



GLASGOW PANTHER

Published by the Ellen Glasgow Middle School PTA — January 2012

Ellen Glasgow Middle School – 4101 Fairfax Parkway, Alexandria, VA, 22312 – 703-813-8700 www.fcps.edu/GlasgowMS



Mark Your Calendars...

Jan 30 & 31	Student holidays – No school for students
February 20	Presidents' Day holiday
February 21	Spelling Bee
April 2 - 6	Spring Break
April 9	Student holiday
April 12	Hoop It Up Night
May 28	Memorial Day holiday
June 19	Last day of school (early release)

The complete school year calendar is online at <http://www.fcps.edu/about/11-12cal.shtml>. See also the PTA calendar on page 9 of this newsletter.

Letter from the Principal

by Deirdre M. Lavery, GMS Principal

Dear Glasgow Families,

As we approach the end of second quarter, our attention turns to third quarter, the writing SOL (March 5-7), registration for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, and continued development of our school as a Community of Excellence. Our teachers and staff remain committed to our mission of providing to every student a highly challenging and rigorous academic program, but we are equally committed to ensuring our students develop the habits of mind and 21st century skills that will ensure they are ready to

compete in our increasingly global world and economy.

At Glasgow, we use both the 8 Keys of Excellence and the IB Learner Profile as tools to provide a common language for students, teachers, and administrators to discuss acquisition of knowledge and progress. We are promoting the connection between the language of the 8 Keys of Excellence and the language of the Learner Profile. I urge that parents commit to becoming a vital part of making Glasgow a

Community of Excellence. When communicating with your children and teachers, I ask that you support our effort here by using the language that defines the



relationship between the Keys and the attributes of the Learner Profile. By partnering in this endeavor, our students will experience a higher degree of success in their academics and in becoming life-long learners. The Learner Profile and the 8 Keys of Excellence are a few of the ways we use to ensure our students acquire the skills they need and are able to apply them in different environments.

Here is an example of some ways parents can help with linking the principles and attributes.

“Knowledgeable,” which is an aspect of the Learner Profile, can be linked to the “This Is It” key. Here is a way to connect these two concepts at home while speaking with your student:

- Encourage your child to read books at home that correspond with topics being covered in school.

- Ask your child about what he or she is learning in school and engage him or her in conversation about it.
 - “Why do you think it is important to study this topic?”
 - “Can you think of anything happening in the world today that you might apply the concept you are studying to?”
- Encourage your child to become familiar with current events and help him or her connect what he or she is studying at school to these events.

Ordering a GMS Yearbook

by Marc Perella and the GMS Yearbook Staff

Time is quickly running out to order your 2012 Glasgow yearbook through Smart Pay! There are three ways to do this. To order by mail, you can pick up an order form in the front office or download it from the Glasgow web page. To order by phone, you can call the Smart Pay Call Center at 1-800-853-1337, Monday through Friday, during regular business hours. The easiest and quickest way to order is to go to the Smart Pay website – www.smart-pay.com. It's THAT easy, and a confirmation receipt is sent directly to your e-mail address!

The last day to order yearbooks through Smart Pay is March 3. After that, if there are any books left, the price of the yearbook goes up to \$30 and will only be sold at school.

Extras: The date we will stop taking orders for name stamping, plastic covers, and autograph pages is January 31. Name stamping is \$5, a “sparkle” dust cover is \$5, a clear dust cover is \$3, and autograph pages are \$1.

Don't miss out on this opportunity—there are no guarantees extra books will be available. It's hard to believe, but there are fewer than 300 yearbooks left, so order NOW!

After-School Students Transform into Chefs

by Christine Jones, After-School Specialist

Fifteen 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Glasgow students graduated from the After-School, Teen Chefs on the Move! Program on January 5. The program was piloted at Glasgow and Thouraea Middle Schools and is a joint partnership between the Office of Food and Nutrition Services, the After School Middle School Program, and the Nation's Capital Chef's Association (NCCA).



Students were lead by five chefs in culinary lessons including proper sanitation, how food goes from farm to table, introduction to whole grains, and knife skills. Participants toured Harris Teeter, learning the inner workings of the grocery store. Teen Chefs wrapped up the program with a reception and graduation ceremony at Chesterbrooke Residence in Falls Church, where they were treated to catered food, a tour of an industrial kitchen, and a gift set of kitchen equipment. Graduates are encouraged to prepare healthy food at home using the skills and equipment gained from this program.

To see the Teen Chefs in action, please see FairfaxCountySchools on You Tube, searching for the video “Teen Chefs on the Move at

Glasgow MS.” Alternatively, the video will also air on Channel 21.

Speakers Needed to Inspire and Motivate Glasgow Students

by Melanie Porter, Ed.M., 7th Grade Biology Teacher

AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) is an academic-readiness program designed to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges. Although AVID strategies are used school-wide and represent a major Approach to Learning, the program also focuses on students from under-represented populations who are in the “academic middle.” In AVID elective classes, students develop skills in writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading.

A major component to the AVID program also includes motivational speakers on Fridays. These speakers could be teachers from within the Glasgow community, previous Glasgow students, or anyone else who may be interested in sharing their college and/or career paths.

Below are a few topics that guest speakers have shared in the past:

- How and why did you select your current career path?
- What is it like to work in your specific field? What are its challenges? What is a normal day like at your job?
- How did school and college impact you?
- How did you select the college you attended?
- Why are school and college important to future success?

- What motivational strategies do you use in your life to be successful?
- What experiences have shaped who you are?
- What have been some of the great experiences of your life?
- What challenges and obstacles have you faced in your life? How did you overcome these obstacles and challenges?

Please contact me (at mnporter@fcps.edu) or Mr. Simmons (jpsimmons@fcps.edu) if you are interested and/or would like more information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mathcounts

by Linda Cable, GMS Mathematics Department Chair

On January 7, eight Glasgow students who have been participating regularly in the after-school Mathcounts group had the opportunity to participate in a practice Mathcounts contest. The eight students are Marley Finley, James Ford-Lane, Katie Franke, Jamie LeBahn, Karl Nubbe, Ellie O’Reilly, Rimsha Rana, and Taresh Sethi. Carderock Naval Research facility in Maryland sponsored the event.

Students participated in a Sprint Round, Target Round, and Team round in a format similar to the official Mathcounts competitions. The top 15 students from the group of 300 from Virginia and Maryland public and private middle schools participated in an individual event called the Countdown round. This event is a one-question-at-a-time, buzz-in type contest. Taresh Sethi earned a spot in this event!

In addition to the mock Mathcounts contest, students and chaperones were treated to a guided tour of some of the facilities and a surprise guest speaker—Navy Captain Stefanyshyn-Piper, former NASA astronaut.

The official Northern Virginia chapter Regional Mathcounts competition will take place February 18 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Glasgow Mathcounts participants will be finding out who has earned one of the eight spots on that team very soon.

The Mathcounts group also participates in the Northern Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics monthly math contest. The top 10 scores each month represent Glasgow for our school team score. This is a cumulative contest. The school with the highest total score after six contests will win the trophy. The remaining monthly math contests will be held January 18, February 13, and March 19 in room F205. All interested students are welcome to join us for the fun!

Glasgow's 2012-2013 Registration Season is Here

by Tanganyika Millard, Director of Student Services

It may be hard to believe but we are beginning registration for next school year. There are several activities that occur between February and April to help facilitate a smooth and positive transition for our students.

The season kicks off the week of February 13. Students will receive information regarding electives, course catalogs, and course "think sheets" during Real Time. The "think sheets" will aid students in thinking about the elective courses available to them and make some preliminary choices.

Our next activity in the process is Curriculum Night. Parents and students are encouraged to attend and receive more information on all courses offered. If your child is a current 6th or 7th grader you would attend Glasgow's curriculum night; all rising 9th graders should attend their high school's (Stuart, Annandale, or Falls Church).

Starting February 21 through the end of March, students will meet individually with their counselor for academic advising and course selections. After these meetings, students will bring home their course selection sheets for parent review and signature. This is the perfect opportunity to discuss with your child his or her future course selections and plans for middle school, high school, and college. All course requests are processed in April and dummy schedules will be mailed home in May for final parent review.

Please see the list of important dates below and feel free to contact your child's counselor if you have any questions. Thank you, Parents, as this process would not be successful without your support.

- Glasgow MS Curriculum Night on February 16 at 6:30 pm
- Stuart HS Curriculum Night on February 9 at 7 pm
- Stuart HS IB Night on January 25 at 6:30 pm
- Annandale HS Parent Night on January 26 at 7 pm
- Annandale IB Night on February 16 at 7 pm
- Falls Church HS – TBD

Seventh Grade Science News

by Brigitte O'Donoghue, 7th Grade Science Teacher and Subject Area Leader

Seventh grade science students are wrapping up the "Understanding Your Environment" lab books which we began the first week of school. They will have a final exam of everything from that book on February 8, 9, or 10, depending on the teacher. They should save their notes and

labs for next year because they will need them to study for the 8th grade SOL.

Stay tuned for the 7th grade Stewardship project! Students will earn community service hours through one of the last units within the lab book. They will learn about many things that are currently being done to protect the Chesapeake Bay and water quality in general, and they may then choose to actually go out and work to preserve or protect the water in some way. The number of hours they earn will depend upon how much effort they put into their projects.

News From the Music Department

by Lynette S. Blacksten, Director of Bands and Music Department Chair at Glasgow MS

Orchestra

The Glasgow Concert and Symphonic Orchestras will perform a Pre-Assessment concert in conjunction with Stuart High School on Wednesday, February 29, at 7pm. Also performing at this concert are the Stuart Concert and Symphonic Orchestras and the Falls Church/Annandale Area Orchestra.

The concert is in preparation for the District X Orchestra Assessment (formerly called "Festival") taking place March 8, 9, and 10 at Hayfield Secondary School. Orchestras from District X, which includes eight high schools (including Stuart) and their feeder schools, will gather to perform for a panel of three professional judges, as well as one judge for sight-reading.

The groups will be assessed and graded on tone quality, intonation, technique, etc. and awarded a rating of Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor. Our orchestra students have been working very hard for this assessment and appreciate the support of the Glasgow community.

Band

Congratulations to the following students for being chosen through audition to represent Glasgow Middle School at the District X Honor Band weekend: Sabrina Stenberg, Maya Pabilonia, Erin Dubas, Sam Laveson, Nick Mortensen, and Katie Franke. Sarah Rubin was chosen as a first alternate. These students will rehearse from Thursday evening, February 2, through Saturday morning, February 4, and perform a concert that Saturday afternoon.

Congratulations also go out to the following students for being accepted into the Virginia Tech Honor Band: Sabrina Stenberg, Erin Dubas, and Katie Franke. These young ladies will spend January 19-22 on the Virginia Tech campus rehearsing with prestigious conductors and Virginia Tech music faculty before performing a concert on Sunday afternoon, January 22.

The Glasgow Symphonic Band and Select Concert Band will perform at the District X Band Assessment on either March 9 or 10. The Pre-Assessment Concert will be held at Stuart High School on Thursday, February 23, at 7:30pm.

Chorus

The Glasgow Advanced Women's Chorus and Advanced Men's Chorus will be participating in the J.E.B. Stuart Broadway Desserts event on Saturday, January 21, at 7pm. Please contact Ms. Burke at mkburke4@fcps.edu for ticket information.

Finally...

The music department will host a Claire's Gourmet fundraiser in early February which includes frozen pizza, soft pretzels, and sweet treats. More details will be sent home with music students soon.

Time is Running Out – But You Can Still Help!

by Jill Beres, PTA President

At the beginning of the school year the PTA rolled out its one and only direct donation fundraising campaign. We mailed a letter to every Glasgow family describing the direct donation campaign and explaining how important your support is to the PTA, to the school, and to your students. To date, the PTA has raised about \$5,800 through the direct donation campaign. We are only \$1,700 shy of our goal of \$7,500, and the good news is, there is still time to help us reach or exceed that goal.

If you have already contributed, thank you for your generosity and support! If you haven't had a chance to contribute yet, there is still time and we need your help. Your donation, regardless of the amount, benefits your child and other Glasgow students. Please check your mail during the first week of February and look for a direct donation fundraising campaign letter from the PTA. If you haven't yet given to this year's campaign, or if you have already donated and can now give some more, your support would be greatly appreciated. The direct donation fundraising campaign letter and instructions are also available on the PTA's website at **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid..**

Support Your PTA – Eat At Moe's

by Jill Beres, PTA President

The PTA will sponsor a fundraising dinner at Moe's Mexican Grill on Wednesday, January 25, from 5pm-8pm. Moe's is located in the Bailey's Crossroads Plaza on Leesburg Pike. They will donate between 10% and 15% of net sales on that date between the hours of 5pm-8pm to the PTA.

More information about this dinner is on the flyer at the end of this newsletter. Please tell your friends and neighbors; send the announcement out on your neighborhood listserves; and really try to spread the word about this great opportunity to get a great meal, meet up with folks from Glasgow, and support your PTA.

Student Services Website

by Justin Simmons, School Counselor

The "official" Student Services website is in the process of being updated, but in the meantime you can use the following link to find relevant information from our department:

studentservicesgms.weebly.com

If You Have Some Time, We Have Some Volunteer Opportunities

by Jill Beres, PTA President

Recently the PTA distributed a survey to Glasgow teachers asking them what kind of assistance and support the PTA could provide to them. The response was overwhelmingly consistent: Your students' teachers need volunteers.

On an on-going basis teachers need help with a variety of tasks including photocopying, cutting, laminating, material preparation, and other administrative tasks. On certain occasions teachers need chaperones for field trips or other special activities or events. If you have any time in your schedule—whether it is weekly, monthly, or occasionally—please consider volunteering at school. Our school has many volunteer experiences for parents/community members. If you have the time and interest, please contact Brenda Poole at pooleb@saic.com. Brenda is the PTA's

volunteer coordinator and she serves as a vehicle to assist in organizing volunteer activities in the school. Also, please visit the volunteer corner on the PTA's website at www.glasgowpta.org for information about specific volunteer needs and opportunities.

Does Your Daughter Walk Around the House on Her Hands?

by Mark Goldenberg, GMS Father

If your daughter will attend Stuart High School in the next year or so, and if she loves

gymnastics, and if she might be interested in being on a newly formed Raiders gymnastics team...please contact me and let me know. Several Glasgow families are trying to gauge the amount of interest there is in forming a high school team.

My e-mail address is GoldenbergFamily@cox.net and my home phone number is 703-750-3540.

Ellen Glasgow Middle School Contact Information

Phone Numbers

Main 703-813-8700 / 703-813-8750

Attendance 703-813-8787

Student Services 703-813-8740

Office Staff

Principal	Deirdre Lavery	Lead Counselor	Bianca Aiello
Administrative Assistant	Miriam Bernal		
Assistant Principals	Larry Aiello Steve D'Adamo Stefon Mascoll	Counselors	Sara Fontana Justin Simmons Stephanie Todd Shari Winston
Director, Student Services	Tanganyika Millard	Office	Gloria Anchundia Karen Hanson
Guidance Office	Clara Campos	IB Coordinator	Nonye Oladimeji

PTA Officers

President	Jill Beres	JillAndTimBeres@verizon.net
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VP – School Activities	Joni Foerter	Joni.Foerter@verizon.net
Treasurer	David Chesnick	DChesnickster@gmail.com
Secretary	Joyce Gendell	Joyce@gendell.com

The Glasgow Panther is published by the Glasgow Middle School PTA. Articles for the Panther can be sent to GlasgowNews@yahoo.com. Send articles as Microsoft Word attachments only. **Have a Glasgow calendar item?** Contact Mark Goldenberg at GlasgowNews@yahoo.com to have your PTA or school event published. Newsletter submissions are due the Friday after the PTA meeting. Please make sure entries apply to dates one week after the meeting and beyond.

“¿Habla español? Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre la escuela de su hijo o necesita hablar con los maestros o el consejero, llámenos al 703-813-8719. Estamos siempre contentos de servirle.”

Calendar of PTA Sponsored/Supported Events

February 2012

- 14: PTA meeting @ 7pm in Lecture Hall
- 17: PTA newsletter articles due to Mark Goldenberg
- 21: Spelling Bee (snow date February 28)

March 2012

- 13: PTA meeting @ 7pm in Lecture Hall (form PTA nominating committee)
- 16: PTA newsletter articles due to Mark Goldenberg

April 2012

- 10: PTA meeting @ 7pm in Lecture Hall
- 12: Hoop It Up Night
- 13: PTA newsletter articles due to Mark Goldenberg

May 2012

- 7-11: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 8: PTA meeting @ 7pm in Lecture Hall (present proposed PTA slate)
- 11: PTA newsletter articles due to Mark Goldenberg

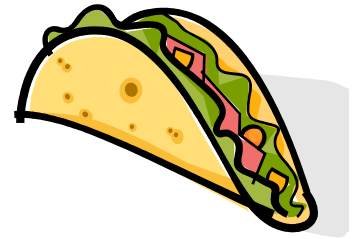
June 2012

- 12: PTA meeting @ 7pm in Lecture Hall (vote on new PTA slate)
- 15: 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

Support Glasgow Middle School PTA at...

MOE'S NIGHT

Dinner Fundraiser



**Wednesday,
January 25th**

5:00PM – 8:00PM

Moe's will donate a percentage of net sales between the hours of 5pm and 8pm to the Glasgow PTA. These funds will be used to provide programs and activities for Glasgow students, teachers, and the community. Please join your friends and neighbors and enjoy a tasty dinner at Moe's on Wednesday, January 25th!

Be sure to mention you support Glasgow Middle School so that all funds are accurately tabulated!

**Moe's Mexican Grill is located at:
5855 Leesburg Pike (Bailey's Crossroads)
Falls Church
www.moes.com**

DON'T MISS IT!



www.glasgowpta.org