



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter
February 28, 2023

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Last Friday evening, we had over 300 members of the GLA community (family, friends, staff, and students) in attendance to watch our students perform. The show, “A Tribute to Black Entertainment: Past, Present, and Future,” included more than 50 of our 5th-8th graders as singers, dancers, actors, and production support. The show was fun, inspiring and touching, and it was an excellent culminating event in celebration of Black History Month. Our students did an incredible job!

Events like this are an important part of the overall educational program we are offering students. Strong instruction and academic development will always be a guiding star. However, the opportunities to learn new interests and skills through out-of-school activities like this have far-reaching effects on child and adolescent development as well. Arguably, they have never been more important.

A book I have been reading references stark research on how drastically social, intellectual, and technological contexts have changed for our kids—and changed our kids. In the last decade, teen media use has increased by over 200%, mostly through engagement with smartphones. Despite the “connectedness” with others on social media, nearly 40% of adolescents and teens report feeling “high levels of loneliness.” In 2012, only 18% of similar aged students reported those levels of loneliness. Researchers are reporting increased instances of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues with kids, particularly as they hit adolescence and teenage years. Many researchers are seeing a connection between these social challenges and the proliferation of social media use amongst young people. It is alarming.

Here is the good news. Researchers are finding that the negative effects of social media

and screen time can be neutralized with “sustained, in-person social interaction” (in other words, spending time with others away from phones). Activities like playing a team sport, participating in student government, and being a part of a theater production provide students opportunities to build social skills and make connections in ways they are unable to through technology.

Kudos to all of our scholars who were involved with the performance! We look forward to more events like this in the coming years.



Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

March Madness

We invite all 3rd-8th families to participate in March Madness by completing a different activity each night with your scholar to help us prepare for the upcoming IAR state test. Teachers have created 3rd-5th and 6th-8th calendars that include fun activities to be completed as a family for each day in March. Please look for calendars in homework folders on March 1st, or click on the link below for the appropriate grade level.

- **3rd-5th grades March Madness Calendar**
- **6th-8th grades March Madness Calendar**

Leader of the Month- February

We are so excited and happy to announce our Leaders of the Month that showed exemplary achievement through leadership, core values, and doing the right thing. Please join us in celebrating the following students:

U of Illinois- Aniyah Hendrix
Northwestern- Tristan Williams
U of Chicago- Javonte Saurel
DePaul- Kylie Carlvin
Howard- Aubrey Nelson
Duke- Maysen Ford
Emory- Zayvion Johnson
Harvard- Lizbeth Solomon
Stanford- Justice Ohiri
Michigan- Jaiden Carter
Purdue- Chloe Woodfork
Tennessee-Noah Avila
GT- Chauncy Bishop
UIC- Jordan Jean-Charles
Xavier- Malani Lockett
Morgan State- Khalil Cromwell
Princeton- Kaydance Dye
NIU-LaShaun Taylor

Congratulations, scholars!

After-School “Anchor” Programming

T3 programs will open Wednesday, March 1st at 9 am! Sign up [HERE!](#)

T3 Programs will run from Monday, March 20th to Thursday, June 1st from 3:15-5:00 pm.

Each program will hold a max capacity for students and will close for enrollment on

Friday, March 10th for this trimester.

You will be notified if you get into the program by Wednesday, March 15th via letter and email.

Reach out to, sbeck@glachicago.org- Stephanie Beck, with any questions!

Save the Date: (Virtual) T2 Parent Teacher Conferences on 3/17

Trimester 2 Parent Teacher Conferences will take place *virtually* on Friday, March 17th (students will not have school on this day). Sign-ups will be emailed soon!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

AM Entry: 3rd and 4th grades Drop Off Time

Moving forward, **all third and fourth graders can be dropped off as early as 7:30 am.** This change is in alignment with when our 5th-8th graders can enter the building, and will hopefully help families with students in multiple grade levels.

Kindergarten-2nd grade students will continue to enter starting at 7:45 am. If you have any questions, please contact our front office.

2023-24 School Year: Intent to Return Form due 3/31

To help us plan our enrollment for the 2023-24 school year, **please confirm if your scholar will be returning to Great Lakes Academy next year by filling out and returning the Intent to Return Form** (sent home with your scholar or [click here](#)). Families can send completed forms to school with their scholar or can email them to info@glachicago.org. Please fill out one form per scholar **no later than March 31st.**

GLA Annual Fee

Each year, GLA families pay an annual fee for each scholar enrolled. This nonrefundable fee covers a small portion of a variety of individual online learning platforms for your child, along with supply needs.

This year, the fee of \$90 per student is due by August 11th, 2023, but can be paid now by visiting our website (<https://glachicago.org/supplyandtechfee>) or calling the front office (these are the only two methods in which the fee may be paid).

Spring Sport Sign-Ups

Spring sports began Monday, February 27th and will conclude on Thursday, April 20th.

- **Spring sports offered this year include:** Co-ed track, boys volleyball, and girls soccer
- **Practices:** Monday-Thursday 3:15-5:00 pm.

Please contact Titus Perez, tperez@glachicago.org if you have any questions.

Before School “On Deck” Programming

On Deck (**before school**) enrollment will always be open and available as an as needed basis as well for \$10 cash/card paid on the spot. Reach out to, sbeck@glachicago.org- Stephanie Beck, to enroll today!

GLA Parent Swag!

Great Lakes Academy new parent swag is still available for purchase.

Sizes range from men's small to 3XL. Head over to the [GLA Store](#) to grab yours today!

We can't wait to see you in your GLA parent swag!

Options for delivery include: scholar hand-off, pick up*, or shipping (an additional \$5 fee).

**To avoid disruption to the scholar drop-off and dismissal process, pick up hours will be from 8:30 am-2:30 pm Monday - Thursday and 8:30 am-1:00 pm on Friday. Thank you for your understanding.*

Breakfast and Lunch Menu:

To view the breakfast and lunch menu for the upcoming month, please [click here](#).

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

February 27th: First day of spring sports

February 28th: Power Parents Meeting (5:00-6:00 pm), at GLA

March 1st: First Day of Womens' History Month

March 8th: Monthly Principal Townhall (5:30-6:30 pm), at GLA

March 13th-15th: Q3 ANET Testing

March 14th: Pi Day

March 16th Staff PD, **No Classes**

March 17th: T2 Report Cards Distributed, T2 Parent Teacher Conferences, **No Classes**

March 20th: Trimester 3 Begins

March 20th-24th: March Madness (Math Olympics)

March 20th-24th: Staff and Student Spirit Week

March 23rd: Ageless Eyecare Eye Exams

February 27th - March 24th, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28	1	2	3
First Day of Spring Sports	Power Parents Meeting 5:00-6:00 pm at GLA	First Day of Womens' History Month		
6	7	8	9	10
STEP testing	STEP testing	STEP testing Monthly Principal Townhall 5:30-6:30 pm at GLA	STEP testing	STEP testing
13	14	15	16	17
ANET Q3 Assessments STEP testing	ANET Q3 Assessments STEP testing Pi Day	ANET Q3 Assessments STEP testing	Staff PD No Classes	T2 Report Cards (emailed) Parent-Teacher Conferences No Classes
20	21	22	23	24
Trimester 3 Begins March Madness (Math Olympics) Staff and Student Spirit Week	March Madness (Math Olympics) Staff and Student Spirit Week	March Madness (Math Olympics) Staff and Student Spirit Week	Ageless Eyecare Eye Exams March Madness (Math Olympics) Staff and Student Spirit Week	March Madness (Math Olympics) Staff and Student Spirit Week

Follow Us on Social Media!



Share



Tweet



Share