



Global Learning Charter Public School

# Global Voice

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2009

## KEY DATES:

March 27: Business Breakfast

April 3: 7th & 8th Grade Dance

April 14: Community Workshop

April 30-May 1: Play-Fiddler on the Roof

May 12: Community Workshop

May 26-29: Senior Week

May 28: Senior Project Presentations

June 7: Commencement

June 18: Presentation of Learning (POL) Day/ Evening

## Together We Can Meet the Challenge!

We invite everyone in our community to participate in the Peabody Foundation challenge. In order for us to receive this \$125,000 award, we must match their gift 1:1! Every contribution counts – whether it's a \$10.00 or \$100.00 – but, we need to reach our goal by June 30 or risk losing this grant. We hope you can help!

**Very special thanks** to those who have already contributed, as listed on page 4.

We recognize that it's a very difficult time to ask for financial support. Yet, we must provide high quality curriculum and instruction for our students.

The Amelia Peabody Foundation wants to help us achieve this objective. As you may know, our teachers are trying to teach 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum in an outdated building with only enough power

to serve an average household.

Currently computers cannot be charged long enough to be used for a full class period and we can only run two microscopes in any classroom before the power goes out.

This challenge grant will cover half of the costs of a new electrical grid that will bring us into this

century and allow us to fully integrate technology into our curriculum and instruction.



Improved technology will enhance our project-based curriculum. Here, Jai'Annah and Felix show their POL

## Message from the Executive Director

The phrase "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times" from Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* comes to mind as we reflect on our year. Indeed, it *is* the best of times at the Global Learning Charter Public School. We have four hundred and twenty-seven wonderful students who are engaged in their academic work and the school community.

We have an outstanding faculty that provides high quality instruction for each student and gifted staff that have worked tirelessly to move our school forward. Our building renovations are moving along and, when we meet our challenge grant, we will complete

our much-needed electrical infrastructure upgrade. Our second graduating class is starting to prepare for commencement – already we can feel the excitement in the air! It is truly the best of times as we watch our students grow and flourish before our eyes.

Sadly, it is also the worst of times as we see the economy take its toll on our families, on our neighborhoods, on our city, on our state and on our country. It is the worst of times when our very own families lose their jobs and when people are struggling to pay bills and keep their homes. These are disheartening and discouraging realities. Yet, we must have hope.

Our mission at GLPCS, now more than ever, is to keep our students focused on their school work, keep them focused on excellence and, most importantly, keep them focused on their future. In the end, what they take away from our school will be the tools that allow them to successfully navigate the economic and global realities that face us all.

At GLCPS we are a community. We are a community of learners, leaders and dreamers. We know that taking on the challenges alone may be nearly impossible, but that doing it together...well, we can make it the *best* of times!

— Dr. Berubé



Marleen and Ana showing Dr. Berubé their fan boat projects for Marine Science

Production & Design - Ms. Alison Bresciani  
Editorial Assistant - Mrs. Cyndi Colson  
Editor - Ms. Stephanie Wick

## Tevye Meets Tevye



Chairm Topol has played the character Tevye in *Fiddler On The Roof* more than 2,500 times over the last 40 years. During Topol's final tour in the role, 8th grade student Michael Z., who will be performing as Tevye in GLCPS' upcoming production, had the chance to receive direction from him when they met recently at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

GLCPS presents *Fiddler on the Roof* April 30, 2009 at 7:00 PM and May 1, 2009 at 12:30 PM. Free and open to the public.

*"I want the life I've always dreamed about and [college] is my last hurdle to get to it."*



Kaitlyn is a freshman at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth

## From the Principal's Desk

Wow, I can't believe that we are more than half way through the school year already! With most of a very busy school year behind us and MCAS testing approaching I would like to take a moment to reflect upon some of the many school wide events and community activities we have accomplished to date:

- School-wide 'Mock Presidential Election'
- Whole school assembly to witness the Presidential Inauguration
- Successful site visit from the Department of Elementary and

- Secondary Education
- Very successful Winter Art Show and Open House
- Grades 5-7 cross country track and basketball with Friends Academy
- Presentation of Learning day
- Exploratory Demonstrations
- Fan boat races for marine science class
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade "High School Shadow Days"

It is amazing to think that for the most part these are 'routine events' which are now woven into the fabric of our school culture. They are always successful events due to a

caring and committed school community of staff, students, parents, and partners. I am honored to be the Principal of such an active and inspired community of learners. I thank you all for tireless efforts to improve our school and continuing to evolve into a learning community.

— Dr. Cobbs



Dr. Cobbs with Jordan and Carlos discussing their POL

## Impressive Turn Out at Open House

On January 29<sup>th</sup> the school held its Open House and Winter Arts Show. The goal of this event was to welcome new families to the school while showcasing our current students' work.

The program included a gallery display of student artwork, information tables showcasing our after-school programs, performances by the Chorus and Tang Soo Do Karate Club and an infor-

mation session for prospective families.



A full gym waits expectantly for presentations to begin

The evening, which attracted over 250 visitors, was a great

success as it allowed our new families to visit the school, learn what we offer and meet some of our current students and families.

The evening culminated with visits to our fifth grade classrooms and a reception. We are extremely proud of our student ambassadors for playing a significant role in welcoming new families to our school.

## Graduate Update

Taken from excerpts from a letter to Principal Cobbs from GLCPS graduate Kaitlyn R.

Kaitlyn writes, "First semester went well. It was *very* tough because it was all new to me and the work load was huge.

There were deadlines I had to meet that were very demanding and my English professor treated us like we were novelists! Tomorrow I have the computer course I attempted last

semester. Then I am taking the Art & History of Rock and Roll for a history requirement.

I am still commuting by the city bus, so it is tough. This economy is making it even harder to try and stay in school with tuition going up next semester. I am on a 5-year plan because I work two jobs, and I might participate

in this program where you do community service for 40 hours in one semester and you are given \$400 off your tuition bill! I'm trying my best though. I want the life I've always dreamed about and this is my last hurdle to get to it."

## What I Love About GLCPS: One Teacher's Perspective

**"We are a family of learners, explorers, risk-takers, and adventurers."**

Involved with the school since its planning stages, I have taught at GLCPS for the past four years. I am also a parent of one alumna and an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. I can state with confidence that our school is not a typical middle school or high school. We are a family of learners, explorers, risk-takers, and adventurers. On any given day you'll see students working independently and collaboratively with each other, teachers and staff. They may be engaged in preparing reports, hands-on projects, presentations, or participating in community outreach. When you walk the halls, the excitement for learning is palpable. In many instances our students are leading their own learning. Our administrators participate in a shared leadership model so that everyone, including our students, has a voice in the school.

GLCPS sets high expectations, and staff genuinely care and know each student. No one is anonymous. I recently received an email from a parent that said, "Thank God he is at Charter!! I know he would be lost between the cracks at another school!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!" I feel as though any staff could have received this exact sentiment. At GLCPS, everyone matters, everyone can learn and everyone can succeed. These are the elements that make me proud to teach here.



Ms. Zajac,  
5th Grade Teacher

## Engaging Families

GLCPS is very fortunate to have an active group of parents, guardians, grandparents and other family members as part of our Family Council. Family Council coordinates an annual student fund raiser and all proceeds go back to benefit the school. We also host events for students including movie nights, dances and socials.

Family Council is open to all GLCPS family members and we encourage you to get involved! For more information, email [familycouncil@glcps.org](mailto:familycouncil@glcps.org) or join us for our next meeting on March 31 at 3 PM.

## Enrollment 2009-2010

New enrollment for the 09-10 school year is limited to grades 5, 6 and 7 only. The application deadline was February 27<sup>th</sup> to be considered for the lottery which was held on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Students who were not selected during the March 11<sup>th</sup> lottery were placed on a waiting list in the order in which their names were drawn. Applications received after the February 27<sup>th</sup> deadline will also be placed on a waiting list. We encourage all families interested in GLCPS to submit their applications throughout the year, in the event openings become available.

## Staff Highlight - A Homegrown Leader

Born and raised in New Bedford, Assistant Principal Lena Pires is the first and only one of six siblings to complete a college degree. First-generation Portuguese, both of her parents spoke only Portuguese and as Mrs. Pires says, "could not read or write".

After receiving her BA in Electrical Engineering from UMASS Dartmouth in 1997, she launched her corporate career at Raytheon where she stayed from 1997-



Mrs. Pires (3rd from R) and staff at a cross country meet.

2000 followed by a stint at Helix Technology. Seven years ago, Mrs. Pires left the field of engineering to become a mathematics and science teacher at GLCPS. When asked why she gave up a potentially lucrative career, she said: "Growing up, I didn't like school. I wasn't comfortable and didn't perform well. I always dreamed of creating a different kind of environment – building a school community where students felt valued and were told they had something important to contribute to the world. So many kids feel hopeless. I wanted to help transform the lives of others like me in my

community and be a part of a school that set high standards for each student, leveled the playing field, and really encouraged young people every step of the way."

Upon completing her Principal Licensure, also through UMASS Dartmouth, she assumed the role of Assistant Principal last fall. Married and the devoted mother of two young sons, Mrs. Pires serves on the Board of the YWCA, takes Tang Soo Do with her boys, all while pursuing her Master's degree in education.

## Class of 2009 Is On Their Way...

Of our 19 seniors, 17 of them (89%) have plans to attend a post-secondary institution at this time. Congratulations to those who have already been accepted to the following schools: Community College of Rhode Island, Bristol Community College (2), University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth (2), Roger Williams University, Mount Ida College and Johnson and Wales University. All students have applied to the schools of their choice. Eight applied to 4-year schools; seven to 2-year schools; two to technical schools. More good news to come!



Seniors Loryn and Brooke talking about POLs with underclassmen Jon Paul, Ana and Emily



# Global Learning Charter Public School

190 Ashley Boulevard  
New Bedford, MA 02746  
tel: 508-991-4105 | fax: 508-991-4110  
www.glcps.org

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEW BEDFORD, MA  
PERMIT NO. 480



**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, June 7th at 1:00pm for GLCPS Commencement!**

### GLCPS Board of Trustees

Jacquelyn Ramos, Chairperson  
Sunshine's Place Inc.

Benjamin Baker, First Vice Chair  
Baker Books

Raymond Veary, Second Vice Chair  
Bristol County District Attorney's Office

Len Coriaty, Secretary  
Workforce Investment Board

Pamela Cruz  
New Bedford Area Office of Department of Children and Families

Dr. Jean MacCormack  
Chancellor, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth

Marcia Ramos  
Bank of America

Dennis Renaud  
Southcoast Hospitals Group

### GLCPS Administrative Leadership Team

Warren E. Berubé, Executive Director

James Cobbs, Principal

Lena Pires, Assistant Principal

Adonis Ferreira, Dir. of Student, Family and Community Life

Melissa Rodrigues, Business Manager

Derek Stevens, Director of Technology

Stephanie Wick, Director of Institutional Advancement

### Thank you!!

**We are grateful to those of you have made a financial contribution this year.**

Linda Andrade  
Bank of America Foundation (matching gift)  
Warren Berubé  
Bufftree Building Company  
Frank Byrne, CPA  
Stephen R. Canessa  
CFSEMA – Buckley Family Fund  
CFSEMA – Jacobs Family Fund  
Adam Clark  
Cyndi & Bonzie Colson & Family  
Barbara Connolly  
Consulate General of Cape Verde  
Leonard Coriaty  
Pamela Cruz  
Cyclone Cleaning Services  
Jack DeFusco  
Department of Children and Families  
Reverend Dr. Edward R. Dufresne &  
Honorable Elizabeth O. Lastaiti  
Enable Hope Foundation – Deborah A. Baker &  
Ben Baker  
Paul Fay & Julie Curtis  
Gail Fortes  
Glaser Glass  
Ron Israel  
Joseph Barry Co., LLC  
Stephen Kenyon  
Rachael A. Kolb  
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Kreitner  
Dr. Jean F. MacCormack

Steven Martins  
Carolee Matsumoto & David Gilbertson  
Deanna & Cassidy Medeiros  
Theresa Melo  
Adelaide Nunes  
Hugh O'Mara  
Sandria Parsons  
Lena & Walter Pires  
Marlene Pollack  
Jacquelyn M. Ramos  
Marcia Ramos  
Dennis Renaud  
Karen Rezendes  
Yelitza Rodriguez  
Jessica Ross & Bryan Steele  
Sylvia M. Ross  
Jules Ryckebusch  
Sid Wainer & Son  
Southcoast Educational Improvement  
Foundation Inc. – Tom Davis  
The Souza Family  
Katherine Starr  
Derek Stevens  
The Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies  
Tremblay's Bus Co., LLC  
Valdriz Family  
Stephanie Wick  
Lisa Yates  
Anonymous (8)

Our online  
giving tool will  
be up and  
running soon!  
[www.glcps.org](http://www.glcps.org)

*We have reviewed carefully all contributions made to GLCPS during this fiscal year to ensure that each gift is properly recognized per the preferences of the donor. Occasionally, despite our best efforts or due to confidentiality a name may be omitted or listed incorrectly. If we have made a mistake, we sincerely apologize and would appreciate you letting us know at 508-991-4105 or info@glcps.org.*