
THE CONNECTION

Published by the Franklin School PTO

Jan 11, 2008

Attendance Line 617-559-9509

PRINCIPAL'S PAD

We have now in the midst of January's cold weather, although a few warmer days provided a wonderful respite. Whenever there are piles of snow, the traffic and parking for Franklin School prove to be serious problem. This results in snarls (with some snarling by unhappy motorists) and some forbidden double parking on Derby Street. There was specific information provided to all about the Blue Zone, so **double parking is NOT to occur. Respecting the Blue Zone requirements cannot and should not be ignored.** While we can all hope for less snow, we need to think about the safety of our children.

Our children really want to play outside daily and the staff wants to provide them with that opportunity. Fresh air is so necessary for student's health and for their ability to focus during class time. Remember that we have outdoor recess every day unless the temperature (or wind chill) goes below freezing, or there is precipitation. I have sent children out when the temperature is at 28-30 degrees. When it is in the low 20s there is no negotiations about staying inside. **Please send your children to school with boots, hats, gloves, and a warm coat, and snow pants, if possible.** This past week it was necessary to have electricians visiting our kindergarten wing more than one day repairing heating units. If repairs are delayed, we have back-up spots where a classroom can go until the heat is restored in that room.

With the New Year, it is that time to renew study habits. One of the literacy goals for the Franklin School, and the Newton Public Schools, is that **students will read each evening or be read to.** This is a highly valued expectation. In addition, students are expected to do their homework. If a child has difficulty with some aspect of their homework, and they have put in the allocated time, then a parent should feel free to write a note on the homework asking that the classroom teacher review with the student. What is helpful for the teacher is an explanation of what was tried and what was not understood. Finally, I noticed that families are

Jan 15	Principal's Coffee 8:20 am
Jan 16	5 th grade concert
Jan 23	7:30 pm PTO Meeting
Jan 25	Family Movie Night
Feb 7	Early Release
Feb 9	Midwinter Coffeehouse

really trying to get their children to school on time. Thank you. The first bell rings at 8:20 and the second bell rings at 8:35. We want students in their classrooms ready to work by the second bell. By this time of year we also expect that good-byes are said to students, and parents are out of the classrooms by second bell

Our **second graders** have been waiting for January to arrive for it is that time of year when they get to walk out the door without their teachers escorting them. This is an important milestone for them and very exciting. I do notice, however, that teachers are still nearby to help with the transition.

May 2008 be a successful and joyful one for you and your family.

Sincerely,
Ruth H. Chapman, Interim Principal

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NEWS FROM THE PTO

Happy New Year! At this time of year when we make resolutions (and resolve not to break them!), we look forward to both the new and traditional PTO initiatives coming our way in the next few months. The PTO may not be able to help you lose weight or call your mother more often, but we can help you form new friendships within our community and get involved with your child's education.

Beginning January 15th, Principal Ruth Chapman and the PTO invite all parents and guardians to a new monthly series of **Principal Coffees**. Meeting at 8:20-9:15 am, Ruth and other leaders at Franklin will discuss topics such as curriculum, Newton's strategic planning, class size, social and health issues, middle school preparation – issues that are important to you. Ruth is looking forward to becoming a partner with you in enhancing your child's experience at Franklin.

Also new, but not "news" at this juncture, is our **Coco Keys** mini-vacation on January 21. So far, more than 150 Franklin friends have made plans to frolic in the warm waters. If you haven't bought your tickets yet, you have until next Thursday (1/17) to get in touch with Susan Boyer. With over half the ticket price going directly to the Franklin Playground Renovation Fund, this really is double the fun!

Carrying forth with some Franklin favorites, the PTO is excited for the **Family Movie Night**, the **Midwinter Coffee House**, the **Spring Auction**, and **Multi-Cultural Day**.

Whether you enjoy events with kids or without, rowdy or relaxed, you're sure to have fun at one or all. So, when you see the fliers asking for help, pick the event that interests you most and jump right in. It might be just that easy to check off a New Years resolution!

Our next **PTO meeting** will be Wednesday, January 23rd at 7:30pm. Look for fliers soon to announce the agenda.

Kim and Susan



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Mark your calendars for Franklin School Movie NIGHT

Friday, January 25th, 2008. There will be 2 showings. 5:30 and 7:00 pm. Pizza available from 5-5:30 for \$1 a slice. Kids wear their

PJ's and bring a sleeping bag or blanket and pillows to spread out on the auditorium floor. You can't beat the Cost: \$5 includes popcorn and drink. Parents are free. Send your movie selection ideas to...Christine Nunziato-Bonenfant

Volunteers needed to fill bags with popcorn, fill water cups, ticket takers, cleanup and set up. To volunteer please call or email Midge Connolly

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COME OUT AND HANG OUT AT THE MIDWINTER COFFEEHOUSE!

It's time to think about booking your babysitter for the Franklin School PTO's Eighth Annual Midwinter Coffeehouse! It's a warm, cozy evening of folk music during the "blahs" of February. It will be held on **Saturday, February 9th** at the First Unitarian Society in Newton, 1326 Washington St. in West Newton Square. Doors open at 6:30 so people can come in and socialize; the bar will be open, and beer and wine will be available (as well as coffee and snacks). GREAT music will run from 7 to 10:30 pm. This year's performers include stand-up comic and emcee Eric Moore, Galina Brusilovsky, Carroll Eastman, Pam McA'Nulty and Don Levey, Jennifer O'Brien, Michael Rizzo, Cindy Mapes and Constellations, Rob Siegel, and special guest CATIE CURTIS (Franklin parent and nationally-known singer/songwriter!). You can purchase tickets in advance for \$15 by calling Cindy Mapes or emailing midwintercoffeehouse@yahoo.com and you can buy them at the door.

Cindy Mapes and Patrice Joyce, Co-Chairs of the Midwinter Coffeehouse Committee

SPRING AUCTION HELP NEEDED!!!

Save the date! Mar 7th

Planning for the Franklin annual auction is underway, and we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to help with the following tasks:

Solicitors
Database
Classroom Baskets
Teacher Treats
Teacher liaison
Mystery Bags
Art Gallery
Promotion
Correspondence
Decorations
Food
Entertainment
Donation Storage and Bid Sheets
Program
Ticket Sales
Thank You Notes

Time commitments vary, and we need volunteers--everyone, not just those with special skills. Please contact Parris Farr and Mindy Berg, and thank you for your support!

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Garden City Kindergarten and Pre-K Spring Soccer

registration begins Jan 11th.

Girls and Boys currently in Kindergarten or Preschool (must be 4 years of age) are invited to join. GCKS provides an introduction to the game of soccer; teaching a variety of basic skills in a fun, non-competitive environment. Team sizes are limited to 10 players in each group. In order to optimize on-field practice and game time, the league limits the number of players to 80. The Spring season runs from April 12- June 7th. Practice/games are held Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 am for the Kindergarten league and 10:45-11:45 am for the Pre-K league. Games are played on the field at Burr School, Pine Street in Auburndale. Volunteer parent coaches are needed. No experience is necessary and training will be provided. Cost is \$60 per child. GCKS is a joint venture of Lincoln-Eliot & Franklin School's Parent Teacher Organization. Proceeds benefit both schools PTO programs. To register, email gardencitysoccer@gmail.com or call L-E School parent Melanie Varady or Franklin School parent Deb Rooney. Registration deadline is March 28th.

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
MULTICULTURAL DAY 2008**

Multicultural Day will be held on March 18, 2009. This is a wonderful Franklin community event! Each year families participate by either hosting a country table, volunteering at the pot luck, or being on the committee.

Country Tables - A country table is a great way to showcase your country of origin or heritage. It is fun (and educational) way that you can work with your children and put together information about your country of origin or heritage. The table could include things like a map of the country, interesting information about that country and an activity that the children could do at your table. If you are interested in hosting a country table and for further information please contact Joanne Caruso.

Pot Luck - If you are interested in volunteering on the night of the event- we need volunteers to help on that night to organize the food that is brought in and also coordinate the drink and dessert tables. Volunteers are needed for set-up, volunteering during the event and also clean up. If you can help us with any of this it would be greatly appreciated.

Committee - If you would like to get more involved and be on the committee please contact Joanne Caruso or see Angela Coffidis, the ELL teacher at Franklin.

Let all work together to make the 2008 Multicultural Night a fun event for the entire Franklin Community- Our Children, Teachers and Parents/Guardians.

Thank you
Joanne Caruso and Angela Coffidis
Multicultural Night Chairs

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**5th Grade Graduation/Moving On
Ceremony Meeting:**

When: Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Janet Quinn's house
248 Adams Avenue

Your input is needed to help make the graduation a very special day for our 5th graders, their families, the teachers, and the Franklin community. Hope you can join us.

Save the date: **5th grade bake sale - Feb. 5th** in the Franklin gym.

Please contact Julie Barbieri, Janet Quinn or Melissa DeNucci with any questions.

Box Tops Announcement.

Congratulations to the fourth grade class of Lauren Ayube and Heather Lufkin. They managed to collect 407 Box Tops for the PTO. As of print time, the prize is yet to be determined, but it should be awarded within the next week or two. Honorable mention goes to Jaqueline Skolnik Mahoney's class (391), Geri Russillo's class (335), Eileen Keane's class (333), Michelle Matteo's class (333) and Mary Jane Boudreau's class (305). Over all, this contest raised \$455 for the Franklin PTO!

Hopefully, you continued to save those Box Tops over the winter break because **we are running the contest again!** This time there will be a prize for the classrooms with the three highest totals!

The next contest starts now and will continue through April 18th. Watch your children's' folders for details. Grab a bag out of your kitchen drawer and start (or continue) collecting your Box Tops. Please be careful to submit the entire Box Tops coupon (including the expiry date). When you have a bundle, put your teacher's name on the bag and send it in to school. If you don't put a name on (or in) the bag, it can't be assigned to your class.

Good luck to everyone and thanks for your participation so far!

Jennifer Roy
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SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

The Franklin Community participated in the Salvation Army's Wish Upon a Star program last holiday season. Thank you for your generosity - we helped make the wishes of many underprivileged children come true. A big thank you as well to the Social Action Ambassadors Michael Shriver; Hunter Adam, Mikayla Kayser; Noam Shores, Charlotte Carter, Lucy Marshall, Izabella Vasquez-Solis, Cate Waters, Gaby Nugent; Lauren Fitzpatrick, Cassie (Cassandra) Scheirer; BAILEY EVELETH, Ella Palmon, Seth Freedman, Benjamin Lublin; Brycen Adams, Deven Labovitch, Ellie Strayer, Anne Shriver who ran the projects in their classrooms.

Here are some reports from specific classrooms:

Ms. Mayo's kindergarten class raised money for Keren, age 7. Charlotte Carter and Lucy Marshall explained to their class that Keren's family needed some help buying her gifts. The class bought a bicycle, helmet, CD player and a Target gift card. Many students in the class participated in this important project and they were happy to hear about all the gifts Keren will receive.

Ms. Fucci's class bought Jessica a bicycle (with training wheels and a helmet), a Barbie doll, Barbie kitchen and some Barbie clothes, 2 pair pants, 2 shirts, a fleece pullover, shoes and socks.

Ms Dichino's class delivered a bike, helmet, lock, remote control car, rechargeable batteries, sneakers, hat, 2 pairs of gloves and two shirts to the Christmas Castle in Waltham for Eduardo.

Mr. Kanode's class collected lots of warm winter clothes and plenty of toys to make this a very memorable holiday for Austin.

Ms D'Eath's class was very generous and bought Jose a shiny new green bike, helmet and pads, a sweatshirt, mittens and a hat. Jose also got the Build-a-Bear certificate that he wanted.

Ms. Matteo's fifth grade class raised enough money to buy a nine-yearold girl a bike with a helmet and a lock, two long-sleeve shirts, and a pair of blue warm-up style pants with a matching jacket and short-sleeve shirt. They also bought a boombox (that plays CDs), eight 8 C batteries and a \$15 Target gift card (for a new CD or anything else) that went to a fourteen year old boy. They even had enough money left over to buy a new basketball for a third child.

We wish you a happy and healthy 2008 - do keep on giving!

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PTO Inventory Clearance Sale!

All Franklin School Sweatshirts are now \$5. These heather gray crew neck sweatshirts are perfect for layering against the cold. Available sizes are Children's Medium (10-12) and Large (14-16) and Adult S, M, XL. (Adult M & XL have just a few left. Adult L are sold out.)

Franklin School Cookbooks for just \$10 make great holiday gifts. Originally compiled for the 2004 MultiCultural Day, the cookbook contains 300 recipes from over 30 countries.

To order without delay, return the form at the back of this Connection, or email Kim Freedman or Susan LaPierre.

PROJECT ALLIANCE WORKSHOPS

The workshops are a great way to receive thorough and current information about things that effect our students learning. **All workshops are from 3-5 at the Ed. Ctr. Annex.** A minimum of 25 participants are needed to run the workshops.

Jan. 16 Internet Safety

Between email, instant messaging, and chat rooms, how can educators and parents teach children to stay safe online? This training is designed to build awareness about the opportunities and dangers that are unique to the Internet. Participants will learn about the crimes that are most frequently perpetrated against juveniles, criminal law and how it can protect us, and how to involve parents in safeguarding their children.

Feb. 6 Alcohol and Other Drugs

The leading causes of death among 16- to 24-year-olds are alcohol and other drugs. Parents, educators, and community leaders need to have up-to-date information on trends in student use of alcohol as well as the newest designer, over the counter, and "club" drugs. This training highlights the prevalence of substance use, the dangerous connection between substance use, sexual assault, and other forms of violence, and the applicability of criminal law, school policy, and proven prevention strategies to address risky behavior.

March 6 Eliminating Intolerance

Bullying, harassment, racism, and acts of violence often stem from one core element: intolerance. This training—formerly called 'Bullying Prevention' but incorporating some new content—will equip you with practical tools and effective strategies to foster a climate of respect and safety within your school or community. Learn how to dispel prevalent myths about bullying, review recent research on violence prevention 'best practices,' and elicit buy-in from both students and parents. Participants will have to opportunity to role-play the most effective things to say and do during an incident involving intolerance.

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Newton's Technology Advisory Committee Update January 2008

Newton's Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed in November 2006. The goal of the advisory committee is to provide a vehicle for community input into the design and implementation of an updated Three-Year Technology Plan for the schools. The research and subsequent recommendations done last year by six TAC subcommittees serve as the basis of Newton's Three-Year

Technology Plan, 2008-2011. (Final report and recommendations are posted at <http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Technology/TAC/YearOne.html>)

This year volunteer members of Newton's TAC are working in project teams. These teams were chosen based on the Year One detailed action plans of Newton's Three-Year Technology Plan. (The new Three-Year Plan will be presented to the Newton School Committee in late January or early February and will be posted on the NPS website.)

The four project teams are:

- Course Management System ([Missy Costello](#), Project Leader)
- School Portal Design ([Erik Britt-Webb](#), Project Leader)
- 1-1 Learning Initiative ([Bob Zuckernik](#), Project Leader)
- Project-Based Learning ([Andy Liu](#), Project Leader)

The **Course Management Team** is planning and making recommendations for implementing online professional development courses for teachers and curriculum content courses for students. The first goal is to foster a broad base of teachers and curriculum coordinators who are proficient in developing and managing an online course. Newton Public Schools will be using a free open-source system named Moodle. This system is designed to help teachers facilitate the management of educational courses online for teaching other educators or students. High school students in Poway Unified School District (San Diego, California), for example, have been taking courses online since 1998. Teachers in that district have reported that students have shown marked improvement in several areas, such as organization, time management, technology and critical thinking skills. (Go to <http://powayusd.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/online>).

The **School Portal Team** is developing a web site as a primary point of access for the community. It will be designed to improve teacher-parent-school communication. Committee members are researching various school systems that have implemented teacher-parent portals successfully. The team is developing a list of requirements and will work closely with the NPS Technology Department to insure that the project plan fits the NPS infrastructure.

The **1-1 Learning Initiative** is continuing to research the implementation of 1-1 student laptop initiative at a designated grade level. Last year members of the TAC, along with teachers and administrators from the school department, visited several schools that have implemented a 1-1 laptop program at the middle school level. The TAC members were very impressed, for example, with the 1-1 program at the King Middle School in Portland, Maine. King School students participate in project-based learning

called "student expeditions." Each expedition has guiding questions and incorporates various aspects of the Maine State Frameworks. Remarkably, the students were able to talk very coherently about their work--why they were doing it and what they learned. The laptops were used as tools to help with collecting and analyzing data for research as well as creating a final project. The school figured out how to integrate the use of technology in a seamless manner...so the curriculum was the main event...not the tools. The students were invested in the learning, not the tools.

This project team is exploring how a 1-1 laptop program might support the current interdisciplinary initiative (Breaking Ranks in the Middle- BRIM) at our four middle schools and what steps need to be taken to pilot an initiative in Newton.

The **Project-Based Learning Team** is formulating a roadmap for NPS to implement project-based learning into the curriculum across grade levels. (Project-based learning encourages students to work in teams to explore real-world problems, design and create possible solutions, and present their work to a larger community to share knowledge.) This team is using two current project-based learning efforts in robotics and multi-user virtual environments (MUVE) as the foci for developing the roadmap for district-wide implementation of this type of instruction.

In conjunction with the work of these four teams, the work of the fundraising and public relations subcommittee from last year will continue. The work of TAC is critical to the technology initiative as it leverages the expertise and experience of parents with the development of several key initiatives identified in the technology plan.

FY09 Budget Discussion

The School Committee will begin discussions on two versions of the FY09 School Budget on January 14, 2007.

CALENDAR

- January 14 Regular School Committee Meeting Monday
Superintendent's Presentation of Proposed FY09
Override Budget 7:30 p.m. Day Middle School
- January 15 School Committee Review of Override Budget
Tuesday Base budget 7:00 p.m. Education Center
- January 17 School Committee Review of Override Budget
Thursday Budget Adjustments and Program
Improvements 7:00 p.m. Education Center
- January 22 Further Review of Override Budget (if
necessary) Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Education Center
- January 28 Regular School Committee Meeting Monday
Presentation of Proposed Allocation Budget 7:30
p.m. Day Middle School
- January 30 School Committee Review of Allocation Budget
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Education Center

February 4 School Committee Review of Allocation Budget
Monday Straw Vote on Override and Allocation
Budgets 7:00 p.m. Education Center

February 6 Public Hearing on Override and Allocation
Budgets Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Day Middle School

February 11 Regular School Committee Meeting Monday
Vote on FY09 Override and Allocation Budgets 7:30
p.m. Education Center

Override Budget - Because of the upcoming override vote, the School Committee will be reviewing and debating two budgets for FY09. The first is called the Override Budget and will be reviewed in January of 2008. This budget will reflect what the school department programs and services will look like with the additional funds available if the overrides passes. Click on to the School Committee website to see the guidelines for the override budget.

<http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee/budget/budget09.html>

Allocation Budget - The second budget is called the Allocation Budget. This budget will reflect what the school department programs and services will be with the revenues available without a tax override. The Budget Guidelines for the Allocation Budget will be reviewed and voted on by the School Committee in December 2007. Click on to the School Committee website to see the guidelines for the non-override budget.

<http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee/budget/budget09.html>

Summary of Recent School Committee Meeting

The School Committee publishes a summary of recent meetings on its website by the Friday after each meeting. This document is meant to give a timely update on issues before the School Committee before the detailed minutes are approved and archived.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Friends, Neighbors and Educational Leaders at the 2008 Winter Dinner Series. The Newton Schools Foundation's 2008 annual fundraiser "The World At Our Fingertips" is an opportunity for you to travel the globe through hosted dinners at restaurants and homes across the villages of Newton - while supporting great education in Newton. Taste delicious cuisine crossing diverse regions and engage with many wonderful and varied guest speakers. The Winter Dinner Series runs from February 1st - February 10th and benefits the Newton Public Schools. Details on specific dining options, date, time and contribution levels can be found at www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org, by email @ nikki_shearman@newton.k12.ma.us or by calling the Newton Schools Foundation office at 617-559-6120. "A Great Community Supports Great Schools"

"Chess for Children" Winter Program for all Newton Elementary Students. A district-wide chess program will begin Monday January 14th and meet every Monday evening for 6 weeks at Day Middle School. Choose between two sessions: 6:30-7:30pm or 7:30-8:30pm. Classes start shortly after the break and space is limited. All students will receive chess strategy guides which they will work through each week with the instructors. A unique "Sportsmanship Tournament" will be held on the final class. For more info and to register go to: www.chessforchildren.net. Newton's registration code: 10406. Email questions to programs@chessforchildren.net or call 617-314-9624.

Bowen Cooperative Nursery School is hosting an afternoon of music with **David Polansky** on Friday, January 18, 2008 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm at the Hyde Community Center, Newton Highlands. Tickets are \$8 in advance, children under 12 months are free. David Polansky's music is frequently humorous, sometimes serious, and always clever and engaging. He has won numerous awards and his Animal Alphabet Songs were spotlighted on Morning Edition on National Public Radio. You can register for this event by calling Abby at 617-964-3310 or emailing her at asosland@icfi.com or sending a check by January 14th to Bowen Cooperative Nursery School, 96 Otis Street, Newtonville, MA 02460, ATTN: Barbara Cleary.

Ice Skating: Registration is open for the winter session classes start January 18, 2008 at local MDC IceSkating Rinks. Go to: [Http://activityreg.com](http://activityreg.com) click: Mass click: Newton Parks & Recreation From the drop menu select skating lessons or call NPRD 617-796-1500 for ages 4 1/2 through Adults

Puddlestompers February Vacation ages 3-6 Nahanton Park \$45/day Tues. - Fri 9-12noon. Limited enrollment register TODAY 617-1525.

Funtastic Fridays: Exclusively for fifth graders. Feb 1, March 7, April 4 & June 13, 2008. 7 - 9PM at the Hyde Community Center.

Kids Korner Pre-School registration open call 617-796-1500.

"Daddy King" as told by storyteller Sumner McClain, will be presented on Sunday, January 20 at 1:00 PM at the Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada Street, Newtonville. The journey from childhood to adulthood as only a father could see it, brings a living, breathing Martin Luther King to life. His feeling, hopes and dreams infuse a new meaning of the man and his work. Fee: \$5.00 Call 617 527-8283

JEWISH SUNDAY SCHOOL (BJEP) OPEN HOUSE
You are cordially invited to experience and learn about The

Jewish Education Program on the Campus of Brandeis University (BJEP), Open House on Sunday, March 9, 2008 from 10:00-11:30 am. Come enjoy coffee & bagels with us, watch a video, and learn about our creative programs for grades 1-7. You will also meet the Director, several teachers and visit a classroom. Interfaith families and those without synagogue affiliation are especially welcome! To register for the open house, e-mail krookwood@yahoo.com or call for more information 781-648-1691. Directions to the Shiffman Building at the Brandeis campus, 415 South St., Waltham, are also available on our website: www.bjep.com

The Underground Railroad, from Newton to the End of the Line: The Newton Free Library will present this three-part program on Thursday, February 21 at 7:00PM. Sheila Sibley, Education Manager at the Newton History Museum, will give a talk on Newton's connection to the Underground Railroad. A quartet of Berklee College of Music voice students will sing Walter Robinson's song about Harriet Tubman. And Jacqueline Tobin, author of the new book *From Midnight to Dawn*, will speak about its story of fugitive exslaves on the last leg of the Underground Railroad from Detroit to free black settlements in Canada. Free admission. For information, call the Newton Free Library at 617-796-1360.

StrollerFit-Exercise With Your Child! Looking for a fun way to get fit without leaving your child behind? Come try StrollerFit-a fun, fabulous, fast-paced workout for moms with stroller aged children. Classes are at Pine Manor College gymnasium. Right now you can try a FREE WEEK of classes. Call Diane at 617-429-6369 or email diane@strollerfit.com for more information.

FAMILY PROGRAM: WEAVING TOGETHER STORIES OF ABOLITION Sunday, January 27, 3:30 to 5 pm We have an exciting discovery at the Museum: our collections and those of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming both contain what was once the same piece of African cloth dating from the early 1800s. Come and learn how the pieces were separated and what they have to do with New England abolition. You'll have the opportunity to see the real textile and touch a reproduction. Learn about the Underground Railroad at the Newton History Museum, interpret code songs, and hear compelling stories of escape. This is a great program for the whole family to share! Free with Museum admission. At the Newton History Museum, 527 Washington Street, Newton MA 02458. To register or for additional information, call 617-796-1450

CRAZY STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD Tuesday, January 29, 3:30 to 5 pm An Early -Release Day Program Explore cultural ideas from China, Japan, Pakistan, Russia, Israel and South Korea through story activities and video clips. Take home your own set of cards to play "crazy

stories" at home. Instructor David Deng, a student at Newton North High School, is originally from China. This program is being held in conjunction with the current exhibit, Hyphenated-Origins: Going Beyond the Labels. Cost for this drop-off program is \$10 (\$8 for Newton Historical Society members); appropriate for ages 8 and up. Preregistration is required and space is limited. Call 617-796-1450. At the Newton History Museum, 527 Washington Street, Newton MA 02458.

SPORTS

Garden City Kindergarten and Pre-K Spring Soccer registration begins Jan 11th. Girls and Boys currently in Kindergarten or Preschool (must be 4 years of age) are invited to join. GCKS provides an introduction to the game of soccer; teaching a variety of basic skills in a fun, non-competitive environment. Team sizes are limited to 10 players in each group. In order to optimize on-field practice and game time, the league limits the number of players to 80. The Spring season runs from April 12- June 7th. Practice/games are held Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 am for the Kindergarten league and 10:45-11:45 am for the Pre-K league. Games are played on the field at Burr School, Pine Street in Auburndale. Volunteer parent coaches are needed. No experience is necessary and training will be provided. Cost is \$60 per child. GCKS is a joint venture of Lincoln-Eliot & Franklin School's Parent Teacher Organization. Proceeds benefit both schools PTO programs. To register, email gardencitysoccer@gmail.com or call L-E School parent Melanie Varady at 617-244-5773 or **Franklin School parent** Deb Rooney at (617) 630-8520. Registration deadline is March 28th.

Register now for **Newton Kindergarten Soccer** Spring 2008! All children entering kindergarten or first grade in Newton in the fall of 2008 are invited to join the program which has been introducing children to soccer since 1993. The program is co-ed and focuses on fun while developing confidence as children learn the basics of the game. Teams are typically organized by elementary school so this a great opportunity to meet other families from your school and give your child a chance to make friends before starting kindergarten. Kindergarten Soccer will meet on 8 Saturday mornings, April 5 through June 7 (except 4/19 and 5/24) at Richardson Field, located between Beethoven and Allen Avenues (just beyond Zervas School). Kindergarteners will play from 9:15 to 10:15, and pre-kindergarteners will play from 10:45 to 11:45. The fee for Kindergarten Soccer is \$60. Your child will receive a team t-shirt, as well as a medal at the end of the program. For registration and information, please visit www.kindergartensoccer.org. Questions? Please email us at ksoccer@kindergartensoccer.org.

KIDS' KARATE Free Trial Beginners Class Friday, Jan. 18, 4:45-5:45, or Sat., Jan. 19, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Girls and Boys; elementary school and middle school students. \$79 per 7-Week Session. No uniform worn for 7-Week Beginners course. Beautiful rental space at Trinity High School. For more information, please leave message for Rich Jacobs, KIDS' KARATE Director, at (617) 527-8052. Also, see www.kids-karate.org

ALTERNATIVE BASKETBALL CLASS for girls in grades 4 - 6 who like a quieter pace. Fun, upbeat class for those girls who need support on motor-planning or who have been too timid to try regular basketball. Mondays 5:30 - 6:30 at the Hyde Community Center beginning January 7th. Call Susan immediately at 617-527-0663.

Newton West Little League (NWLL): If you would like to play baseball this coming season the deadline to register is January 15th. You can register online at <http://www.newtonwestll.org>. After January 15th we can not guarantee a slot and, if there is room available, there will be a \$20 late fee. For more information visit our website at <http://www.newtonwestll.org>

Newton Girls Soccer Spring 2008 Registration is ongoing for Kindergarten through grade 9. Intramural games are played Saturdays April 5 through June 7th. For grades 2-9 there is also a weekly practice. Scholarships available. Register online at www.newtongirlssoccer.org, click on 'Registration'.

Think Spring! Think Softball! **Newton Girls Softball** has begun online registration for the Spring season. The program is open to all girls in grades 1-8. Players of all skill levels will have a rewarding experience. Go to www.newtongirlssoftball.org for details about the Spring season and the ongoing Winter indoor clinics. Register before January 31, 2008 to avoid a late fee.

SUMMER CAMPS & PROGRAMS

Annual Camp Fair Tuesday, February 5, 2008 2-7PM War Memorial Hall, Newton City Hall snow date 2/7/08 Come meet the Camp Directors learn more about the various camps & clinics and swimming facilities

Be a summer star! Join the **Brookline Smart Summers Theater Arts Program!** A fun experience in the arts for children ages 7-13. Students take classes in acting, music, dance, and art with professional artists/educators. At the end of each session, students perform an original musical. The

program runs at the Lincoln School in Brookline, Monday-Friday, 8:30-4, June 27-July 11, & July 14-July 25th. For more information, email theaterartscamp@aol.com. To register, contact Brookline Adult & Community Education at 617-730-2700.

CLASSIFIED

Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.

Tutor available: Experienced tutor available on the elementary level. Subjects include reading, math and writing. I work in the Wellesley Public Schools and live and tutor in Newton. Please contact me at: Haralie Alpert 617-630-0608 or Haralie@gmail.com.

A couple of choice times available now for **piano lessons** in the Newton area. Very experienced teacher for all ages and levels. Chamber Music arranged when appropriate. In my home or through the music school. Call Jane Wanger at 617-965-2305 or e-mail: thewangers@prodigy.net

PIANO INSTRUCTION Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 25+ years teaching experience has several openings in studio. Beginners Welcome. Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sightreading from a patient, caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski phone: 617.566.9704 email: piano566@comcast.net

Temporary (6 month) part-time estate planner. Draft documents at small, family friendly, estate/trust planning and administration law firm in Newton. Must have at least 3 years planning and related tax experience. Collegial yet professional atmosphere. Email resume to LFarina@CPLawPro.com.

Experienced Newton middle school math teacher with over 20 years of middle school and elementary classroom teaching and tutoring experience is accepting students. Call Russ at 508-847-8282 or email russellahunt@yahoo.com

Franklin Office 617-559-9500

The next Connection will be published on Jan 25th. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is Friday, Jan 18th, NOON, but feel free to send it to me early. Ads are only printed as space allows, so meeting the deadline is not a guarantee of ad placement.

PTO Inventory Clearance Sale!

All Franklin School Sweatshirts are now **\$5**. These heather gray crew neck sweatshirts are perfect for layering against the cold.

Franklin School Cookbooks for just **\$10** make great holiday gifts. Originally compiled for the 2004 MultiCultural Day, the cookbook contains 300 recipes from over 30 countries.

To order without delay, return this form to the school office with your check made payable to Franklin PTO. Purchases will be sent home with your child.

PTO Sweatshirt and Cookbook Sale

Please indicate the number needed for the available sizes below:

Sweatshirts **\$5** Each: Child Medium (10/12) _____ Large (14-16) _____
Adult Small _____ Med _____ X-Large _____
(Adult M & XL have just a few left.)

Franklin School Cookbook **\$10** Each: _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Child's Name and Teacher: _____