

Dear Glover Families,

It was an amazing week, as always, here at Glover! Here are some highlights and things to look forward to!

Social Emotional Focus: Empathy

Gina Cassler, reading specialist extraordinaire, shared a story with me that I had to share with you all. In her reading group, they were enjoying a story called One Green Apple from the Reach for Reading program. In this story, the main character, Farah, feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She listens and nods but doesn't speak. It's hard being the new kid in school, especially when you're from another country and don't know the language. Then, on a field trip to an apple orchard, Farah discovers there are lots of things that sound the same as they did at home, from dogs crunching their food to the ripple of friendly laughter. As she helps the class make apple cider, Farah connects with the other students and begins to feel that she belongs. This month, as part of my Second Step announcements and classroom lessons, we are focusing on empathy. The students in Gina's group finished the story and connected the story to the lessons we've been learning in Second Step. This was an amazing example of the connections that our students are making across the curriculum and it is thanks to exceptional educators and powerful instructional programming. Our efforts to help all students become more empathetic and compassionate continue each and every day.

Glover Social:

I am consistently blown away by the Glover community and the Social was no exception. Thank you to those who generously gave of their time and those who supported our efforts monetarily...we raised over \$26,000. Wow! Thank you to the following people...without you, none of this would have been possible: **

Thanksgiving Food Drive:

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Thanksgiving food drive! I've never seen so many boxes of cake mix! We packaged them up today with the help of our student leaders and parent volunteers and I am so proud of our efforts! Thank you!

Cake Fundraiser:

Thanksgiving cakes, courtesy of The Plate, will be coming home today with all who ordered! Thank you!

Soccer Uniform Donations:

Drop off your used soccer uniforms (and equipment) in collection bins located in the lobbies of Collicot/Cunningham, Glover, Tucker and Pierce schools and at 34 Cliff Road. Any donations of clean T-Shirts, shorts, socks, shin guards, cleats, and deflated balls and pumps will be gratefully accepted. Note that uniforms from other sports will also be gratefully accepted. Collection dates are November 27- December 22. Thank you for your support! Please see attached for more information. Thank you, Madame Brown, for bringing this great opportunity to us!

Snack Policy:

Food Services Director, Jackie Morgan, wanted to make sure all families know that students have the opportunity to purchase one snack or ice cream for 50 cents if there are funds in their account. Snacks and ice cream are pre-approved and in compliance with all regulations and our Health and Wellness Policy. If you want to limit your child's ability to purchase a snack or ice cream, please just email Jackie at jmorgan@miltonps.org and a simple pop-up can be put on your account that will prevent your child from purchasing.

Music Share: December 11th- 15th

Every child has the opportunity to do a "show and tell" of music! This is a time in the school year where students in grades K-5 can share a musical performance with fellow classmates during their music time. This is an event for students only and more information will be sent home soon.

Holiday Gift Drive:

Thank you, Laura Kottkamp, for organizing this year's efforts. This year, we will be collecting gifts for families in need from Monday, Nov 27 to Monday, Dec 11. **

Kiva Grants- Glover Giving Back:

Our incredible fifth grade committee has brought an exciting opportunity to Glover. All too often, we are asking. We also want to teach our children the importance of giving. If you haven't had a chance to explore Kiva Grants, I encourage you to do so at <https://www.kiva.org/gifts>. Thank you to Julie Mann, Anna Barker, and the fifth sub-committee for introducing us to this! More will be coming soon about Kiva grants but on conference night, the Fundraising Student Leadership Team will be selling handmade holiday cards. Profits go straight to each classroom's seed money for a Kiva grant. Thank you for considering purchasing a one-of-a-kind holiday card!

Diversity Committee:

First, please let me extend my sincere gratitude to all who attended on Wednesday night. I am always blown away by the amazing people we have here at Glover and last night was no exception. Thank you for engaging in powerful and meaningful conversations. I am truly so lucky to be leading such an incredible community. For those who couldn't attend, here is a summary of what we discussed:

- Teaching Tolerance: we did a Mix it Up at Lunch day with great success. We hope to do this again. We have been engaging in PD as a staff using Teaching Tolerance's resources. We are going to explore some of the grant funding offered by this organization. To learn more and explore, go to <https://www.tolerance.org/>.
- Dr. Dunham and the Social Cognition Lab: I shared a bit about the work that will begin in 2018. We discussed an assessment of current climate and creation of "dual identity models" and "circles of inclusion" to help create interventions to support our students. More to come on this! We discussed the idea of having Dr. Dunham attend and speak to our group.

- Active Bystander Training: Jarrod Chin, director of Diversity and Inclusion at Partners in Health and Glover parent, has conducted trainings and would be happy to speak to our group and the larger community regarding active bystander training. He also talked about active bystander training for students, particularly in the upper grades, and the potential resources for this. Lindsey Sands, Glover parent, has also shared a link to <https://quabbinmediation.org> as another potential resource.
- Affinity Groups: we explored the idea of creating affinity groups and providing opportunities for families to network in this way. We are continuing to explore this idea.
- Wee the People: social justice project- introduced by Jen Hyne- something to explore at our next meeting!
- Diversity in French Curriculum: Jen Hyne has done a tremendous amount of work in this area. Thank you Jen! We are exploring grant funding to get these resources in our classrooms. To learn more, go to: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15plHLPooCvHmuR5R05klP0uFQGP1DpAwG_P0Ckz7t4/edit?usp=sharing
- Parent Speaker Series: we explored the idea of tapping the amazing resources we have right here at Glover to create a mini-series of speakers and events that families can attend to learn more about how to promote social justice and more. We are all going to think on this one and network to see what we can come up with! Our own Shelley Sturdivant is willing to share her impactful story with the Glover community, which is something that has left a lasting impact on the MPS staff and I know would do the same for our community.
- Courageous Conversations: Deborah Milbauer shared information about this group and emailed in that they are sponsoring a bystander training open to the community in 2018 and welcome Glover parents to attend. They are going to share upcoming events and opportunities with me and when I receive this, I'll send it along!
- Emailing in topics: I encourage all to consider emailing me questions and topics that you would like to discuss. This can be shared with the larger group anonymously or not. The most powerful conversations come from you all!

Best Buddies Gobbler Race:

The Best Buddies Milton 5K Gobbler Race is Saturday, November 18. Top prizes for the age 10 and under category include medals, ice cream and pizza parties, and t-shirts. There will be a DJ at the event and Wahlburgers will be offering after-the-race chili! Register by going to www.bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/milton.

Future Planning:

We have solidified dates for our music performances this year and I wanted to share them with you so that you can mark your calendars!

Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade Showcase- Friday, March 23, 2018 at 2:00 PM in the Glover Gymnasium

4th & 5th grades, band, and string ensembles- Friday, April 27, 2018 at 9:15 AM in the Glover Gymnasium

3rd Grade Showcase- Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 2:00 PM in the Glover Gymnasium

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday, November 18: Best Buddies Gobbler Race

November 22-24: Thanksgiving Recess- no school

Tuesday, November 28: Author Visit- Melissa Stewart

Tuesday, December 5: Report Cards Home

Thursday, December 7: Early Release- Parent/Teacher Conferences

We hope you have a great weekend and we look forward to another wonderful week at Glover next week!

In partnership,

Karen McDavitt

Principal, Glover Elementary School