January 16, 2026

Dear Florence Roche Families,

The warmer temperatures were a nice break to the winter weather this week. The end of the week brought us back to the reality of January. Students have been great about bringing their winter snow gear with them each day. I'm sure it won't be long before our field is once again a snow covered paradise for winter play!



Second grade students worked on their engineering skills this week. They designed and tested vehicles that would protect their crash test dummy when traveling at speed and launching off of a ramp. Students were engaged and working cooperatively in teams as they took on this challenge. This in house engineering program was generously provided through funding by the Groton Commissioners of Trust. Thank you for supporting this fun and enriching experience.



Mark your calendars for an additional science and engineering experience. On Saturday, March 14, the elementary science fair will be held at Florence Roche. This activity is open to all elementary students in grades K-4 at both Florence Roche and Swallow Union. Stay tuned for more details about the science fair and how your student can participate.

The Groton Public Library is currently hosting a Kids are Going Places Winter Reading Challenge. This is a fun and motivating opportunity to connect with a good book on some of these colder days. Here is the link to the GPL's Reading Challenge.

As the calendar turns to 2026, so does our preparation begin for this spring's MCAS testing for our grades 3 and 4 students. Here is the testing schedule for your reference. Please make note and avoid any unnecessary absences during a scheduled test date for your student.

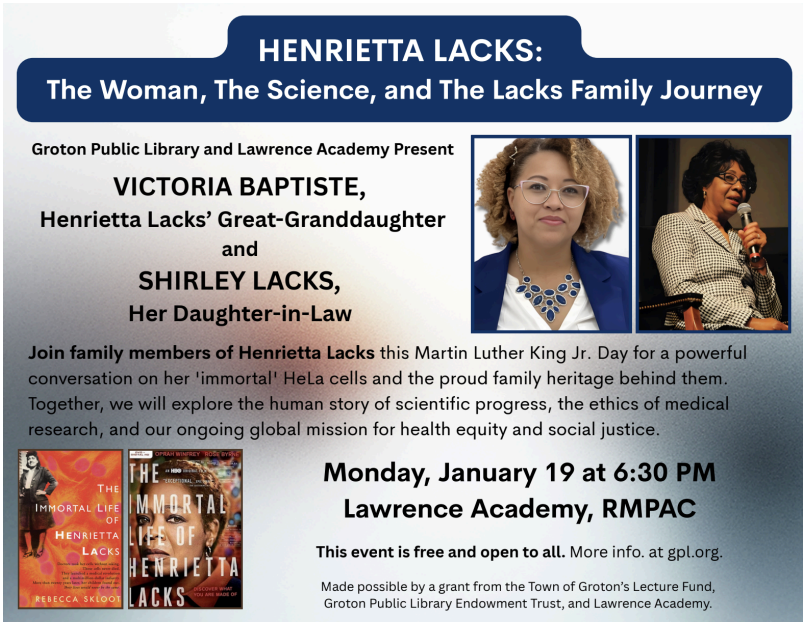
2026 MCAS
Grades 3 and 4

4/6 Grade 4 ELA Session 1	4/7 Grade 3 ELA Session 1	4/8 Grade 4 ELA Session 2	4/9 Grade 3 ELA Session 2	4/10
5/11 Grade 4 Math Session 1	5/12 Grade 3 Math Session 1	5/13 Grade 4 Math Session 2	5/14 Grade 3 Math Session 2	5/16

Groton Commissioners of Trust Sponsored Event

A conversation with family members of Henrietta Lacks
Monday, January 19 6:30PM

Lawrence Academy RMPAC more info can be found at [gpl.org](gpl.org)



Join family members of Henrietta Lacks this Martin Luther King Jr. Day for a powerful conversation on her 'immortal' HeLa cells and the proud family heritage behind them. Together, we will explore the human story of scientific progress, the ethics of medical research, and our ongoing global mission for health equity and social justice.

A Message from our Student Council

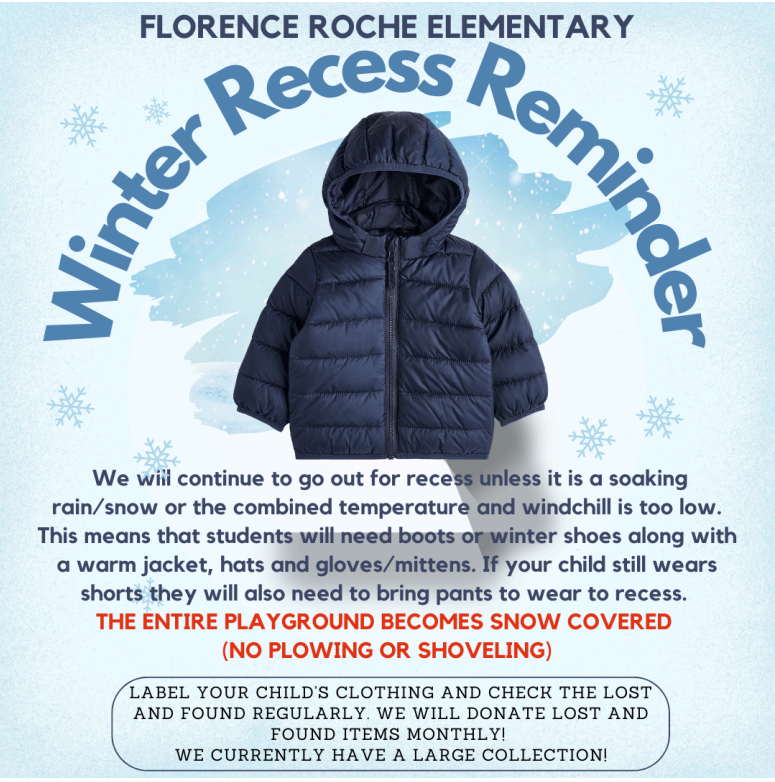
Hi FloRo!

We want to let everyone know that the Student Council will continue our partnership with Loaves and Fishes to collect food for our community. The food we collect helps provide meals to families in our area who may not always have enough food. Every donation makes a difference and helps ensure that members of our community have healthy meals.

Each month, we will visit project areas to collect food donations. Please continue to bring in food donations. Our next collection will take place on **Friday, January 30th**.

Thank you for supporting our community and helping us make a positive impact!

~ The 4th Grade Student Council





GD Youth Baseball Spring Registration Now Open!

⚾The 2026 GD Youth Baseball spring season is right around the corner!

Registration is now open for all divisions from T-Ball through Babe Ruth. The season runs from April through mid-June.

~ T-Ball (3.8-5 yrs) - One practice and one game a week on Saturday, typically at Cow Pond

~Rookies (6-8 yrs) - One practice and one game a week on Saturday, typically at Cow Pond

~Minors (9-10 yrs) - 1-2 practice(s) and two games a week, weekdays. Some travel involved.

~Majors (11-12 yrs) - 1-2 practice(s) and two games a week, weekdays. Some travel involved.

~Babe Ruth (13-18 yrs) - Games Monday-Sunday (scheduled to not conflict with school games) Some travel involved.

Don't wait—registration closes February 27th!

Register now: https://gdyouthbaseball.sportngin.com/register/form/968848326

Family discounts available for 3+ players.

Important Dates

- **1/19 No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- **1/23 All School Meeting - Circle of Care**
- **1/30 Student Council food drive collection**

Enjoy the long weekend.

Brian