December 5, 2025

Dear Florence Roche Families,



Happy December! This week's weather certainly felt like the middle of winter. Students enjoyed playing on the snow covered field after Tuesday's storm. I was impressed with how many students showed up with their snow gear. We will plan to get outside for recess as long as the temperature and wind chill allows us to do so safely. Thank you for making sure your student has the necessary outerwear to be outside comfortably on these colder days.



If your student is missing an item of outerwear, it may be in our lost and found. It is recommended that you label everything with your student's name, so that any lost items may be easily returned. You are welcome to stop by and go through the lost and found if you think your student has lost something at school. We plan to donate any lost and found items at the holiday break at the end of the month.

We had our monthly all school meeting this morning. The kindness theme continued with a focus on gratitude. Mrs. Taylor led the meeting with the assistance of Jillian Doyle, one of our parent volunteers. A student created "Kindness Chain" was on display around the gym. The slideshow presentation included a variety of pictures representing the different acts of kindness students demonstrated since our last meeting. After Jillian read the book, A Little Thankful Spot, Mrs. Taylor introduced our school gratitude tree. Everyone is encouraged to add a snowflake to the tree with something they are grateful for. If you are interested in a resource for discussing gratitude at home, here's a short video on the topic.





Students will be performing in their grade level concerts during tomorrow's annual PTA Winter Fair. This is a major fundraising event for the PTA enrichment budget. There are so many amazing gift baskets available in the online raffle. Here is the [gift basket raffle form] if you are interested in checking them out and putting a ticket or two in for your favorites. We hope to see you at the Winter Fair!



This is the last week to donate to our Student Council food and toy drive. Thank you for the many donations so far. We are grateful for all we have and it feels good to help others.







A Message from GDEF

For over 20 years, the Groton-Dunstable Education Foundation (GDEF), a volunteer-run nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the educational experience for every student in our public schools, has proudly invested over $720,000 in grants to our schools through hundreds of innovative and engaging programs and opportunities that go beyond the scope of the regular school budget. Last year, GDEF awarded 21 grants totaling over $20,000, supporting creative and impactful projects and experiences across all five schools, including outdoor learning kits and character assemblies, and sponsorships of Robotomies, Tour of the World, and DECA. With our district facing significant financial challenges, donor support matters now more than ever. Make a difference today by donating online at www.gdefinc.org/donate. Our students, our schools, and our community are worth it. Thank you for your support, the GDEF Board of Directors

Groton-Dunstable Education Foundation

Supporting district schools with grants above and beyond the school budget.

We are a volunteer, non-profit organization committed to enhancing the success of our public schools by providing private funding for innovative, inspiring programs and opportunities.

We believe each child deserves an excellent educational experience and that supported and successful schools are fundamental elements of our special communities.

Thanks to donors like you, last academic year, Groton-Dunstable Education Foundation (GDEF) awarded 21 grants totaling over $20,000, supporting creative and impactful projects and experiences across all five schools.

Boutwell | **Florence Roche** | **Swallow Union** | **GD Middle School** | **GD High School**

GDEF Impact

Look at what we have done together for our community, our schools, our future.

- **Sensory Pathways** at Boutwell.
- **Character Education Assembly** on Bullying & Cyberbullying at Swallow Union.
- **iPads and Math Tutorial Software** at the Middle School.
- **Outdoor Learning Kits** for Florence Roche.
- **Sponsorships**, including Robotomies, Tour of the World, and DECA at the High School.
- **Calm Corner Pilot** District-Wide.
- **And More!!!**

Support The Annual Giving Campaign

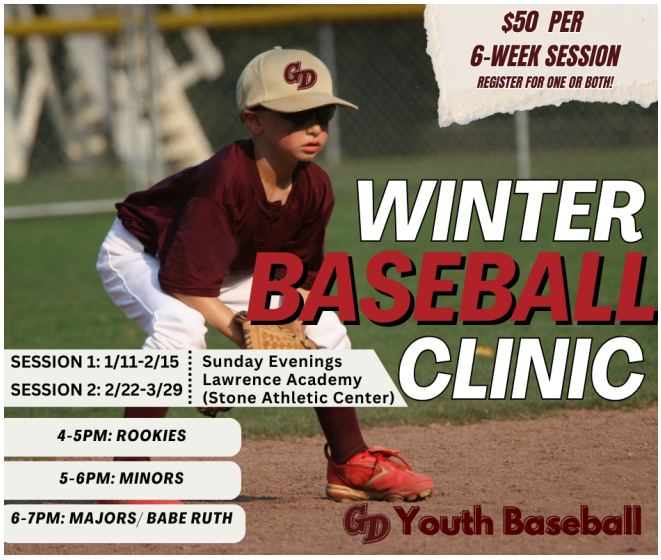
Each Fall, through our Annual Giving Campaign, GDEF reaches out to you, the community-at-large, for significant and vital support. Gifts to our Annual Giving Campaign are directly applied to grants in the current year and beyond.

Donate To Groton-Dunstable Education Foundation

Your donations are directly returned to the hands and minds of students in the form of science, arts, technology, math, literacy, social-emotional learning, and civics programming.

To donate, follow the QR Code.

https://www.gdefinc.org/



GD Youth Baseball: Winter Clinic Registration is Open!

Our Winter Clinics are coming to Lawrence Academy's Stone Athletic Center! The Winter Skills Clinic is a six-week indoor training program designed to help players stay active in the off-season and sharpen their fundamental baseball skills.

Two 6-week sessions:

- Session 1: Jan 11 - Feb 15
- Session 2: Feb 22 - Mar 29

Every Sunday:

- Rookies (4-5pm)
- Minors (5-6pm)
- Majors/Babe Ruth (6-7pm)

$50 per player for a 6-week session.

Whether you're picking up a bat for the first time or looking to take your game to the next level, our clinics offer instruction that will keep your players active in the off-season.

https://gdyouthbaseball.sportngin.com/register/form/087596486

Important Dates

- **12/6 -** Winter Fair
- **12/9** - Picture Retake Day
- **12/12** - District Half Day - 12:17pm dismissal
- **12/19** - PreK-4 Half Day - 12:17pm dismissal
- **12/23** - Full day
- **12/24 - 1/4/26** - winter vacation -no school
- **1/5/26** - school open

Brian