



# The Weekly Wave

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

January 9, 2024

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

At the end of October, I shared exciting news about the academic growth and achievement of our scholars last school year that made us the top school in our area and one of the top 20% of schools in the state of Illinois. Though we were encouraged by the data, our staff began this school year charged to build on our momentum academically because there was more work to do—many of our students were not meeting state proficiency goals and many of those students were still far behind.

During the school year, we administer assessments tied to grade level standards to determine how students are progressing academically. These assessments also help us figure out how we are doing as a school compared to previous school years.

Most of our mid-year interim assessment data is in and the results are telling us that our students are still growing (and growing faster than they were last year!). Proficiency scores have increased schoolwide as well. Compared to last year, our data shows:

- ELA proficiency rates are 7% higher!
- Math proficiency rates are 9% higher!

As we begin 2024, our staff will continue to push scholars to the academic excellence that we know they are all capable of achieving. We need your continued support at home. Please make sure scholars are practicing at home, whether that is by completing practice lessons on iReady or reading books sent home in their blue literacy bags (lower school grades).

Happy New Year!

Principal Miller

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Notice of Rights of Homeless Students](#)

Please review [THIS](#) Notice of Rights of Homeless Students. A student is considered to be temporarily living if he or she lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Melissa at [mstangl@glachicago.org](mailto:mstangl@glachicago.org) or 773-949-9721.

### Uniform Reminder

As the winter season approaches, we would like to remind everyone that scholars are not permitted to wear inclement weather footwear (snow or rain boots) during class hours. They should bring a change of shoes. This policy is in place to maintain a clean and safe learning environment.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that our classrooms remain conducive to effective learning. If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to contact us.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### K-4th Sneaker Ball, 1/19/24



**We are excited to invite you to the Sneaker Ball for K-4th grade!**

The GLA Sneaker Ball will be held on Friday, January 19th from 4:00-6:00 PM.

Scholars should arrive in their favorite outfit and sneakers and be ready to dance! ***We ask that no other scholars outside of GLA and K-4th grade attend, as there will be a check-in area.*** Complimentary snacks and drinks will be provided to students upon presentation of their tickets they receive at the door. Additionally, scholars must meet these requirements in order to attend:

- **No physical altercations or egregious behavior between January 9th-19th**
- **ONE (1) Guardian is required to attend the entire event with their scholar**
  - **older GLA siblings will not meet this requirement and will not be allowed entry**

Each scholar will be notified of these expectations in morning advisory along with signage around the building and via parent/guardian emails.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Stephanie Beck, [sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org), or Ms. Jleese Williams, [jwilliams@glachicago.org](mailto:jwilliams@glachicago.org).

### **Monthly Community Conversation**

Starting on Wednesday, January 17th from 8:00-9:00 am, Executive Director Durham and Principal Miller will be hosting a monthly Community Conversation for parents/guardians. These Community Conversations will be held at GLA in the Maker's Lab. If you are unable to join in-person, you may attend through [this link](#).

The Community Conversations will take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. This time was chosen based on parent feedback. The Community Conversations will be a space for parents/guardians to hear from school leaders and discuss schoolwide issues and initiatives.

### **Leader in Me Corner**

Habit 5: Seek first to understand, then to be understood

1. I listen to others without interrupting.
2. I listen to other people's ideas and feelings.
3. I look other people in the eye when listening and talking.
4. I try to see things from other people's viewpoint.

We all see the world differently. The problem is we think we see things the same way others do. Communication is essential to understanding because no two people see, think, or experience the world the same way. Therefore, there is a great need, especially in families, to seek first to understand and talk second to understand one another's point of view.

### **Reflective Listening. "Listen First, Talk Second."**

When speaking, the listener can use reflective listening to let the speaker know they are listening to what is being said.

Some simple examples of reflective listening:

Speaker: "I love you."

Listener: "You seem to feel love about me."

Speaker: "I don't want to talk about it. It seems like the only thing we do around here is argue."

Listener: "You seem to feel \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_."

(feeling)

(subject)

### **GLA Power Parents Meetings**

It's not too late to join Power Parents! Here are the remaining meeting dates for the 2023-24 school year. All meetings will be held at the school.

Monday, January 29th- 5pm  
Saturday, February 24th- TBD  
Tuesday, March 19th- 5pm  
Monday, April 29- 5pm  
Saturday, May 18th-TBD

### **Charter Renewal Parent Calls To Action**

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a letter of support. **We did not meet our goal of 500 letters by December 1st.** If you have not submitted a letter, please take a moment to click the links below to show your support for keeping Great Lakes Academy open!

**Letter Writing:** GLA is counting on you! We need every single parent, scholar, and community member who supports GLA to write a letter of support for our charter renewal. Click [HERE](#) to submit a letter in English.

**Redacción de cartas:** ¡GLA cuenta contigo! Necesitamos que todos los padres, estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad que apoyan a GLA escriban una carta de apoyo para la renovación de nuestro estatuto. Haga clic [AQUÍ](#) para enviar una carta en español.

### **Special Events Calendar- SY23-24**



[HERE](#) you can find all activities for K-8 events happening around GLA during the school year! Please plan ahead for upcoming events and be on the lookout for further information released!

**Note:** Some events will occur during school hours and some beyond the day. This schedule does not include athletic or other specific events.

Athletic events and other activities can be found on the school website calendar [here](#). They are marked accordingly.

Please reach out to Stephanie Beck directly, [sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org), with any questions.

### **Be IN School ON Time**

*The expectation is all students are here in school on time.* As the weather gets colder we have noticed the number of tardies increase. Remember, GLA opens up at 7:00 a.m. You can drop your child off starting at 7:00 for free. They will get breakfast and be supervised by GLA staff.

- Showing up on time to school every day can help students develop the habit of being punctual, illustrate to them your commitment to their learning and friendships, and help reduce classroom interruptions and distractions for all students.
- Missing just 15 minutes of school twice a week equates to 3 missed school days per year!
- Kindergarten through 4th graders must be in the building by 7:55 am, and 5th-8th graders must be in the classroom at 7:55 am to avoid being tardy.

### **Career Day 2024**

**Career Day 2024 is around the corner!**

In February, we will be hosting another **Career Day** here at **GLA!**

**2024 GLA CAREER DAY**

**JOIN US!**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**WHY JOIN US?**

- GLA Scholars Need Successful Role Models.
- Corporate Community Engagement Opportunity.
- Local Professional Networking.

We are asking for four hours of time on campus.

To volunteer, scan the QR code to register.

We are looking to get a headstart on sign-ups to make the event bigger than last year and to give our scholars a great experience again!

If you know any professionals that would be interested in spending four hours to **educate, engage, mentor, and network**, please have them fill out the form via the QR code above or [here](#).

Please send this graphic to all working professionals that you could see make an impact on our scholars and the community!

For further questions, please reach out to Stephanie Beck, [sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org), or Bintu Njie, [bnjie@glachicago.org](mailto:bnjie@glachicago.org).

**Parent and Family Volunteers**

**Current Opportunities:**

- 🗓️ Arrival and Dismissal Support
- 🍽️ Lunch and Recess Support 🏈🏐
- 📚 Classroom Support

**Upcoming Events:**

- 📖 Library Support 📖🔪

If you are interested in helping grow the GLA community and volunteering please complete [this form](#). You can reach out to Madaline Harlan, [mharlan@glachicago.org](mailto:mharlan@glachicago.org), with any questions.

**After-School Programming**

Sign-ups for **Wave 2** of after-school programming are now closed.

All programs run 3:15-5:00 pm.

**Payments were due 12/8!**

Programs will only run in one wave, unless renewed and new programs will be offered each trimester where you will have to re-sign up. The next trimesters are as follows:

- Trimester/Wave 2: Monday, November 27th- Thursday, February 29th
- Trimester/Wave 3: Monday, March 4th - Thursday, May 30th

**Winter Athletics 2023-24**

Start date: Oct 30th-Jan 18th

## Practices Days/Times

- Co-ed Cheer: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:15-6:00 pm
- Girls Basketball Practices: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:15-6:00 pm
- Boys Basketball Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:15-6:00 pm

All games can be found [here!](#)

For additional questions or concerns please reach out to Coach P,  
[tperez@glachicago.org](mailto:tperez@glachicago.org).

### 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

January 8th - February 2nd, 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 Staff PD Day <b>No Classes</b> Office Closed  Boys' Basketball and Cheer @GLA 4:30-7:00 pm	9	10	11	12
15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day <b>No School</b>  <b>Girls' Basketball and Cheer Game @GLA</b> 4:30-6:00 pm	16  <b>Boys' JV/V Basketball and Cheer Game @GLA</b> 4:30-7:00 pm	17  Community Conversations: Monthly Parent Meeting 8:00 - 9:00 am (@GLA and Virtual)	18	19  K-4th Grade Sneaker Ball 4:00-6:00 pm
22	23	24  Reclaiming Minds GLA Parent Workshop 6:00-7:30 pm	25	26  Mid-Trimester 2 Progress Reports Released
29	30	31	1  First Day of Black History Month	2

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