

Dear Glover Families,

What an incredible week we had at Glover! Our “Start With Hello” week was incredibly powerful. New connections were forged in every classroom, across each grade, and throughout the school. No one ate alone, no one played alone, and everyone made a new friend (or lots of new friends). As you know, the Glover commitment involves being inclusive and kind. This week was an incredible example of this in action.

In addition, we were so honored to be visited by MPD as we kicked off our Go Gold Day on Thursday! I was so blown away by the number of children adorned in gold, from shoelaces to headbands, golden casts to sparkly pants, it was a sight to be seen! And all for such an amazing cause! Glover has contributed an incredible amount to Milton’s Go Gold fundraiser and I am honored to be a part of this incredible community. Thank you all.

On Wednesday, we will celebrate Walk/Bike to School Day and encourage anyone who would like to participate to walk or bike to school! Those who take the bus will also be recognized! Thanks to Coach Jones for coordinating and Jim Mulligan, our Transportation School Committee representative for supporting our efforts!

**Glover Open House:** Thank you to all who attended last night’s Open House. If you weren’t able to attend, your child’s teacher will reach out to you to share pertinent information. You can always feel free to reach out to me as well. In our whole-group presentation, we shared information about Glover curriculum (which can be found on our website), important links on the website, information about Student Leadership Team, GLEA Clubs, and our PBIS initiative, and the many ways that families can get involved at Glover, including supporting the PTO, MFE, SEPAC, Outdoor Space Committee, Diversity Committee, and various classroom volunteer opportunities including Meet the Artist, Reading About Diversity, Outdoor Classroom, and Open Gym. Please reach out to me directly or to your child’s teacher if you have any questions!

For those who joined us in the gym, I hope you enjoyed meeting our friend Sofie and hearing the Glover Kid song! I am always so proud but I was an exceptionally proud principal last night!! Thank you for taking the time out of your day to share with us!

**A Look Ahead...**

**MCAS Results:** As previewed in last night's presentation, Mrs. MacNeil and I are so proud of Glover's MCAS results this year as they are the result of an incredible collective effort on the part of all teachers, students, and families. Across all grade levels and content areas, Milton schools continue to outperform the state, even as the assessment suite has become more rigorous. This is a testament to the hard work and effort of our students and teachers, who have been asked to adapt to new technology, new curriculum, and higher standards. In the elementary schools, we have implemented a new literacy curriculum for the past two years – National Geographic Reach for Reading. The program is yielding promising results for our students, as is evidenced by our third grade ELA scores that are rising every year since adoption.

In Milton, we are committed to preparing our students to achieve academically. A standardized state assessment is a useful measure of what our students have learned during the year and whether they are on track to meet the rigor of the next grade level. Please be reminded that the state assessment is one of multiple measures – including homework, quizzes, internal assessments, class participation, projects, etc. – that we use in the district to evaluate your children's performance. We firmly believe that the tremendous value of an education greatly exceeds any one singular measure.

**Individual student MCAS reports will be mailed home to families the week of September 30th after we receive them from DESE.** To learn more about the Next-Generation MCAS and how to interpret results, visit [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents). Please contact your children's current teacher or me if you have any questions regarding your children's performance.

**Report Cards:** Mrs. MacNeil spoke about the changes in the report card this year. We are measuring new Science standards (based on content not practices) and also have tweaked our "work habits" and "social skills development", grouping these important skills under the heading of "social emotional learning". Report cards will be accessible via Portal this year but we will also be mailing a copy home as we know that an important part of the report card process is sharing the information with your child and a paper copy will help you facilitate conversations about your child's progress.

We feel it is important for you to know what we are measuring when we talk about "social emotional learning" so we have listed the competencies your child will be graded on below.

- Plays and works cooperatively with peers
- Engages in positive interactions with adults
- Assumes responsibility for materials and belongings
- Follows classroom routines, rules and directions
- Demonstrates appropriate self-regulation
- Navigates transitions appropriately
- Makes independent choices within the classroom
- Able to maintain focus and attention
- Participates in small and large group activities
- Completes work independently after instruction
- Works within time limits
- Seeks help when needed
- Engages with learning
- Perseveres despite obstacles

**Student Leadership Team:** Students in fourth and fifth grade will enjoy an assembly with Mrs. MacNeil and me next week to learn about Student Leadership Team. We know that students learn and develop leadership through practical application of leadership skills. These skills should be cultivated at a young age so that students understand the concept of stewardship and ownership of their environments. When students are provided with this opportunity, they experience responsible citizenship and engage positively with community members. Those who are given the opportunity to engage in the process of leadership development at an early age increase the capacity of involved citizens in the future (Krista Ullestad, 2009, Leadership Development for Elementary Students).

Here at Glover, we believe strongly in empowering our students and we are thrilled to announce the launch of the Glover Student Leadership Team. SLT is a group of 4th and 5th Graders who take leadership seriously and are interested in helping out around the school, in the community, and modeling positive behaviors for younger students. SLT members are role models for the other students and act accordingly at all times during the school day (recess, bus, lunch, classroom, etc.) in order to maintain the privilege of participating in SLT. There are many different assignments they can choose from such as helping out in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, PE, Art, Library, and Bus Assistants, and Fundraising Teams to name a few. SLT members are assigned a teacher-mentor who checks in with them. They meet as a large group at the beginning of the year after school with their mentors and then teams run throughout the year.

Mentors check in frequently. This is a wonderful opportunity open to all of our fourth and fifth grade students so stay tuned!

**Notes from Nurse LeBlanc:** Please see attached letter about mandatory screenings.

**Boxtops:** As referenced in the Open House presentation last night, all of that clipping has paid off! Thanks to you all (and the coordination of Jen Queally), we have raised \$17,000 for Glover through our Boxtop collection! Attached is a collection sheet if you would like to continue clipping and sending Boxtops in. There is also an app that you can download to “clip” digitally! Please see attached.

**Glover Lantern Walk:** Please mark your calendars for this special Glover tradition! On Friday, October 18, we will be joined by our Tucker friends for a walk around Turner’s Pond with our lanterns! Our Lantern Walk begins at 6pm and we ask that you stay with your children at all times. Immediately following our Lantern Walk, you are invited to the back playground for some cider and donuts and a movie in the gym!

On Wednesday, Oct 16 at 6:00pm, we will be having our Lantern Making Workshop during our PTO meeting. We will have helpers in the cafeteria and students are invited to bring an empty 2-liter plastic bottle with them so that we can make it into a lantern. While your children are lantern-making, we invite you to join us for a brief PTO meeting!

If you cannot attend the lantern making workshop, making a lantern is easy! Simply peel the wrapper off of a two-liter bottle and cut it in half. Punch a hole on either side to attach a ribbon, wire, or string as a handle. Use white glue and tissue paper to cover the outside of the bottle. Last, put a light source (flashlight, glow bracelet/stick, electronic tea light) inside and voila!

**PTO Annual Appeal:** Each year, the Glover PTO reaches out to families for financial support so that we can continue to fund wonderful enrichment programs at the school. With your donation, the Glover PTO is able to fund initiatives that otherwise would not be possible, such as:

- The Lantern Walk and Skating Party
- Science Fair and Field Day/End of Year Picnic
- Physical updates to the school such as classroom flexible seating and document cameras and the hallway sensory paths!

- Museum of Science & N.E. Aquarium visits for all grades
- Field Trips for Grades K-5 (bus cost and portion of admission)
- Cultural Events like author visits, storytellers, and Historical Perspective performances

**Your donation, in any amount, helps make these wonderful opportunities possible for our children.** You can make a donation, big or small, by sending in a check along with your child, made payable to **Glover PTO.\*** Please reference “Annual Appeal” in the memo section. OR, you can **Venmo your donation @Glover-PTO.** Thank you so much for your generosity and for considering donating your time and talents to the Glover PTO! The Glover PTO is a registered nonprofit organization and your donation is tax deductible.

**For Your Calendar:**

Wednesday, October 2: Walk/Bike to School Day

Wednesday, October 9: Yom Kippur- No School

Monday, October 14: Columbus Day- No School

Wednesday, October 16: PTO Meeting and Lantern Making Workshop- 6pm

Friday, October 18: Glover Lantern Walk

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

Thursday, October 24: Glover Diversity Committee- 7pm in Glover Library

Sunday, October 27: MFE Monster Dash

Thursday, November 14: 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

