

Dear Glover Families,

What an incredible week we had at Glover! Our Walk/Ride to School Day was awesome! Please note: we do not have school next week on **Wednesday** for Yom Kippur. No students will be assigned any homework or assignments in observance of this holiday.

Here at Glover, we focus on educating the whole child. This means that we are addressing students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs simultaneously. We use the Second Step curriculum to guide our efforts in social-emotional learning. Each week, I share a focus on the announcements and classroom teachers, specialists, and lunchroom/recess supervisors reinforce this focus throughout the week. So that you can reinforce the same focus/concept at home, I'll share our focus with you each week in my Friday email.

This month, we began working through our Skills for Learning Unit in Second Step. This week, we learned about the skill of listening. We learned that when we listen with attention, our eyes are watching the speaker, our ears are listening, our voices are quiet, and we are still. This week, we practiced being a **whole body listener** and your child should be able to demonstrate this for you at home!

A Look Ahead...

PACER Assessments in PE- Grades 3, 4, and 5: In Physical Education over the next few weeks, students will be participating in the PACER assessments. We assess cardiovascular endurance using the FitnessGram PACER assessment (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run). This tool provides individualized student feedback regarding their overall cardiovascular endurance. This assessment has been continually studied for safety, validity, and reliability. We conduct this assessment three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring) always in the gymnasium.

Student safety is paramount. We work closely with the school nurse and classroom educator regarding any reported student injuries/illness or concussions that would restrict the student from safely participating. The program runs with music and has a predetermined timing for "beeps" or signals for markers or levels reached. It starts off slowly (walking) and progressively gets faster (run) as it continues until a set time/distance (5 sec / 20m) is reached and then is maintained throughout subsequent

levels. Students self-monitor their progress along with the watchful eye of the educator. Students stop when they can no longer reach the marker in the time allotted. Students are aware of the level they stop at and they check in with their teacher. The student works with their teacher on appropriate goal-setting throughout the school year.

Social-emotional skill development is a major part of these lessons. We teach about and encourage camaraderie, empathy, grit, emotional regulation and supporting classmates in their effort. Just as in any other subject, the expectation is that a student puts forth their best effort. They may not achieve a personal best every time, but it's an opportunity to continue to enhance a growth mindset, learn about their body's capacity to produce work/effort, develop perseverance and build confidence. Many students take pride in their effort just as they would in math or science or with being a good friend, or helping in the community. We celebrate this learning experience and student achievement.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. If your child has a medical condition that worsens with cardiovascular exercise (i.e. asthma, etc.), please don't hesitate to reach out to Nurse LeBlanc if you would like any additional treatment put in place. Please see attached for additional information.

BOKS: We are excited to announce our Fall Session of our BOKS (Build Our Kids Success) Before School Program! Below is the link to a Google Form and registration is due by October 18: <https://forms.gle/iVssu8QwT6QjZQnB6>. BOKS is a free physical activity program designed by Reebok that improves our children physically, mentally and socially through movement.

BOKS will take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Glover from 8:00-8:40, beginning November 5, 2019. Dates are as follows: November 5,7,12,14,18,21,26 December 3,5,10,12. If children are already signed up for the early school program, they can still participate. They will be released to the gym at 7:50.

MCAS Results: Results for students in grades 4 and 5 will be mailed home next week. The accountability system designates schools and districts as partially meeting or meeting targets and either requiring or not requiring assistance or intervention. Overall, Glover school met or exceeded all targets and is classified as a school that is not requiring assistance or intervention. Of note is the fact that in addition to student

achievement and growth, the state is now looking at chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism is defined as students missing 10% or more of the school year (18 days of school). Attendance is important! Every day counts! If you have any questions regarding your child's MCAS report, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Sara MacNeil at smacneil@miltonps.org.

Student Leadership Team: Students in fourth and fifth grade have completed their applications for SLT and will be finding out their team assignments next week! Mentors will be in touch soon after and the learning and fun begins! Thank you for supporting your student leader's efforts at home!

GLEA Clubs: Back by popular demand, we will be offering before/after school enrichment clubs taught by Glover's own teaching staff! Be on the lookout for a signup and I know you will be thrilled with the offerings!

Nurse's Notes: With the beginning of fall comes allergy and asthma season. With the colder weather, ragweed and mold pollens in the air are triggering asthma and wheezing in children. We have seen an increase in visits to the nurse's office due to respiratory concerns. If your child has asthma or uses an inhaler, please be sure to bring in an Asthma Action Plan and an inhaler to Nurse LeBlanc. Hand washing remains the best way to keep your children safe and healthy. Strep throat is also making its way around Glover in various grade levels. If you think your child has strep, please be sure to visit a health care provider or urgent care facility for a strep test. If you email your child's teacher about something related to his/her health, please include Maureen LeBlanc (mleblanc@miltonps.org) on all emails.

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.

PARENT University: The PARENT Speaker Series is pleased to present PARENT University on Thursday, October 17th from 6:00-8:40pm at the Pierce Middle School. PARENT University is a series of short educational and skill-building workshops for parents and guardians that cover a wide range of topics. Workshops focus on promoting the academic and social and emotional well being of children and teens. We offer a variety of workshops in one evening, each lasting just one hour and each workshop offered twice-back to back. Please see attached for additional information.

The evening will begin at 6:00pm in the auditorium at the Pierce Middle School. The first session will begin at 6:30pm. The second session will begin at 7:40. [Click here](#) for course descriptions. [Click here](#) TO COMPLETE COURSE SELECTION REGISTRATION.

Childcare is available. However, space for childcare is limited. Registration is required and can be found on the registration link above. Children must be of school age and toilet trained to access childcare.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at mmckenna@miltonps.org or 617-980-7343.

Monster Dash: Please join us for this wonderful annual event that supports science enrichment in all six Milton Public Schools. To register for the event - 5K or Kids Fun Run - go to miltonmonsterdash.racewire.com. To learn more about the Milton Foundation for Education, visit their website at MiltonFoundationForEducation.org.

What happens at the end of a long day? At this time of year, the back-to-school honeymoon might be over, the afternoons feel shorter, after school activities are in full swing, and if you're like me, you might be running into a few after school meltdowns. Teachers say they are wonderful here, so what happens when they get home? I found this article about the after-school meltdown phenomenon helpful in my own personal life and I hope you do too:

[This article reminds us of why kids act like this, and gives some really great tips on how to lessen the meltdown.](#)

For Your Calendar:

Wednesday, October 9: Yom Kippur- No School

Monday, October 14: Columbus Day- No School

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

Thursday, October 17: PARENT University (see above)

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