January 9, 2026

Dear Florence Roche Families,

Happy New Year! Hoping this update finds you and your family rested and ready for a healthy and productive 2026. January signals a new beginning and a fresh start. Our students quickly got back into the school routines and will be hitting their stride before you know it. This is always an exciting time of year as we really begin to see how much our students are learning and growing.



Early in the week, it was fun to see students joyfully exploring their playground and field during the winter. This is our first winter with a field after all those years playing on the asphalt of our previous playground. The ice covered asphalt made for some challenging winter recesses while we were in the original building. Students discovered some ice patches on our field this week and experienced the fun of sliding (supervised and safely) on ice. We are also learning that the prime conditions for ice sliding can change daily. The end of the week's warmer temperatures made it too slushy. Nevertheless, there will be additional opportunities for sliding over the remainder of the winter. Please know that we require snowpants for sliding on the ice, so that students don't have wet and cold pants during the afternoon.



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

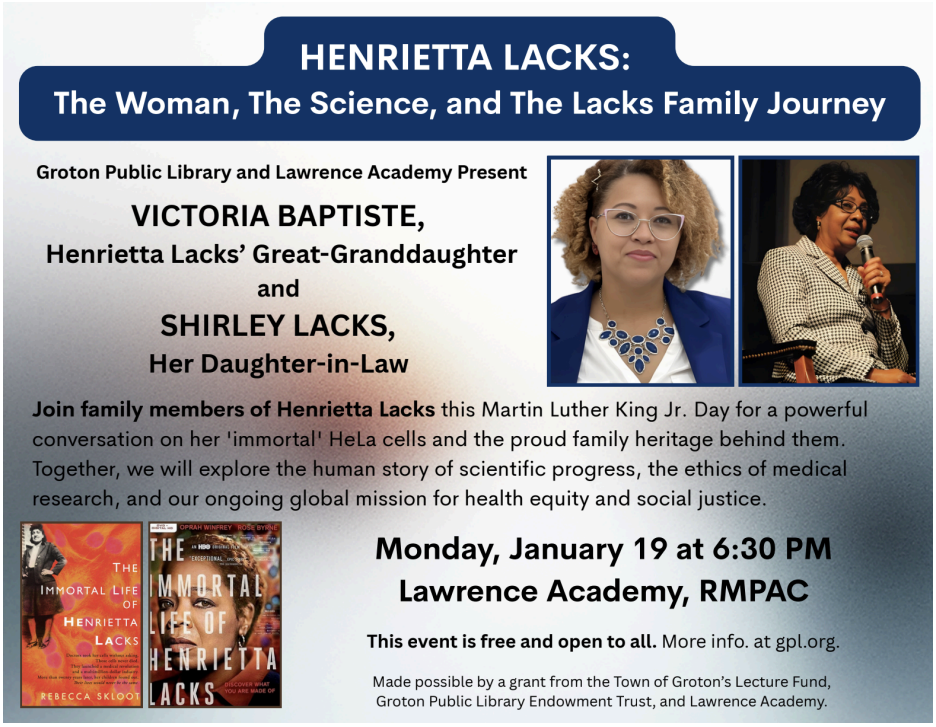
4/6 Grade 4 ELA Session 1	4/7 Grade 3 ELA Session 1	4/8 Grade 4 ELA Session 2	4/9 Grade 3 ELA Session 2	4/10
5/11 Grade 4 Math Session 1	5/12 Grade 3 Math Session 1	5/13 Grade 4 Math Session 2	5/14 Grade 3 Math Session 2	5/16

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

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

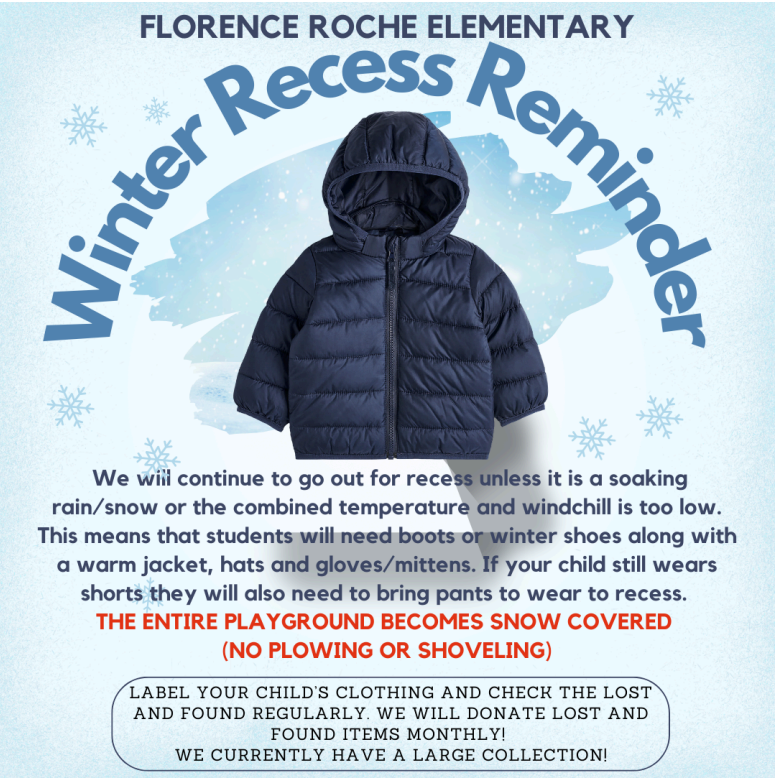
Hi FloRo!

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**

Have a nice weekend.

Brian