

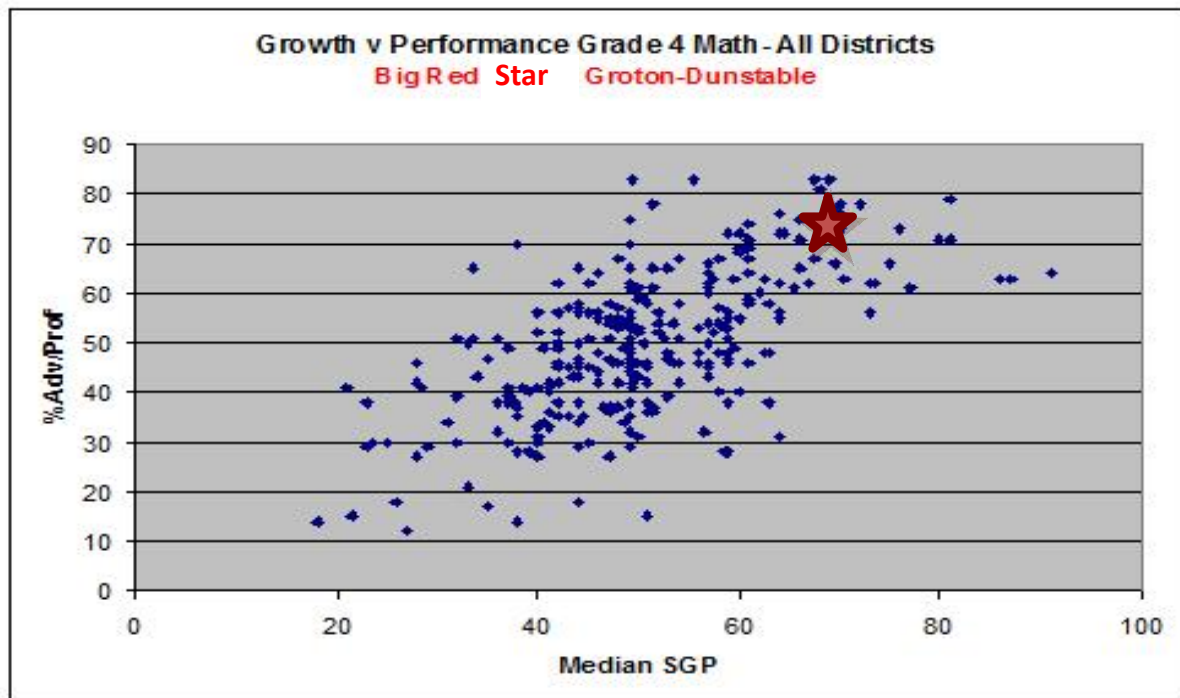


November 2009

Dear Parents and Students,

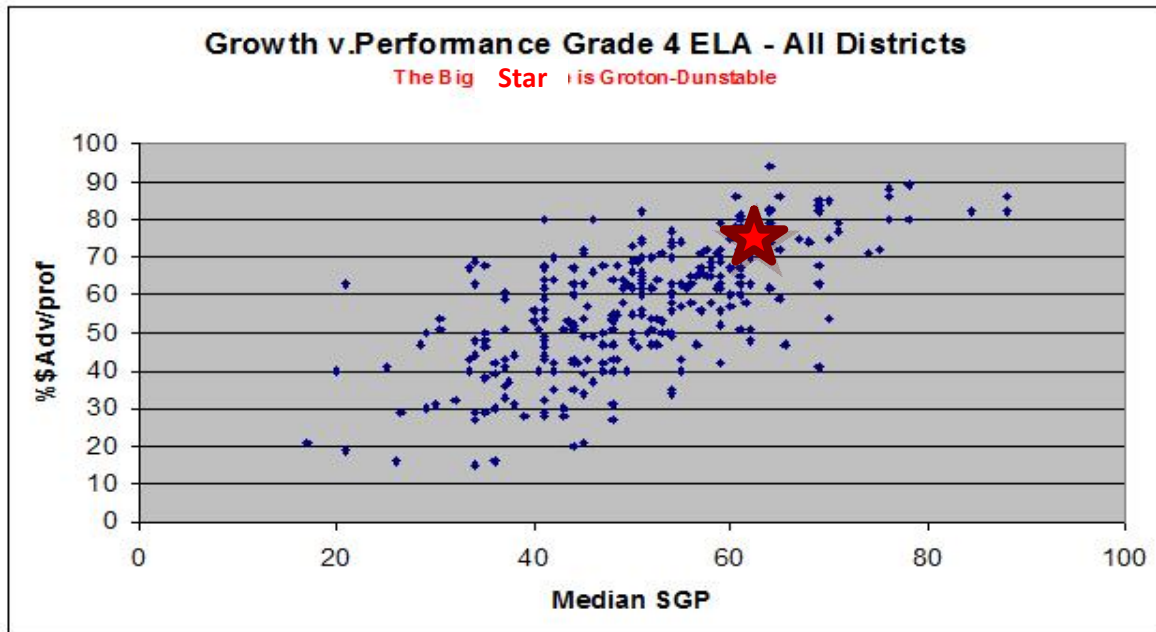
As we all watch the beautiful fall foliage and the many stages of change that occur, may we be reminded that learning too is a **process** for our students. Like the leaves changing colors at different times, each carrying a different hue, each one of our students grows and changes in tune to their own developmental clock. There is a beauty similar to the fall foliage in watching learning in action. Our focus at Florence Roche is student centered and our teachers are skilled at meeting the needs of our individual students, fostering growth and learning. Our goal at Florence Roche Elementary school is to educate the whole child and prepare each student with strong literacy and math skills for the future.

The new student growth model was released on October 27, 2009 through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, <http://www.doe.mass.edu>, and we are proud to inform you that our district in comparison to many other high performing districts is doing very well in meeting the needs of our students. Using the student growth model to analyze performance is new and pays particular attention to the growth rate of individual students and Groton-Dunstable Regional School District 4th grade is ranked higher than Chelmsford, Westford, Boxboro, Acton, Newton, Bedford, Dover, Sherborn, and Wayland, just to name a few!





This growth model measures the progress of each student compared to all other students in the state who performed at the same level during the preceding year. The higher the SGP (Student Growth Percentile) the more progress made by the student compared to all other students.



The growth model shows our 4th grade 22nd in math and 38th in English Language Arts out of 284 districts. This is fantastic news as it speaks loudly about the effectiveness of our teachers and our programs. With the results of our 3rd grade math MCAS scores not as good as we expected, I would like to take this opportunity to inform parents about our action plan to improve the performance of our students in the area of math.

New this year, we have a Title One funding which will support our MCAS after school tutoring for both 3rd and 4th graders. In addition, we have a Title One teacher, Mrs. Ginny Confer, who will be providing remedial services in the areas of math and reading to selected 3rd and 4th grade students. Also, new this year, our .5 Math coordinator position has been funded, and Mrs. Clark is available to support teachers, grade level teams and students during the school day. Our action plan also includes a 9 week, Before and After School Math tutoring program provided for 3rd and 4th grade students by their teachers. In addition to direct and explicit interventions for particular students, each grade level team is focusing on math goals during their Professional Learning Community time and our Specialists are developing interdisciplinary math lessons.





On other news we would like to thank Jim Brennan and Bonnie Marchesani, our new PTA Enrichment Coordinators, on arranging their first enrichment program for our school. *Dancing Wheels* was a successful interactive program for all our students and addressed the importance of reaching your dreams no matter what obstacles you face! Students and staff were motivated by the performers! With our heightened awareness in the area of math, our enrichment coordinators have schedules some fun math interactive programs at different grade levels. On November 13th, our 4th graders will be viewing/participating in *Math Busters*, an MIT sponsored show. In December all grades will be viewing/participating in *ArithmaTickles!* ☺

We would also like to inform our parents about a wonderful community service partnership with Lawrence Academy. I have been working with Mrs. Caroline Grinnell, the Community Service Coordinator from Lawrence Academy to develop several different types of community service projects that would benefit both our students and the LA students. On November 3rd, we will be welcoming the Lawrence Academy students and staff. Our Garden Committee leaders, Tiffany Doggett, Amy Gifford and Lisa Wiesner will be working with all of our first grade classrooms and 15 LA students under the guidance of Mr. John Kaiser, in the planting of 500 bulbs around our school.

As always, we encourage parent involvement in the educational process at Florence Roche!

Sincerely,
Ruthann P. Goguen, Principal Florence Roche

DISCLAIMER

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION:

It is the policy of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or homelessness in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Also, students will not be excluded for reasons of marriage or pregnancy. Requests for information about these laws and/or grievance procedures should be directed to Jeanne Mitchell, Human Resource Manager, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, (978) 448-5505.

