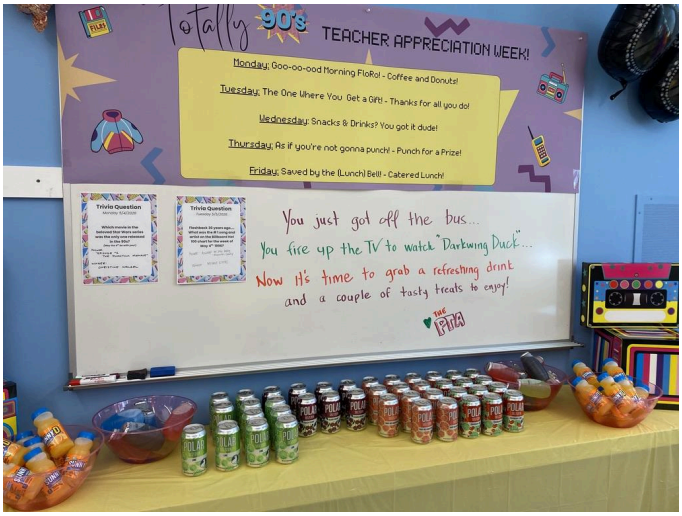
May 8, 2026

Dear Florence Roche Families,



We had an amazing staff appreciation week coordinated through our PTA. The 90's themed days brought us all back to some simpler times. I was surprised to see some of those retro snacks were still available. My own kids survived them, so I guess they weren't too bad for you! Thank you for making each day fun. We all feel your appreciation throughout the year. A big shout out to Joey Tomaino and Jillian Doyle for their presence throughout the week to make sure each day was special!







Grade 2 students learned about owls through the Eyes on Owls program. This popular program is highly anticipated among our 2nd graders and the birds did not disappoint. It really is amazing to see these birds up close. Thank you to our PTA for funding this experience and to Jillian Doyle for organizing all of our PTA enrichment activities throughout the year.



Kindergarten students learned about bubble science through a program provided

by the Acton Discovery Museum. Thank you to the Groton Commissioners of Trust for funding this program.



Kindergarten students had a busy schedule this week with their annual concert happening last night. Students did a great job performing for family and friends. Thank you to Mr. Wiesner and Ms. Hettinger for preparing the students and leading them through their performance.



We had our ninth all-school meeting this morning focused on understanding and navigating emotions. Students practiced noticing how emotions show up in their bodies and learned that all emotions are okay — there are no "bad" feelings. We talked about how recognizing emotions like worry, sadness, excitement, or anger can help us respond in healthy ways and feel more in control. Students observed facial expressions and body language, discussed coping strategies, and listened to the book *Listening to My Body* by Gabi Garcia.

Families can support this learning at home by helping children notice and name emotions as they happen. You might say, "I'm feeling frustrated right now, and I notice my shoulders feel tight," or "I'm feeling excited — my body feels full of energy!" Encouraging children to pay attention to physical clues like butterflies in their stomach, clenched fists, or a racing heart can help them better understand and manage strong feelings. This month, challenge your child to notice three different emotions they experience and what those emotions feel like in their body.

Middle School Connections Students visited Florence Roche classrooms for their spring Day of Connection, focused on Neurodiversity Acceptance. The Middle Schoolers led read-alouds and conversations with the younger students centered around Neurodiversity and the importance of celebrating the many differences that make us all human. This meaningful opportunity is intended to foster empathy, understanding, and leadership among our 8th grade Connections students while also helping to promote awareness, acceptance, and kindness in the elementary learning communities.



Grades 3 and 4 Math MCAS Next Week

We are getting ready for the Math sessions of MCAS testing for our grades 3 and 4 students. Students are assessed on the grade level learning standards determined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Teachers follow these standards when planning and assessing their instruction. At the elementary level, our students have their first experience with MCAS testing. We do our best to reassure them that this is just another way to show what they are learning.

To prepare for the MCAS testing at home, you can support us by making sure your student gets a good night's rest, eats a healthy breakfast, and arrives at school on time.

2026 MCAS
Grades 3 and 4

5/11	5/12	5/13	5/14	5/16
Grade 4 Math Session 1	Grade 3 Math Session 1	Grade 4 Math Session 2	Grade 3 Math Session 2	

Girls on the Run!



The Florence Roche Girls on the Run group has been busy with their training. They are completing their practice 5K on the middle school track next Wednesday, 5/13. On May 30th, they will run a 5K in Boston as their final event of the year. Congratulations and best wishes to all of our female athletes!

Field Days 2026

We are preparing for our end of the year grade level field days scheduled for June 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Parent volunteers are a huge part of the enjoyable and successful field day experience for students. If you are able to join us, we would appreciate your support.

Volunteers can sign up to join us here:

- Kindergarten Volunteer Sign-Up
- Grade 1 Volunteer Sign-Up
- Grade 2 Volunteer Sign-Up
- Grade 3 Volunteer Sign-Up
- Grade 4 Volunteer Sign-Up

These are links to the general Field Day information:

- Field Day 2026 Dates & Times
- Field Day Checklist for Children & Families
- Field Day Information for Our Volunteers

A Message From Dee Bus

As we reach the end of the school year, we understand there are many end-of-year playdates and party schedules. Please kindly remember that Florence Roche students are not permitted to ride home on a different bus other than their assigned bus route.

If a student needs to get off at a different stop along their assigned bus route, a parent/guardian must email the school, along with Erica at Dee Bus Service (erenna@deebus.com), with the requested bus stop change so the student can receive the appropriate note to give to the bus driver.

Without a note from the school, the bus driver will not allow your child to get off at a different stop.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we work to keep all students safe.

Dee Bus Service, Inc.



Join GDMS PTO for our final session of "Quick Chats"! We look forward to hearing the good, the bad, and the ugly of transitioning to middle school with Mr. Day (Assistant Principal for 5th and 6th grade). Sign up now to receive the link for May 12 at 7p via Google Meet.





Important Dates

- **5/11-5/15** -Math MCAS for grades 3 and 4
- **5/18-5/21** - District Fine Arts Festival
- **5/20** - Memorial Day Assembly @9:20
- **5/21-5/22** - Kindergarten Screening for 2026-2027 - no school for K students
- **5/25** - Memorial Day - no school
- **6/1-6/3** - Field Days

Happy Mother's Day!.

Brian