

Dear Glover Families,

We did it! The first full week of school is officially and successfully done! Your children are happily ensconced in their classrooms and learning so much already! We look forward to seeing you soon at Open House on September 26 at 6:30pm.

In the Milton Public Schools, we use the Second Step Curriculum which helps us teach valuable social skills lessons with a focus on social-emotional learning. Each week, we have a focus of the week which is shared on the announcements and reinforced daily in every classroom. In an effort to include families in our conversations, I will often share the “focus of the week” with you in my weekly email so that you can continue the learning at home.

This past week’s social-emotional focus was **Welcoming**. Here at Glover school, we want everyone to feel welcome and that they belong. We know we’re welcome when people smile at us and greet us with friendly words. We know we belong when we’re included and invited to play at recess. We know we belong when we notice the ways we’re all the same and accept the ways we’re different. This week, we worked on taking time to greet others with a smile and inviting them to play. This week, we learned about being safe with our bodies and safe with our words, using kind and respectful words when interacting with our friends. Thanks for helping reinforce these important concepts at home.

#### **A Look Ahead:**

**Classroom Directories:** Thank you all for returning the Handbook Sign-Off forms! As you know, one of the permissions you reviewed was the permission to release student information. It is important for you to know that we do not release your child’s personal information (address, phone, etc.) without your permission ever. The only time we share information during the year is to allow teachers to form “Classroom Directories” that are shared only with other members of your child’s classroom and only for the purposes of facilitating social opportunities between classmates. At Open House, teachers will distribute Classroom Directories. If you do not want your child’s contact information to be shared (again, only for the purposes of facilitating social opportunities between classmates and only shared with students/families in class), **please email me or your child’s teacher**. If we don’t hear from you, we’ll assume that

you are okay with your child's contact information being listed in the Classroom Directory for his/her class.

**BOKS is BACK!** BOKS will be starting up again in November as the weather turns colder and days get shorter. For those of you new to the Glover community, [BOKS](#) is a free, morning fitness program of fun activities that have been created in partnership with Reebok. We are only able to offer this at Glover because we have a team of parent volunteers who know that morning exercise helps kids get more motivated and focused the rest of the day! We currently have 2 vacancies on the *core* team that we must fill in order to run the program (we will also *occasional* volunteers to drop in throughout the term). The commitment is twice per week for 6 weeks (Nov. 5-Dec. 12); Tuesdays and Thursday from 7:45-8:45am). No previous training or teaching experience is needed - just bring sneakers and enthusiasm and we will teach you the rest. Contact Ellen Stoddard if you are interested! [estoddard2013@gmail.com](mailto:estoddard2013@gmail.com)/ 617-285-9406.

**Milton Goes Gold:** We are proud to partner with the Michael C. McHugh Memorial Foundation and Wicked Good Cause to bring awareness and support for Childhood Cancer. In collaboration with the Town of Milton, the Milton Police Department, the Milton Fire Department, our 6 schools, and multiple community members, we will be "Going Gold" for Childhood Cancer Awareness from September 16-30<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to raise awareness and funds while showing support for children who are battling cancer. On Monday, we'll host a pep rally with a representative from Children's Hospital to explain how we are raising awareness and money in support of our friends experiencing childhood cancer.

### **How Can You Help?**

**DONATE YOUR GOLD:** From September 16-30, send spare change in with your child to help fill the GOLD boots at all elementary schools. You can also donate directly to the Michael C. McHugh Memorial Foundation. We are also collecting items for the One Mission Resource Room from this list at Pierce and MHS.

**GIVE BLOOD – AS VALUABLE AS GOLD:** We are holding TWO blood drives in Milton in September. Saturday 9/21 9am-4pm (75 slots) and Thursday 9/26 8am -3pm (75 slots). Sign up in the links above. See donation guidelines here.

**WEAR YOUR GOLD:** On Thursday September 26th, wear as much gold as you can! You can wear your own gold clothing/ accessories and/or purchase Milton **GOES GOLD** shoelaces (\$3) in your school office or [online here](#).

**CHEER FOR GOLD:** Attend the MHS Football game on Friday, September 27th for Milton GOES GOLD night! Support the Milton GOES Gold lemonade stand, cheer on our honor team captains who have been affected by childhood cancer, [donate to the Michael C. McHugh Memorial Foundation](#) and [bring your donations for the Key Club collection](#).

**PTO and Diversity Committee Meetings Next Week:**

Looking to get involved this year? We have two wonderful opportunities for you! This Wednesday, our Glover PTO will be meeting at 7:00pm in the library. We will kick off the year, discuss fundraising and initiatives, and more!

On Thursday, our amazing Diversity Committee will be meeting at 7pm in the Glover library. We will be brainstorming and planning new Diversity Committee initiatives including our robust partnership with Tucker, our Community Dinner Project (see below), our Diverse Reads Family Book Club initiative, and more!

All are welcome and encouraged to attend/join either (or both) meetings! Both are open meetings and anyone can come at any time!

**Our Whitelawn Neighbors:** Thank you for helping us continue to respect our neighbors here at Glover. If you are parking on Whitelawn, please do not park on the lawns of homeowners. Please only park on one side and please remember to enter on the FAR end of Whitelawn (near School Street) and loop around. Thank you for helping us preserve our important relationships with our neighbors!

**Demographic Information:** If you have not updated your demographic information in our Portal system, please be sure to do so. This information is relied upon frequently when we need to contact you, in case of an emergency, etc. If you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or AJ Melanson at [amelanson@miltonps.org](mailto:amelanson@miltonps.org).

**Open House:** Just a reminder- Glover's Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 26 at 6:30pm.

**Welcome Back Community Dinner Project:** The beginning of each school year brings many wonderful opportunities to get to know new friends and reacquaint with old ones. We have welcomed many new families to Glover School this year and we are thrilled to share an exciting way for families to connect and build relationships.

The Community Dinner Project invites all Glover parents/guardians to have a conversation, share meaningful stories, good food, and build a sense of community. The Community Dinner Project provides an opportunity to **meet others** from our school, **connect** to learn more about each other, and share ideas for how to **strengthen our community for our kids** to thrive. This project is sponsored by our Diversity Committee and is adapted from a nation-wide model, The People's Supper. We hope to use this opportunity to grow and build our community while celebrating our diversity.

Grab a seat! Be a host or a participant. Hosting a dinner is simple and helpful guidelines will be provided. You determine the conversation starters, the location, and the type of dinner you want to hold (ex. with or without children). You do not have to provide the entire meal. All participants, including the host, are asked to bring a dish to share. As a welcome back to school event, we hope to have as many volunteers as possible to host a Community Dinner in their home.

**Dinners will be held on Friday 9/20, Saturday 9/21 or Sunday, 9/22.** To sign up to be a host and/or to sign up to be a guest at one of the dinners, please go to <https://forms.gle/CP2hHmixsBYa7TE79>.

**PARENT Speaker Series:** Save the date for our first event in the 2019/20 PARENT Speaker Series. [Inclusion Specialist Maureen Blazejewski will discuss Supporting All Learners on September 24th at Milton High School.](#)

Coming together with your child's team each year can be both exciting and stressful, as you reflect upon your child's progress and plan the new areas of focus. This workshop will offer parents information, insight and tips that will lead to more effective communication and advocacy as you come together with your district team to plan for your child's educational needs. FREE and open to the public. This presentation is relatable to parents/guardians of ALL AGES.

**FirstView Parent App:** The MPS Transportation Department is excited to roll out the FirstView Parent App provided by First Student, our bus company. FirstView is

comprehensive and secure bus tracking and parent communication app. The FirstView app is easy to download, set up and use to provide estimated bus arrival times, transportation messaging regarding delays or issues and customizable alerts for when your student's bus is a chosen distance or number of minutes away.

Please visit [FirstViewApp.com](https://FirstViewApp.com) or find FirstView in the App Store or Google Play to download to your smartphone. Additionally, a desktop version of FirstView is available at [FirstViewApp.com](https://FirstViewApp.com). Next week, be on the lookout for emails from the transportation department with specific instructions and school codes to upload your student's route into your app. Please see attached for more information.

### **Expanding the School Breakfast Program and Students with Food Allergies:**

On average, students who eat school breakfast have been shown to achieve 17.5% higher scores on standardized math tests and attend 1.5 more days of school per year ([No Kid Hungry](#)). **The Milton Public Schools offer breakfast in every school for twenty minutes before the school day begins. We have traditional cafeteria service in all of our schools. We offer grab and go carts at our middle and high school and we are now have breakfast in the classroom at the Tucker Elementary School with four grades. We have also placed full breakfast meals with our middle and high school nurses if children come to their offices and are hungry after the bell.**

School breakfast participation are increasing through innovative delivery methods, such as grab-and-go service options, which allow students to quickly pick up their meal from the cafeteria or a hallway kiosk on their way to class. The cost for breakfast is \$1.25 and it is free for our free and reduced students.

One in five, or 15 million, children in America live in households without consistent access to adequate food. Every Monday morning, school nutrition professionals and school nurses witness this hunger on the faces of students eagerly waiting in line for a school breakfast after a long weekend without enough to eat. Please be assured that we work very hard to make sure there is no overt identification with our computerized point of sale program. We also let children borrow money to purchase the main meal of the day no matter how high they may be in debt.

Armed with scientific research linking school meals and healthy diets to academic success, our school nutrition professionals have worked to expand breakfast programs to meet students' nutritional needs.

### **Dismissal Plans:**

Thank you for continuing to adhere to the following protocol when changing regular dismissal plans:

**Write a Note:** Please submit dismissal changes **in writing** to your child's teacher and send in with your child. This is important for many reasons but if there is a substitute teacher, there will be written record of dismissal changes.

If your plans change when your child is already at school for the day, you must **call the main office** as teachers cannot guarantee that they will be able to check their email/personal voicemail during the instructional day. The main office will notify individual teachers of dismissal changes.

Please be sure **your child is aware** of dismissal changes ahead of time so that he/she is comfortable with plans for the end of the day.

Please **always** include either John Leazott (Grades 2-5) or Deb Mullins (Grades K-1) if your change in plans involves ASE (After School Enrichment). John's email is [jleazott@miltonps.org](mailto:jleazott@miltonps.org) and Deb's email is [dmullins@miltonps.org](mailto:dmullins@miltonps.org). If your child is registered for after school on a designated day and you do not inform the ASE staff of a change in plans, your child will be sent to ASE as registered.

**Jewish High Holidays:** This year, Rosh Hashanah begins on Sunday, September 29 at sundown and ends at sundown on Tuesday, October 1. Yom Kippur begins on Tuesday, October 8 at sundown and ends at sundown on Wednesday, October 9. This year, there will be no school on Wednesday, October 9 in observance of Yom Kippur. Please know that we will make any/all accommodations to allow students to observe these holy days with their loved ones. Students will not be penalized in any way for missing time or assignments. There will be no night events during this time. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me and/or your child's teacher with any questions or concerns. In alignment with the philosophy of the Anti-Defamation League, we firmly believe that to create welcoming and respectful school and workplace environments,

every effort should be made to accommodate observance of the High Holidays and other religious practices with school responsibilities in a meaningful way.

**For Your Calendar:**

Wednesday, September 18: School Picture Day

Wednesday, September 18: Glover Site Council meeting- 3:30pm

Wednesday, September 18: Glover PTO meeting- 7pm

Thursday, September 19: Diversity Committee- 7pm

Tuesday, September 24: Designing Inclusive Schools PARENT Speaker Series- 6:30pm at MHS (see attached)

Thursday, September 26: Glover Open House- 6:30pm

Friday, September 27: No School (Professional Development Day for Staff)

Wednesday, October 2: Walk/Bike to School Day

Thursday, October 9: Yom Kippur- No School

Monday, October 14: Columbus Day- No School

Wednesday, October 23: Early Release Day (12:30)- PD for Staff

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me any time with any questions or concerns. Have a wonderful weekend!

In Partnership,

Karen McDavitt

Principal, Glover Elementary School

