

Glencoe Elementary School

Weekly Newsletter

June 11, 2021

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Glencoe Families,

There aren't words to adequately describe my appreciation for our students, families and staff this school year. September seems like so long ago but I do remember how fortunate we were to start the school year meeting families, either in person or in a Google Meet before classes officially started. Teachers, office staff and Greg, our tech support Guru, made sure everyone had a working device and adequate internet and then we hit the ground running, or was it crawling? Either way, everyone - families, students, staff - were collectively trying to figure out how to best navigate virtual learning, aka CDL.

There were definitely bumps along the way for all of us. The beginning of the year took a lot of perseverance, flexibility and grace. Teachers and students had to flip their classrooms, practices and learning habits into a virtual setting. Many families had to adjust to working from home while school was in session in the next room. There were device issues, schedule adjustments, changes to learning platforms, updates to Google Meets (that students often figured out before the adults did), curriculum to revise or develop each week and the list goes on and on. Some families were acting as teaching assistants, tutors and classroom monitors. We were all trying to find a healthy balance between screen time and classroom learning. Then, when we finally had a rhythm going, things switched up again and we adjusted to two learning models: Hybrid and CDL. The road to a Hybrid/CDL model was a bit clunky with confusing surveys, additional emails, schedule and teacher changes but we made it happen. Phew!

Through it all, we stayed together, worked through the bumps, supported each other, and learned - a lot. There was a lot of "chatter" about schools this year and how much or how little students were learning. I am impressed, but not surprised with all the learning that happened at Glencoe this year. We had students learning letters, sounds, blending and putting it all together to become readers. Students used their word detective skills in first grade to tackle those tricky and multisyllabic words in their grade level books and completed engaging science lessons. Students learned how to write "How To" papers, developed their understanding of craft moves and perspective taking as they created their animal reports and opinion pieces. Students used visual models to represent their mathematical thinking: multiplying two digit numbers, comparing fractions, and deconstructing decimals. Students analyzed the multiple perspectives of historical events and put their new learning into visual presentations and reports. Our students practiced their recorder skills, and learned about music influenced by Black Composers and Artists in music class. They practiced note reading and rhythm as they performed hand percussion to "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Students worked out each week with Ms. Lile and Coach Layman. Their warm-ups were fun and energizing. They created various equipment from recyclable or homemade materials to learn and practice skills like Lacrosse, juggling, and correctly dribbling/striking a ball, just to name a few. They had asynchronous lessons in Library with Ms. Griffon and were able to read books from the Glencoe Library thanks to Ms. Diane.

I am also impressed with the positive relationships that were formed between students and teachers and among the students in a virtual environment. Thanks to our Counseling Team our students had daily lessons in their morning meetings that helped to build or further develop their social emotional skills. They started each morning with some kind of "get to know you" question, learned about

mindfulness, self-regulation strategies, personal wellness, relationship building and of course, just had fun. Wow! We truly are a school community who lives up to our values of inclusion, care, collaboration and perseverance.

As the year wraps up, I have been asked about student devices and access to the learning programs. Your child may keep their district device. Come Fall 2021, students will be asked to return their device to Glencoe. If you are interested in some summer learning, check out this website put together by our Techsmart Coach: [Summer Learning](#). I also want to make you aware of a free summer art opportunity at da Vinci. See information at this [link](#).

Wednesday of this week we had our Virtual End of the Year Assembly. Both cohorts came together as a whole class to watch the video with their teacher. I want to thank all of the staff, students and families who participated in making this end of the year video a true celebration of the school year. It was wonderful to see all the pictures families sent showing our students learning from home this year. I also want to give a special shout out to Sara Gardner, our full time counselor, for putting all the pieces together in a wonderful way! Even though your child saw the video in their class meeting on Wednesday I invite you to sit with your child(ren) and watch [the video](#). It is a special treat that was clearly a team effort.

I am really looking forward to the Fall when we can all come back together in person, five days a week. Until then, have a wonderful, healthy and safe summer.

With Gratitude,

Lori Clark
Glencoe Principal

MUSIC & PE NEWS

If your child is NOT returning to Glencoe next year, please drop off the scarf (K-5) and school recorder (3-5) by Friday, June 18, 2021. If your child will be attending Glencoe next year, hold on to them in a safe place over the summer! Thanks! - Lisa Davidson & Amy Lile

MT TABOR SUMMER SUN PROGRAM

[MT Tabor SUN Community School](#)