beyond the academics. You only had to watch how enthralled the students were during the Irish Step Dancers last week to see how enrichment is a vital part of your students learning experience. The Magic Hat is one of the key sources of our enrichment dollars and is based on volunteers filling in the store hours.

The following is our sign up link

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B49A9A822A46-glovermagic7>

**Parent Workshop:** The Bell School was awarded grant from the Friends of Marblehead Public Schools (FMPS) to host Sarah Ward for a ½ day professional development for the three elementary schools on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Ward is a recognized expert on Executive Function. Executive Function consists of five skills: Impulse Control, Emotional Control, Flexible Thinking, Working Memory, and Self-Monitoring. Executive Functions are critical for a student in a school environment. We learned at our March Professional Development on Anxiety Disorders that one of the first things that go when we experience anxiety is Executive Function. Our faculty is looking forward to this professional development.

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 in the cafeteria.
- MCAS for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: ELA is on April 25, 26, and 27<sup>th</sup> and Math is on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

Regards,

Brian