



# The Weekly Wave

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter  
February 11, 2025

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Yana Long - Community Outreach Lead**

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

My favorite memory would have to be the Great Fall Jamboree! Enjoying a safe fun night with our GLA family. Even had an impromptu dance battle that my knees and back regretted the next day.

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

My proudest moment is witnessing my work have lasting effects, and I'm especially proud to now work alongside two of my former students.

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

I do the work of community outreach to empower families, build strong connections, and create lasting opportunities that positively impact lives and future generations.

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

I come back to work every day because of my coworkers' unwavering passion for the children, our families motivation to ensure their children receive the best education possible, and the love I receive from the kids, which truly soothes my soul.

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

My favorite memory would have to be going to Washington DC with my classmates.

**What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?**

I love summertime in Chicago so my favorite thing to do is everything outside!

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

I love makeup! Before 100% investing in my career, I served as a makeup artist and even had celebrity clients.

**What's your dream vacation?**

Definitely the Maldives

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

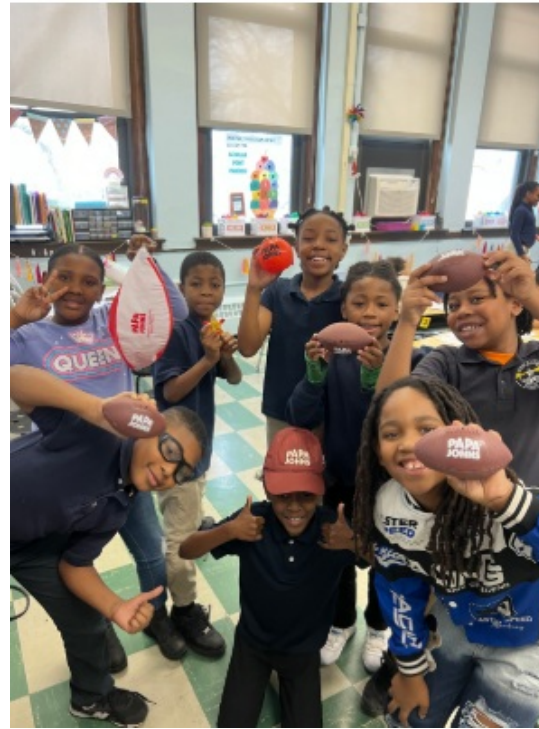
This past Friday, we hosted 37 professionals for our Career Day at GLA. We kicked off our morning with a networking breakfast for professionals to get acquainted with the school and one another. Shortly after, professionals made trips to classrooms to speak with students. We had some exciting guest speakers with presentations from a number of industries including, law, healthcare, finance, property and construction, education, and social care. We greatly appreciate those who came to spend time with our students, including four of our GLA parents/family members, Ms. Evans, Mr. Montgomery, Ms. Moon, and Ms. Ogbor.

Our students were thrilled to ask questions and engage with our visitors. At least three professionals visited each homeroom and gave unique presentations, some included demonstrations and interactive activities. Our students raved about how fun and informative the day was.

Enriching experiences like Career Day are important for our students. It grounds the academic work they do every day of the school year and helps them see its purpose. Further, it exposes them to future possibilities that they may have otherwise not known.

With Gratitude,





## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Anti-Bullying Message**

Parents, we have noticed an increase in harmful and inflammatory language use among our students, which can lead to bullying and hurtful behaviors. Language plays a vital role in shaping how students interact with each other, and fostering positive communication at home and school is key to creating a supportive environment.

We encourage you to help your child understand the impact of their words by modeling respectful language, setting clear expectations for kindness, and reinforcing the importance of empathy at home. It is our goal to teach students how to verbally express themselves without hurting others. At school, we are working to create an inclusive atmosphere, but we need your support. Together, we can guide students toward becoming more compassionate communicators, both at school and at home.

As always, students who repeatedly use language that is harmful to others in our community will be issued increasingly severe consequences according to our Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, parents will be invited to conference with school leaders to discuss how they will address the inappropriate language their students are using. Thank you for your partnership in this effort.

### **Parents: We Need Your Feedback!**

Your voice matters! Help us continue building a thriving school community by sharing your thoughts in our brief survey. It only takes a few minutes, but your feedback makes a big impact!

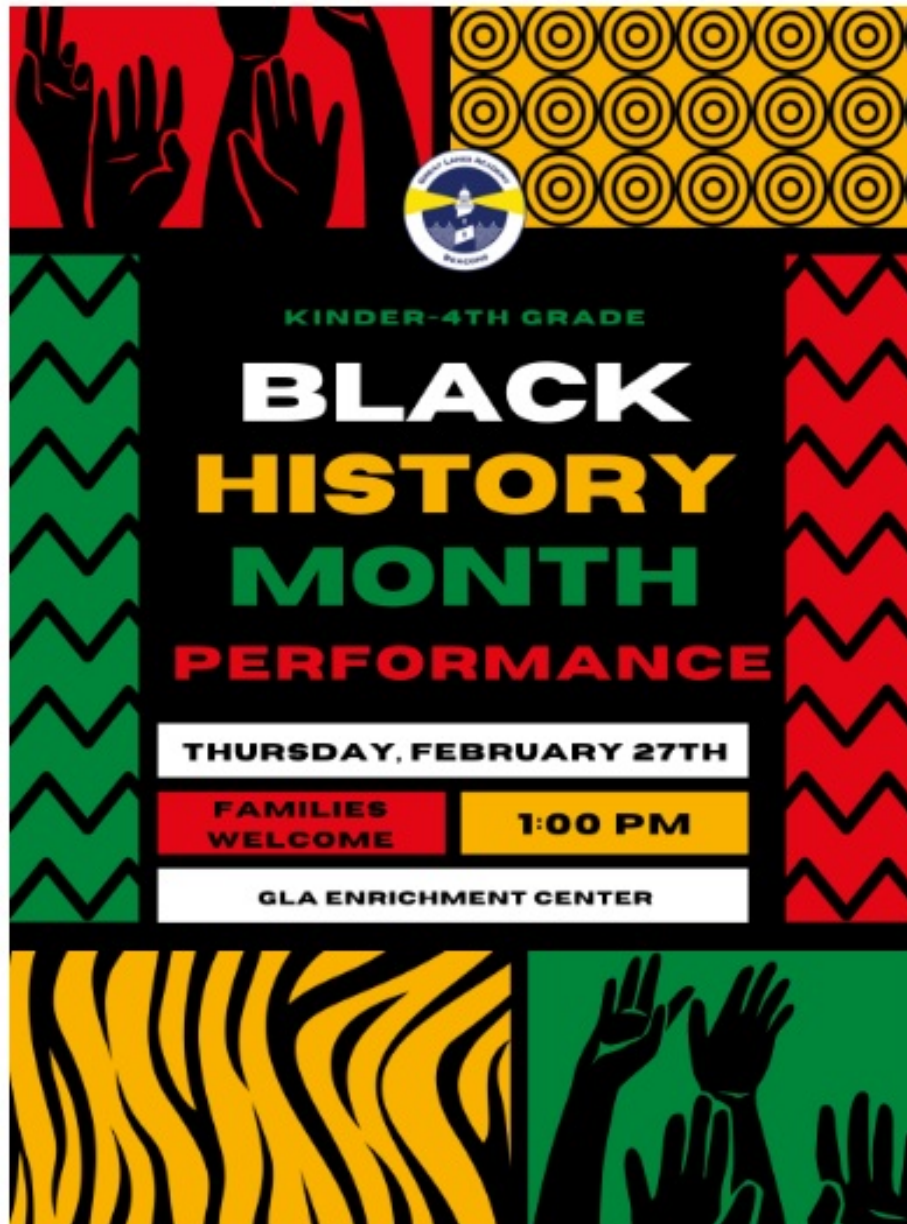
<https://www.weeklypossip.com/surveys/survey-20250121-72d4?position=1>

If you've not yet done so, please click the link above to take the survey before Friday, February 14th. Thank you for partnering with us to support all students!

### **K-4 Black History Month Performance**

Join us on Thursday, February 27th at 1pm for the K-4 Black History Month

Performance! Each K-4 homeroom will be practicing all month long to showcase their performance to families!



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### School Calendar Change

- Since we had to cancel school due to cold weather on Tuesday, January 28th, we must make up a day of school as we have the minimum number of attendance days required by the state.
- **We have changed the “Wellness Day” scheduled for May 1st to a student attendance day. Though it is a Thursday, we will follow a Friday schedule with a 1:50 dismissal. We will only run after-care until 4:00 pm this day. There will be no athletics or enrichment.**
- The following day, Friday, May 2nd will remain a “Wellness Day.”
- Please plan to have your students here on Thursday, May 1st.

### Parent Advocacy Committee

(TODAY) The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 11th, from 4:45-6:00. You can attend in person or virtually. Here is the new Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87011078647?pwd=YRf0vl1epaq3kMGwUMF4lXGa9aiRt3.1>

Join us for the March 11th PAC Meeting. Lauren Materre from Natural Path Nutrition Inc. will join us. She will present healthy alternative snacks and food hacks. **Learn healthy beverage options with free samples of healthy drinks and snacks!**

**Launched Yesterday: Intent to Return 2025-26**

- To help us plan our enrollment for the 2024-25 school year, we ask all families to confirm if their scholar(s) will be returning to Great Lakes Academy next year by filling out our annual Intent to Return Form.
- **This year, the form will be completed online in the platform “Powerschool Enrollment”.**
- You should have received an email with instructions yesterday; if you have any questions, please contact the front office at 773-530-3040.

**8th Grade Graduation Package**



The advertisement features a bright yellow background. At the top, the text 'Class of 2025' is written in a cursive font, followed by 'GRADUATION PACKAGE' in large, bold, blue capital letters. On the left is the Great Lakes Academy logo, which is circular and contains a lighthouse on a small island with waves below it. The words 'GREAT LAKES ACADEMY' are at the top and 'BEACONS' is at the bottom of the circle. To the right of the logo, a white rounded rectangle contains the price '\$100' in large blue font, followed by 'INCLUDED ITEMS:' and a list of items: 'Class of 2025 T-Shirt', 'Yard Sign', 'Cap & Gown', 'Cap & Gown Portraits', and 'Graduation Day Photos'. Below this, another white rounded rectangle lists 'TICKETED EVENTS:' with 'Awards Dinner' (noting it is for an additional purchase) and 'Graduation' (noting it is no cost and limited in availability). At the bottom left, there is a dark blue button that says 'PAY BY MAY 1ST VIA:' and a white rounded rectangle containing a phone icon with '(773) 530-3040' and a PayPal icon with 'PayPal Invoice'. The bottom of the advertisement features a silhouette of graduates in caps and gowns with their arms raised, and confetti falling around them.

For 8th Grade Events, families can purchase the Class of 2025 Graduation

Package. Graduation packages cost \$100 and include: Class of 2025 T-Shirt, Yard Sign, Cap & Gown, Cap & Gown Portraits, and Graduation Day Photos. 8th Grade Awards Dinner tickets will be available for additional purchase at a later date. Invoices will be sent via PayPal by the end of the week, with a payment deadline of May 1, 2025. Please contact Dr. Stephanie Beck ([sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org)) or Caitlin O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org)) for any questions.

Save the Date: 8th Grade Events

<b>25 APRIL</b> during school hours scholars only	<b>Graduation Portraits</b> Scholars will take individual photos in their cap & gown, as well as a Class of 2025 photo.
<b>16 MAY</b> 9:00am - 10:30am families invited	<b>HS Decision Day</b> Each 8th grader will announce which high school they will be attending in the Fall.
<b>27 MAY - 30 MAY</b> overnight must meet requirements	<b>DC Trip</b> Scholars will travel to Washington DC. Please reach out to Ms. Lifka for more information.
<b>02 JUN - 06 JUN</b> during school hours scholars only	<b>Spirit Week</b> Scholars will vote on spirit day themes, and days will be announced in May.
<b>03 JUN</b> 5:30pm - 7:00pm ticketed event	<b>Awards Dinner</b> 8th grade only Awards Night to celebrate their time at GLA! Tickets must be purchased (\$25 per person) for each individual attending.
<b>05 JUN</b> during school hours scholars only	<b>Clap Out</b> K-7 scholars will cheer on our 8th graders on their final walk through the halls of GLA!
<b>06 JUN</b> 4:00pm - 5:30pm ticketed event	<b>Graduation</b> Eligible scholars will participate in the graduation ceremony. Attendees 5 years old + must have a ticket. Tickets are limited to 4 guests.

Please contact Dr. Stephanie Beck ([sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org)) or Caitlin O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org)) for any questions.

GLA Family BINGO Night

Join us for our first family event of 2025! Mark your calendars for Friday, February

21, 2025. Students must attend with a parent or guardian. See you there!



The poster features the word "BINGO" in large, colorful, bubbly letters. Above the letters are bingo balls with numbers 42, 26, 12, 83, and 30. A yellow banner below the title reads "GREAT LAKES ACADEMY Family Night". The Great Lakes Academy Charter School logo is in the top right. A QR code is on the right side. The event details are in rounded rectangular boxes: "FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025", "5:00PM - 7:00PM", and "8401 S. SAGINAW AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60617". A central box states "MUST HAVE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN PRESENT".

**BINGO**

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY  
Family Night

Come for an evening of GLA family, fun, food, and lots of prizes! We will even be offering school tours Scan the QR code  
**RSVP TODAY!**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025**

**5:00PM - 7:00PM**

**8401 S. SAGINAW AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60617**

**MUST HAVE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN PRESENT**

Chicago Bulls Game CANCELLED



**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**



## February 10 - March 7, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10	11 Parent Advocacy Meetings, 4:30 pm	12	13	14 100th Day of School Friendship/Love Day
17 <b>Presidents' Day, No School</b>	18 <b>Staff PD, No School</b>	19 GLA Community Conversation, 8 am	20	21 Family BINGO Night, 5:00-7:00 pm
24 Fire Drill #3	25 IA#3- 3rd Grade	26 IA#3- 3rd Grade  Boys Basketball HOME vs. Betty Shabazz, JV (4 pm) and Varsity (6 pm)  HOME Cheer game, 4:00-7:00 pm	27 K-4th Black History Month Performances, 1:00 pm	28 HOME Boys Basketball Game (JV & Varsity) vs. CJA, 4:00 pm
3	4	5	6 IA #3 (4th-8th grade)	7 IA #3 (4th-8th grade)  2025-2026 Intent to Return Due  Pre-K Prom, 5:30-7:30 pm

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