



**Weekly GLA Family Newsletter**  
April 29, 2025

## **STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**Angela Mason - 3rd Grade ELA teacher**



**Tell us one of your favorite memories from your time at GLA.**

One of my favorite moments at GLA happened during my very first lunchroom duty. I walked in expecting the lunch hustle—but instead, I was met with something so unexpected and special. A few 5th grade students came running up to me with big smiles, giving me hugs and chatting like we'd just seen each other yesterday. Turns out, they were my former students from a previous school. That moment filled my heart, and ever since then, we've kept that connection—sharing hugs, quick conversations, and smiles each day. It reminded

me just how lasting the impact of our work can be, and how those bonds don't fade, no matter where we are.

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

Wide reading and small groups in ELA can definitely be challenging—there's so much planning, patience, and persistence involved. But I'll never forget the joy I felt when one of my students finally moved up a reading level. We had worked together for weeks in small group, practicing strategies, rereading texts, and building confidence step by step. When they saw their progress, their face lit up with pride—and in that moment, all the effort was worth it. Watching a student realize they can do it brings a kind of happiness that sticks with you.

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

My favorite moment in elementary school was when I was placed in a gifted/honors class, even though everyone around me was performing higher. Instead of giving up on me, my teacher leaned in—she gave me extra lessons and believed in me every step of the way. Long story short, when I took my standardized test, I grew three grade levels. I wish you could've seen the smile on my face—it was the moment I realized what I was capable of.

**We all know teaching can be a stressful job! What's your favorite way to unwind?**  
**My favorite way to unwind as a teacher?** Honestly—watching TikTok videos! 📺 After

a long day, there's nothing like scrolling through funny clips, teacher content, and dance trends to relax and laugh a little. It's my mini escape!

**What are your hidden or surprising talents?**

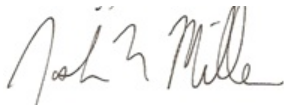
My hidden talent is that I can do hair—but funny enough, I actually hate doing it! I'm completely self-taught, so while I can slay a style when I need to, it's tough for me to teach someone else how I do it. It just kind of...happens! 😊

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Parents, we are excited to host the Financial Literacy Read and Receive Program for 1st-3rd grade students. On May 6th, a community leader will be visiting 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade homerooms to read a financial literacy picture book to students. The chosen book is *Little Daymond Learns to Earn* by Shark Tank star Daymond John. This book will introduce age appropriate concepts that engage students and get them excited about financial literacy at an early age. Each student will leave with a copy of the book to continue their financial literacy journeys at home.

We are honored to host programs like Read and Receive to help lay the foundation for lifelong financial literacy. Part of preparing students for a future of their choice is equipping them with vital skills from an early age that empower them both inside and outside of the classroom.

With Gratitude,



## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

**No After-School Enrichment or Athletics Programming - May 1st**

This is a reminder that there will be no After-School Enrichment or Athletics Programming on Thursday, May 1st as it is a Friday scheduled day. All scholars must be picked up at regular dismissal time (1:50). After-Care will be available from 2:00-4:00, please call the Front Desk to make a payment of (\$10/per scholar) if needed. Please reach out to Ms. O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org)) for questions.

**School-Wide ABC Countdown!**

It's that time of year again, we are getting close to the start of our ABC Countdown to Summer! Please take a moment to read through our celebrations calendar.

# ABC COUNTDOWN

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SUMMER IS COMING!		4/30 Animal Day	5/1 Bubble Day	
5/5 Crazy Socks Day	5/6 Drawing Day	5/7 End of Year Awards	5/8 Fancy Fit Day	5/9 Glow in the Dark Day
5/12 Hat Day	5/13 I Spy Day	5/14 Jersey Day	5/15 Kindness Day	5/16 Lollipop Day
5/19 Music Monday	5/20 New Name Day	5/21 Opposite Day	5/22 Play a Game Day	5/23 Queen and King Day
	5/27 Read Around the Room Day	5/28 Sunglasses Day	5/29 Taki Day	5/30 Upside Down and Inside Out Day
6/2 Visit Day	6/3 Wall to Wall Cleaning Day	6/4 Exchange Seats Day	6/5 Yearbook Signing	6/6 Zoom into Summer Day 

Our countdown will begin with A on April 30th!

All days marked as **PINK** on this document include an item that will be provided by GLA.

## In Person Registration Hours

Mark Your Calendars! Join us for In-Person Registration on Tuesday, May 13th from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM. We are also accepting Kindergarten & 1st Grade applications!



### Spring Book Fair

Book fair is back May 12th-16th. Packets will be sent home next week, please look out for them to see what day your student is attending!

Parents and Families are welcome to visit Tuesday, May 13th, 3:30-4:30pm.



### Spring Ball



Calling all 5th-8th graders for the final dance of the year on Friday, May 16th. The Spring Ball will be from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. In order to attend, scholars must meet the following requirements:

Reporting Period: 05/05-05/15

- 0 referrals
- <2 resets
- No physical fights
- <2 absences
- < 2 tardies to class
- < 4 tardies to school

8th Grade End of Year Events: Awards Dinner & Graduation Tickets

Starting Thursday, May 1st tickets for the 8th Grade Awards Dinner tickets and Graduation tickets will be available for purchase and pick-up.

Awards Dinner tickets are \$25 and each person attending must have a purchased ticket. Tickets can be purchased and picked up from the Front Desk from May 1st-May 23rd.

Graduation tickets are at no-cost, and graduates do not need a ticket. Each

individual over the age of 5 will need a ticket. Tickets can be picked up from the Front Desk from May 1st-May 23rd.

Each graduate has been allotted 4 tickets for both the Awards Dinner and Graduation. If additional tickets are needed, please contact Ms. O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org)) or Dr. Beck ([sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org)) to request additional tickets. Additional tickets will be distributed in late May.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GoCPS: HS Rolling Waitlists Open April 21st

On Monday, April 21st, the GoCPS High School Rolling Waitlists will open. Please log on to your GoCPS account to add your scholar to a High School waitlist. If any offers are accepted, please contact Ms. Robinson ([brobinson@cjademy.org](mailto:brobinson@cjademy.org)) or Ms. O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org)) as soon as possible.

### Free Comprehensive Eye Exams

- High-quality prescription glasses are available at no cost to eligible City of Chicago residents.
- WHEN: Wednesday, May 7th, 2025 from 10:00-3:30
- WHERE: Chicago Dept. of Family & Support Services
  - S. Chicago Community Service Center
  - 8650 S. Commercial Ave. 60617
- Individuals **must not have vision coverage** through a private insurance provider or Medicaid to qualify. This initiative is an excellent opportunity to support communities and improve access to essential eye care.
- Interested residents must **sign up in person or by calling the center**.

If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact Carita Thompson at 312-745-0988 or [carita.thompson@cityofchicago](mailto:carita.thompson@cityofchicago)

## NO-COST EYE CARE & EYEWEAR EVENT!



vsp eyes of hope Visionworks

### FREE VISION CARE

Through VSP Vision™ Eyes of Hope®, you may be eligible to receive a comprehensive eye exam from a VSP® network doctor and, if prescribed, high-quality glasses at no cost.

### Eligibility

- No vision coverage by a private insurer and/or government program (**NO MEDICAID OR MEDICARE**)
- Currently having vision problems
- Haven't received eye care through a VSP program during the last 12 months

### VISION CARE EVENT DETAILS

Date: Wednesday, May 7th, 2025

Time: 10:00am – 3:30pm

Location: Chicago Dept of Family & Support Services  
South Chicago Community Service Center  
8650 S. Commercial Ave. | Chicago, IL 60617



**Pre- Registration is REQUIRED, Call 312-747-0331  
to schedule appointment Today**

WALK-IN APPOINTMENTS WILL BE LIMITED AND AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS

## GLA Parent Advocacy Committee

# PARENT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

Join us for our 2025–26 School Year Title I Planning Meeting! Hear from our Principal on how Title I funds have supported GLA in the past, share your input on how funds should be used next year, and take part in our annual wellness survey about student meals at GLA. Refreshments, raffles, and child care will be provided. Your voice matters!



**TUESDAY, MAY 13TH 2025  
4:30P-6:00P**

Join us for our 2025–26 School Year Title I Planning Meeting on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM!** Hear from our Principal on how Title I funds have supported GLA in the past, share your input on how funds should be used next year, and take part in our annual wellness survey about student meals at GLA.

**This meeting will be held in person**—refreshments, raffles, and child care will be provided.

Need to join remotely? **Scan the QR code to access the virtual meeting.**

Your voice matters!

### 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

April 28 - May 23, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28	29	30	1	2
		El Dia Del Ninos HOME Varsity Boys Flag Football Game, 4:45 pm	<b>Early Dismissal for Students, 1:50 pm</b>	<b>Wellness Day, No School</b>
5	6	7	8	9
Staff Appreciation Week	Staff Appreciation Week  Read and Receive Event (1st-3rd)	Staff Appreciation Week	Staff Appreciation Week	Staff Appreciation Week
12	13	14	15	16
Spring Book Fair  Virtual GoCPS Family Information Night (Current 7th Grade), 5:30 pm  AWAY: Girls & Boys Varsity Flag Football Network Playoffs Week TBD →	Spring Book Fair  Parent Advocacy Meeting, 4:30-6:00 pm  In-Person Registration Hours, 4:30-6:00 pm	Spring Book Fair	Spring Book Fair	Spring Book Fair  Haitian Flag Day  8th Grade HS Decision Day  5th-8th Spring Ball, 5:30-7:30 pm
19	20	21	22	23
EOY iReady  IA#4 (K, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)  AWAY: Girls & Boys Varsity Flag Football Network Playoffs Week TBD →	EOY iReady  IA#4 (K, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)  IA#4 (1st Grade)  In-Person Registration Hours, 7:00-9:00 am	EOY iReady  IA#4 (1st Grade)  Community Conversations, 8:00 am	EOY iReady  IA#4 (5th-8th)	EOY iReady

Follow Us on Social Media!



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!