



## Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

February 6, 2024

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

It is February and we are excited to be celebrating Black History Month at GLA! We have planned a range of events and activities for our students in observance of this important month.



We observe Black History Month to learn about, reflect upon, and celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history and the present. We observe as a school community because it is an important part of our shared history as Americans and reminds us of our common humanity.

We have special programming happening in February in celebration of Black History Month. In homeroom advisories, students will be learning more about Black history through a variety of educational activities. In Friday Community Celebration, student poets will perform pieces they have created honoring the contributions of Black people and participate in fun games that teach and promote Black history. On February 29th at 1pm, we will be hosting a Black History Program where our K-4th graders will be performing. Families are invited to attend!

We also invite you to attend a GLA Community outing at the Chicago Bulls "Black History Month Game" at the United Center on February 28th. GLA has reserved a block of tickets and hope to see families join us for a fun night of basketball and fellowship. Please see more information below.

Principal Miller

### NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS



- All GLA Staff and Families are invited to join us for a community outing to the Chicago Bulls Black History Month game on Wednesday, February 28th!
- An adult must accompany any students attending (GLA will not provide any chaperones).
- Tickets are \$26 each; to purchase, please call or stop by the GLA main office (773-530-3040). If you would like transportation support to get to the game, please let the front office know when you purchase your tickets.
- There are a limited number of tickets available - call to purchase and secure your spot today!

100th Day of School- Wednesday, February 7th

Wednesday, February 7th is the 100th day of school! This is also a dress-down day for those who want to participate in dressing like a 100-year-old, dressing with 100 items on their outfit, or anything creative signifying 100!



Leader in Me Corner

## Habit 6: Synergize - (Together is Better)

What is Synergy?	Synergy is not
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Celebrating differences</li><li>2. Working together</li><li>3. Being open-minded</li><li>4. Finding new and better ways.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Being intolerant.</li><li>2. Working independently.</li><li>3. Thinking you are always right.</li><li>4. Being selfish.</li></ol>

### How can you Create Synergy in your family? (Family Activity)

Creative family teamwork occurs when you follow 2 rules:

1. Value one another.
2. Recognize strengths.

### How do you value your family members?

Choose any family member and finish the following sentence, keeping them in mind.

What I admire most about you is...

One of my favorite memories is...

I'm glad you are, and I'm not.

One of the funniest things you have ever done is...

One of my proudest memories of you is...

I like it when you...

**Share your answers with that family member!**

### Reminder: New Beacon Open House 2/13

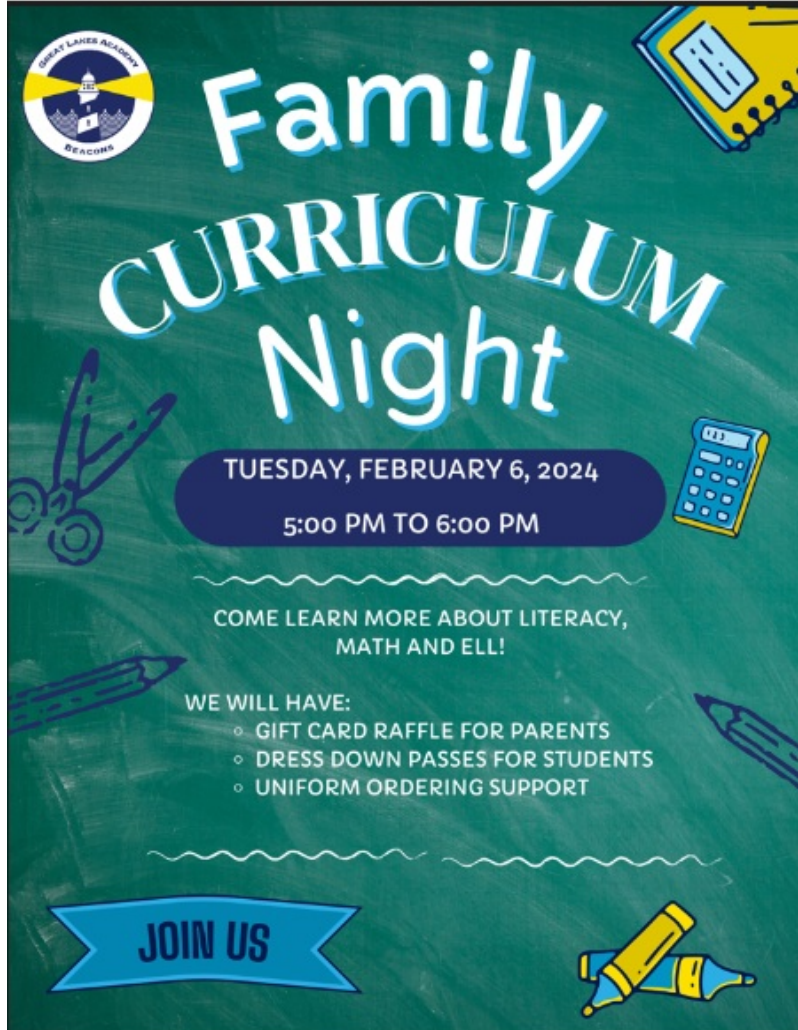
GLA is hosting a *New Beacon Open House* on Tuesday, February 13th from 5:15-6:15 pm for any *new* families interested in applying for the 2024-25 school year. Please share this with anyone you may know who is interested in applying for the 2024-25 school year!

### Family Communication Focus Groups

- GLA will be creating a brand new Parent Portal - a virtual hub designed to offer real-time insights into your student's progress. GLA Parents'/Guardians' thoughts and perspectives will play a crucial role in shaping this innovative platform.
- Your input is invaluable to us; please join us for one of our virtual Family Communication Focus Groups!
- There are four focus group options later this month:
  - K-4th Grade Families (PM option) - 2/21 from 5:30-7:00 pm
  - 5-8th Grade Families (AM option) - 2/22 from 8:00-9:30 am
  - 5-8th Grade Families (PM option) - 2/22 from 5:30-7:00 pm
  - K-4th Grade Families (AM option) - 2/23 from 8:00-9:30 am
- All focus groups will be held virtually; links will be sent closer to the session dates. We hope to see you virtually!

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Family Curriculum Night



### Intent to Return Form - Due 3/1

To help us plan our enrollment for the 2024-25 school year, **please confirm if your scholar will return to Great Lakes Academy next year by filling out and returning the Intent to Return Form (sent home with your scholar this week and linked here)**. Families can send completed forms to school with their scholar or email them to [info@glachicago.org](mailto:info@glachicago.org). Please fill out one form per scholar.

### February Attendance Incentive

The top 3 homerooms with the highest attendance percentage will get a popcorn party!!  
*Be in school Every day On time.*

### 8th Grade High School Success Upcoming Dates

GoCPS decision results will be released via the portal on Friday, February 23rd, at 5:00 pm. The accept/decline deadline is Friday, March 15th, 2024, at 5:00 pm. Please log into your portal and accept and decline your schools in the two-step process by the deadline!

Please contact Ms. O'Leary, [coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org), or Ms. Beck, [sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org) with any questions.



### Reflection Forms



The Culture and Climate Team has prepared each classroom with reflection forms. After receiving two deductions, scholars are asked to complete the reflection form in the calm corner/ reflection desk. The reflection form is used to reset the scholar's behavior inside the classroom to prevent a behavior reset/referral to the dean's office. Parents are



expected to review, sign, and return the form the next day to acknowledge awareness and encourage parental support about the incident.

### 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.

#### **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

## February 5th - March 1st, 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	6 Family Curriculum Night 5:00-6:00 pm @ GLA	7 100th Day of School	8	9
12 National African American Parent Involvement Day	13 New Beacon Open House <i>for students interested in attending GLA next school year</i> 5:15-6:15 pm	14 Friendship Day	15	16 Career Day
19 Presidents Day <b>School Closed</b>	20 Staff PD <b>No Classes</b> Office Closed	21 GLA Monthly Community Conversation 8:00-9:00 @ GLA and online  Family Communication Focus Groups: K-4 Virtual PM Option: 5:30-7:00	22 Family Communication Focus Groups: 5-8 Virtual AM Option: 8:00-9:30 PM Option: 5:30-7:00	23 Family Communication Focus Groups: K-4 Virtual AM Option: 8:00-9:30  High School Results Released 8th Grade
26 8th Grade NAEP Testing  First Day of Spring Athletics	27	28 GLA Community Outing to the Chicago Bulls 5:30-8:30 pm	29 Wave 2: Anchor After-school Program Ends K-4 Black History Month Class Performances 1:00-2:00 pm	1 First day of Women's History Month Intent to Return Forms <b>Due</b>

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