



## Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

December 9, 2025

### STAFF SPOTLIGHT



#### **Angela Mason - 2nd Grade Writing Teacher**

##### **Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.**

One particular scholar and I would work relentlessly, four days a week on reading lessons during wide reading. The scholar started to get sad that they had not moved up a level in reading and their friends did. I spoke with the parents about helping out and I sent work home. Within a couple of weeks that scholar did their test and passed to the next reading level!! We hugged, high fived, and I sent home some happy mail for the student and parents. That was a great day!

##### **What made you want to become a teacher (or what made you want to work in a school)?**

I became very intrigued by the many different ways a person can learn one lesson. My niece had a learning disability and I was determined to help her learn her lessons, pass her test, and complete her homework. She was very upset and sad daily. I had to be creative when making material to bridge the gap. That was many moons ago lol and here I am today still pushing myself to reach all scholars.

##### **What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?**

Having worked in some very challenging schools in the past, it's a breath of fresh air to see so many scholars that are happy, kind, fun, and excited to learn daily.

##### **What's your favorite memory from elementary/middle school?**

My favorite memory from elementary school was the math club and math club teacher. I was in the math club from 5-8th grade. The teacher would give really hard math problems to solve and if we got it right we didn't have homework for the next week!

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

My favorite thing to do in Chicago is go to as many outdoor festivities as I can in the summer!

##### **We all know teaching can be a stressful job! What's your favorite way to unwind?**

My favorite thing to do in Chicago is go to happy hour . I pick a new restaurant once a month and try to unwind from my busy week.

##### **What's your dream vacation?**

My dream vacation is to visit Bali.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Over the past couple years, our leadership team has found that many parents are unaware of some of the activities their children are engaging in online. Parents have identified it as a major area of concern for them and one of the greatest challenges of parenting in 2025.

As a parent of a 1st grader, I empathize with each of you. Supervision as a parent was hard enough before smartphones put the online world at all of our fingertips. Now our children have access to people and things online that are extraordinarily difficult to monitor. Humans are built to be social and emotionally connected and accountable to each other. The veil of the internet provides a degree of separation from connection and accountability to others that leads many people to behave in ways they would not in an in-person social setting. Children, who are still developing a wide array of cognitive functioning skills, are especially vulnerable to temptation online and susceptible to engaging with others in inappropriate ways (e.g. conflict, bullying, sexually).

Whether your child has a smartphone or other device, it is important that parents take steps to limit and monitor the internet and social media use of their child(ren). Compared to a decade ago, I am astounded at the number of discipline issues our school's staff and administration deal with that have a direct or indirect connection to students' online activities *outside of school*. Whether it is a younger student mimicking behavior they have seen in a Tik Tok video or a group of middle school students having conflict over a group chat from the weekend, dealing with behavior related to unmonitored online activity has occupied more time of school staff than we would like.

We need your support, and more importantly, your child needs your support. Please consider how you are monitoring your child's activity at home. I have included a couple resources that show how you can set parental controls on devices at home:

[Parent Controls - iPhone](#)

[Parental Controls - iPad](#)

[Parent Controls - Android](#)

[Cyber Safety for Children by Cyber Fareedah](#)

We all have a responsibility to make the world (digital or not) a safer place physically and emotionally for our kids.

Warmly,



Principal Miller

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Winter Fest & Spirit Week**

December 15th-December 19th is Winter Spirit Week at GLA! We will celebrate with Winter Fest on Friday, December 19th! View the dress down days and Winter Fest requirements below:

- Monday, December 15th - Monochrome Monday
- Tuesday, December 16th - Time Travel Tuesday (70s/80s/90s/00s/2010s)
- Wednesday, December 17th - Wild Wednesday (Animal Print)
- Thursday, December 18th - Dress Down Day for Semester 1 Incentive Events
- Friday, December 19th - Holiday Spirit @ Winter Fest!

Winter Fest Requirements:

- Marking Period: Mon. 12/08 - Thurs. 12/18
  - 0 Referrals
  - < 2 Resets
  - < 2 Tardies to Class
  - < 4 Absences to School



**Congratulations to our FOUNDING Student Voice Committee Members, DEADLINE EXTENDED to DEC 19th**

Congratulations to Symone Jackson, Nubia Jones, and Jleeah Hayes on being the founding members of the first Charter Student Voice Committee in the district! Our Student Voice Committee will give students a meaningful platform to contribute their perspectives, help guide school initiatives, and shape GLA. There are still spots available and the deadline to apply is extended to December 19th. If your child is interested, please encourage them to apply [here](#).



#### FOUNDING MEMBERS



**Symone Jackson**



**Nubia Jones**



**Jleeah Hayes**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>  
APPLY TODAY!**

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/GLASVC](https://tinyurl.com/glasvc)

#### Race to 10 is On!

A huge congratulations to Howard for racing to 10 and winning Heat 3! They will be going on a free field trip of their choice. Also, congratulations to the two parents who won our gas raffle. Race 4 started 12/5. Let's keep up the momentum and continue working together to make every day count! Attendance matters.



#### Understanding TIF & What it means for our schools

We're excited to invite you to a special webinar hosted by Kids First Chicago (K1C), The Civic Federation, and Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community: Understanding TIF & What It Means for Our Schools.

- Date & Time: December 16, 2025 • 5:30 PM–7:00 PM
- Virtual (Zoom)
- Languages: English with Spanish and Chinese (Mandarin) interpretation provided

The program will feature a panel discussion, moderated by Nell Salzman from The New York Times, to help Chicago parents, educators, and community members better

understand how Tax Increment Financing (TIF) works and how TIF decisions directly affect CPS budgets, classroom funding, and long-term school resources.

**What you'll gain:**

- A clear explanation of how TIFs function
- Insight into how TIF dollars impact CPS funding
- Perspectives from our panel of civic leaders
- Tools to advocate for a fair TIF surplus to protect school budgets

Upcoming Webinar  
**Understanding TIF & What It Means for Our Schools**  
What You Need To Know  
VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR  
DEC 16 | 5:30 PM

KID FIRST CHICAGO  
CPS  
CBCAC CHICAGO

Scan to RSVP

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Winter Book Fair**



Book Fair is here, December 8th-12th. Flyers will be sent home this week, please look out for them to see what day your student is attending!

**Parents and Families are welcome to visit Tuesday, December 9th, 3:30-4:30pm.**

**Winter Ball: December 12th 5:30-7:30**

5th-8th Grade Scholars are invited to attend GLA's Winter Ball on Friday, December 12th from 5:30-7:30. The Winter Ball will feature a special performance by DJ Rainn, a raffle to win exclusive prizes, and a candy/glow bar. Scholars must meet these requirements to attend, and families will be notified the evening of Thursday, December 11th if their scholar is ineligible.

**Marking Period: 12/01-12/11**

- 0 Referrals
- < 2 Resets
- < 2 Tardies to Class
- < 4 Absences to School

5TH-8TH GRADE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH  
5:30-7:30 PM

# WINTER BALL

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

**DJ RAINN**

**PRIZE RAFFLE  
CANDY & GLOW BAR**

12/01-12/11 REQUIREMENTS:

0 REFERRALS < 2 TARDIES TO CLASS  
< 2 RESETS < 4 ABSENCES

### **Helpful Community Resources: Food Pantries**

We want to make sure families know about local food pantries available in our community. Here is a list of organizations, their locations, and hours of operation so you can easily access support when needed. If you need more options, please visit [www.findhelp.org](http://www.findhelp.org).

# Food Pantry Resources



**Trinity Resurrection United**  
9046 S Mackinaw  
773-768-9645  
Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30 am  
Service Area: Cook County

**King of Glory Tabernacle**  
2253 E 83<sup>rd</sup> St  
773-375-3537  
Thursdays, 4-7pm  
Fridays, 10am-1pm

**Giving Others Dreams**  
8832 S Commercial Ave  
Mondays, 4-6pm  
Tuesdays, 11am-1pm  
Service Area: 60617

**Christ Life Church**  
8927 S Houston Ave  
773-936-1348  
Saturdays, 10am-12pm  
Service Area: 60617, 60633

**Pilsen Wellness Center, Inc**  
2938 E 89<sup>th</sup> Street  
312-217-1831  
Wednesdays, 3-6pm  
Thursdays, 11-2pm  
Service Area: 60617

**Christ Bible Church of God**  
7877 S Coles  
773-734-2933  
Saturdays, 10am-2pm  
Service Area: Cook County  
Bring Photo ID!



Need more options? Visit: [www.findhelp.org](http://www.findhelp.org)

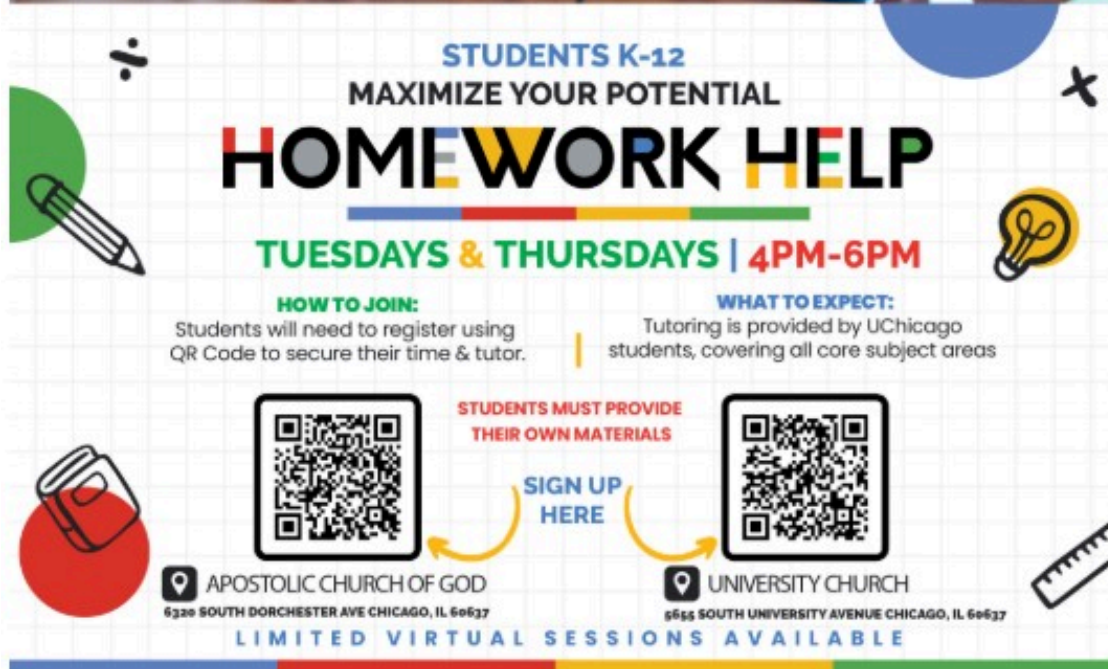
Additionally, Aldi has created a promotion that provides dinner for 10 for \$40. See what is included below.



- Whole Turkey
- Chicken Broth
- Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Evaporated Milk
- Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
- Miniature Marshmallows
- Cut Green Beans (x2)
- 100% Pure Canned Pumpkin
- Shells & Cheese (x2)
- Brown Gravy Mix (x3)
- Poultry Spices & Herbs
- French Fried Onions
- Pie Crust
- Chicken or Cornbread Stuffing (x2)
- Whipped Dairy Topping
- Yellow Onions (3 lbs.)
- Baby Peeled Carrots
- Celery
- Cranberries
- Sweet Potatoes (3 lbs.)
- Russet Potatoes (10 lbs.)

## **Free Homework Help through the University of Chicago**

The University of Chicago is offering free Homework Help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6pm. This program is designed to support K-12th grade students with their schoolwork in a welcoming, collaborative environment. Tutoring is provided by UChicago students and covers all core subjects areas. The sessions are in person with few virtual sessions available. If interested, sign up for a 30-minute time slot via the QR code below.



**STUDENTS K-12**  
**MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL**  
**HOMEWORK HELP**  
**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 4PM-6PM**

**HOW TO JOIN:**  
Students will need to register using QR Code to secure their time & tutor.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**  
Tutoring is provided by UChicago students, covering all core subject areas

**STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN MATERIALS**

**SIGN UP HERE**

**APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GOD**  
6320 SOUTH DORCHESTER AVE CHICAGO, IL 60637

**UNIVERSITY CHURCH**  
6655 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60637

**LIMITED VIRTUAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE**

### 2025-26 School Calendar

The 2025-26 school calendar has been posted to GLA's website. Please [view it here](#).

### School Year Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 7:30-4:30 pm

Friday, 7:30-2:00 pm

### GLA Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper Menus

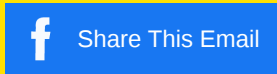
Click [here](#) to access (these are also linked on our website's [Parent and Student Resource Page](#))

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**  
**December 8 - January 9, 2026**

8 Winter Book Fair ANet	9 Winter Book Fair	10 Winter Book Fair	11 Winter Book Fair	12 Winter Book Fair ANet Make Ups 5th-8th Grade Winter Ball 5:30 - 7:30 PM
15 K-8th Winter Spirit Week  iReady MOY Assessments	16 K-8th Winter Spirit Week  iReady MOY Assessments	17 K-8th Winter Spirit Week  iReady MOY Assessments Make Ups	18 K-8th Winter Spirit Week	19 K-8th Winter Spirit Week
22 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	23 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	24 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	25 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	26 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>
29 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	30 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	31 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	1 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	2 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>
5 <b>Staff PD, No Classes</b>	6 <b>Scholars Return from Winter Break!</b>	7	8	9

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