
THE CONNECTION

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Attendance Line 617-559-9509

PRINCIPAL'S PAD

What is a partial sum? A partial product? How do I help my child with math homework when I don't understand what is being asked of him/her? If these, or similar questions, occupy your thinking during homework time, please join us at the upcoming PTO meeting. Mary Eich will be leading parents through an interactive evening to help parents understand the terminology and purpose behind some of the math strategies which may be unfamiliar. Most parents have had similar core experiences in terms of learning specific procedures (algorithms) for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. These historically-taught algorithms are reassuring in their familiarity, yet, represent only one way to perform number operations. Without understanding, these same algorithms may confuse some children or even lead to computational errors. Join us at the March 16th PTO meeting to explore and experience alternative algorithms and gain more insight into our math program.

Cindy Marchand, Principal

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NEWS FROM THE PTO CO-PRESIDENTS

Just because the kids' bedtimes are finally back in order and our schedules are somewhat normal again doesn't mean there isn't time for fun! The Franklin PTO has some great events headed your way.

Step, twirl, cha-cha, and do-si-do -- our kids are putting the finishing touches on their international dances for **Multicultural Day on March 9th, from 9:00-12:00 in the auditorium.** They can't wait to show you! Hope to see everyone there!

From India, China, and Israel to Ireland, Brazil, and Italy (to name just a few!), come eat fantastic home-cooking from around the globe on **Multicultural Night, March 9th, 5:30, in the auditorium.** Thanks to the spirited generosity of our community, we have a superb night of food, live performances, "trips around the world," and time to meet new families or chat with old friends. This is a beautifully run event for **parents and kids** to get to know other Franklin families.

Mar 6 th	Spring Dinner/Auction Meeting
Mar 9 th	Multicultural Day
Mar 16 th	PTO Meeting, 7:30 pm
Mar 24 th	Family Movie Night
Apr 1 st	Spring Dinner Dance & Auction

Also in March for families, and back by popular demand, is **Franklin's Family Movie Night on March 24th at 6pm in the auditorium.** Sleeping bag and cozy pajamas (you too parents!) required. Popcorn and entertainment provided. It's a blast!

After all that togetherness with your family -- you'll need a special night out, just the grownups, right? We can help you with that! The **Spring Dinner Dance and Auction** is shaping up to be the best yet. The committee is going all out this year (but not overbudget!) with catered food, a live DJ for some serious dancing, and of course the best donations ever for the raffles and auctions. This is **our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need you there!** There will be some fantastic items auctioned off for every budget, starting at \$5. Local businesses, teachers, parents, and our principal are donating incredible items for you and your kids. Come out and support our school and our local businesses. **Book your babysitter now for April 1st. Post 440 at 7:30pm**

Parents, the money we raise from our fundraisers goes right back to our kids' classrooms every day to fund field trips, guest speakers, new materials, and books for the library. Because of your support we also have wonderful programs like **Understanding Our Differences**, which gave the fourth graders a fantastic presentation last month about kids with Downs syndrome. One of our Franklin family's fourteen-year-old son, Brian, came to talk about his life with Downs. Within two minutes, he dispelled a world of stereotypes. You would have been proud too of our kids -- they asked great questions and showed a level of compassion and understanding beyond their years. Thanks to MaryBeth McIntyre, the Heffernans, Mary Baker, Kim Freedman, Pat Larson, Jennifer O'Brien, Kathy Palumbo, Cathlene Ryan, Mary Reynders, and the fourth grade teachers for this exceptional day.

The budget process is underway for the 2006/2007 school year and it's no secret that it's going to be a challenge. **Stand For Children**, a national advocacy group, to which Newton is a member, is actively pursuing the State Legislature in an effort to increase the funding required to educate our children and keep them and education a top priority. Representatives are needed from each school. **We are looking for a representative from Franklin School** to attend meetings, provide input and communicate as necessary. If you are interested in serving on the group and or would like more information please contact Elizabeth or Maria.

We look forward to seeing you at our next General PTO Meeting on **Thursday, March 16th at 7:30pm** in the auditorium. A "Math Night" is the theme. We're hoping calculators are okay...

Elizabeth and Maria



Multicultural Day

Thursday March 9th, 2006
9am – 12 noon and 5:30pm – 8:30pm

POTLUCK DINNER
PERFORMANCES
COUNTRY BOOTHS

Sample delicious foods, and experience the music and dances of different cultures « Bring your favorite ethnic dish for our International Potluck Dinner « Watch student dances from around the world in the gym « Watch performances by students and members of our community in the auditorium « View selected artwork by Franklin students
If you plan to attend please return the form to your child's classroom by Monday February 14th

Questions? Call:
Sheila Lennihan
Angela Coffidis
JoanneCaruso
Ellen Whalley
Sara Jauniskis

IMPORTANT:
Please label any dishes that contain nuts or dairy products!
Please bring food in disposable containers!

Welcoming Committee

Remember what it was like to be a new parent to the Franklin school community? Did you feel clueless? How about your child? Was he/she nervous about not knowing other kids? The PTO Welcome Committee was established to help ease the transition to the Franklin school for incoming kindergarteners and their parents as well as other new families to Franklin through a "buddy" system, tours of the school and dissemination of information. If you are interested in making new families feel more welcome, please consider being a part of the Welcome Committee next year. A new chair is needed along with other committee volunteers. If interested, please contact Michelle Roover.



The Franklin PTO is happy to present its second annual

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

The Movie Night Planning Committee has details for you at last! **Get set for doors to open at 6:15 pm for a 6:30 showing of Chicken Run! in the Auditorium on Friday evening, March 24th.** Don't forget to bring your sleeping bags, pajamas, popcorn appetite and a bit of luck as we will be raffling off some fun movie-related surprise prizes during the movie's intermission! "Virtual" tickets can be purchased at the door, or better yet, in advance during drop off and pick up on Wednesday, March 22nd – Friday, March 24th. We will also be pre-selling raffle tickets during those three days. **The Auditorium has a limited capacity so to assure your spot, we encourage pre-buying tickets! The price can't be beat - \$5 per child**, including movie, popcorn and drinks (adults are free!). Please note that children need to be accompanied by at least one adult...**not a drop off evening!** If you are interested in pre-selling tickets and/or volunteering the night of the movie, it's not too late...just call or e-mail Michelle Roover, Committee Chair. See you at the movies!!!

SEARCHING FOR TREASURE!

Franklin's 3rd Annual Tag Sale will be held Saturday, June 3. So, as you're eliminating clutter around the house, consider saving books and CDs, baby equipment, toys of all kinds, sporting goods, bikes, and housewares of all kinds for this fun event. Donations are tax-deductible! Contact Kim Freedman with any questions.

Calling For Box Tops

It's time to bring your Box tops to school collection box (across from the school office). Please keep collecting them and bring your saved Box tops in March 15th to 20th. If you have not signed up as a BOOSTER CLUB member yet, it is not too late to do so. After you sign up you'll get coupons, promotion and news about your school's boxtops status. Sign up & Shop through the Market Place at www.Boxtops4education and you'll help your school earn rebates from 2% to 7%.

Thanks for your support!

Sandie Wong



Spring Auction and Dinner Dance Needs

Donations, Volunteers, Diners, Dancers, and Bidders

**Saturday, April 1, 2006
6:30-11:30 PM**

American Legion Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton
\$25/person or \$250 reserved table

- Silent & Live Auctions
- Raffles & Mystery Bags
- Full dinner and dessert
- DJ and Dancing
- Cash Bar
- Classroom Baskets & Teacher Treats
- Premier of the Franklin Art Gallery & Art Auction

The Spring Auction brings in 1/3 of the funds raised by the Franklin PTO all year. It is also a fun-filled adults-only evening where parents, teachers, and friends can enjoy dinner, dance, and mingle while bidding for a wide range of goodies in silent and live auctions and purchasing raffle tickets for other prizes. You can contribute to its success in the following ways:

We need you to keep those donations coming!!! Consider making a donation or asking a close friend or relative to donate. All donations are tax-deductible, and donation forms are available on the web at <http://www.franklinpto.org/forms> Return all donation forms to Franklin PTO mailbox.

We need volunteers to setup on 4/1 at 4PM, cleanup after the auction, help out during the auction, and sell tickets before and after school the weeks of March 20 and March 27. Return the bottom of this flyer in your child's folder or to the Franklin PTO mailbox.

We need you to book your babysitter, invite a few friends and relatives, encourage other Franklin friends to attend, and buy tickets in advance or at the door. Fifth grade families, come and reminisce about your child's Franklin days. Kindergarten families, come and get to know each other without your kids. If you've never attended the Spring Auction in the past, it's great fun and it benefits our children. If you can't remember the last time you went out dancing, now's the time to put on your dancing shoes.

We need you to come to the Spring Auction and bid on these fantastic items:
Tiffany's toggle necklace, Tiffany's toggle bracelet, Swiss Army watch, Fessenden Soccer Camp, Fessenden Ice Time, The Candid Canine - pet photography session (value \$275), Lumiere Chef's dinner certificate, Creative Memories scrapbooking set (value \$125, and much, much more!!!

Feel free to contact us with any questions:

Melissa DeNucci

Heather Dias

Next Meeting is March 6th at Melissa DeNucci's house.

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Frankly Speaking

The Staff of Frankly Speaking went on a field trip to the Boston Globe on Thursday, Feb. 16. We had a "kids' press conference" and tour with Lori McGrath. The Franklin students were very well behaved and asked LOTS of great questions. Some students took photos, and everyone took notes in their "reporters' notebooks." We hope the trip will provide food for thought and some great articles for the second edition of Frankly Speaking! THANKS to all the parents and sponsors who drove and chaperoned: Shirley Taylor, Kate Hudec, Jane Rosenof, Jon Klavens, Becky Proskauer, Stan Harte, Linda Belamarich, and Valerie Razis.

REMINDER: Frankly Speaking staff members will meet on Friday, March 3 for their regular meeting from 3 to 4:00 p.m. in the Library. Please have your child bring his/her "reporter's notebook" which they received on the Boston Globe field trip.

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Second Graders Take a Trip to Ghana

Did you know that children in Ghana wake one another with song? That students in the mountain villages carry their own chairs to schools? That gourds can be dried and used to carry just about anything?

These were just a few of the interesting facts second graders learned during their imaginary journey overseas with *Joe and Vida Galeota*. This is the 6th year the Galeotas have brought their "A Day in Ghana" program to Franklin and it was, once again, a huge success! Students traveled to the mountaintop village where Vida was raised, learning about the food, wares, and rituals of daily life along the way. The information was presented in a fun, interactive way, and included some awesome singing, dancing, and West African drumming. It was a class trip the students will never forget—and the Creative Arts program Ms. Dischino looks forward to all year!

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PRETZELS ARE BACK

Due to popular demand, pretzels will be sold every Tuesday, starting January 31st. Look for us either outside (weather permitting) or inside the school. They will be sold for \$1.00, and the proceeds will help with the Fifth Grade Moving On Ceremony.

Technology Fund Drive

Thanks to the support of so many members of our community, Franklin has raised over **\$26,000** for technology-related purchases.

Mrs. Matera has already begun spending that money. Over vacation, wiring projects were underway to improve classroom connectivity. A new shipment of eMacs is on its way. Software has been updated on various workstations. And, a new mobile computer lab with seven brand new laptops is now in service.

For anyone who's been meaning to participate, though, it's not too late! The school still needs a few digital cameras and a video camera to record and share our students' work. With everyone's help, donations large and small will add up fast to make a difference in our children's education. Whenever it's best for you, you can drop off a check in the school office where there will always be a Technology Drive basket. Please make checks payable to the Franklin School PTO.

Thanks to everyone who made this effort a success!

Kim Freedman

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wayne Potash Concert/Silent Auction- Singer/songwriter Wayne Potash will have the whole family dancing at the Burr Cooperative Nursery School fundraising concert/silent auction. Lots of fun activities for children of all ages! Join us on Saturday, March 4, 10am-1pm at the de Witt Auditorium, Winslow Hall, Lasell College, 80 Maple Street, Newton. Tickets \$5/child, \$10/adult, \$25 special family ticket (free admission for children under 2 years old). For advance tickets or more information, log on to www.burrcooperative.org or contact Stacey at (781) 433-0854.

On Wednesday, March 15th, Maria Trozzi, M.Ed. will be presenting on "**Real-life Strategies for Raising Children in a Complicated World**" at the Mason Rice Elementary School Auditorium (149 Pleasant Street, Newton Centre) from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Maria is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine, a consultant for the Child Development Unit at Children's Hospital in Boston, and Director of the nationally renowned Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center. Her credentials and expertise have established her as one of the foremost experts on family resilience and loss in the country. Join Maria Trozzi for an interactive, informative and fun evening where she will explore the typical and not-so-typical speed bumps that children encounter en route to 'growing up'. The speed bumps are inevitable; her refreshing and honest approach focuses on strategies that are

often counter-intuitive for parents, but help children master the coping skills that promote resilience. Some of the topics include: World news events...navigating them for any aged child Encouraging a strong conscience in a world of instant gratification To push or not to push...the race to get ahead Dealing with life's little (and big) disappointments Coping with illness or loss of a family member or pet Talking about big changes...moving, new baby, divorce Promoting resilience in children with physical or mental challenges Tickets for this event are \$5 per person and can be purchased in advance or at the door. For more information, please call (617) 928-3358.

School Traffic Supervisors Part Time \$175.14 a week (35.00 per day) Only 45 minutes twice a day! Weekends and Holidays Off! Hours: MWThF- 7:50-8:35, 3:00-3:45; Tu- 7:50-8:35, 12:30-1:15 The Newton Police Department is looking for School Traffic Supervisors to help our children safely cross intersections and roadways to and from school, while at the same time providing for the orderly and safe movement of vehicular traffic. Applicants must successfully pass a background investigation prior to employment, and must be capable of standing for forty-five minutes twice a day in all weather conditions. Traffic Supervisors must be 18 years of age or older, but no experience is necessary, training is provided. We are looking for pleasant and courteous people who enjoy working with children. Parents, College Students, Grandparents, retirees, neighbors and friends are all welcome to apply. Traffic Supervisors have all weekends off and school vacations! The Police Department provides all uniforms and equipment. Applicants must have own transportation. Have flexible schedule. Good communication skills and professional demeanor. Applications are available at the following location: Newton Police Annex Bldg. 25 Chestnut Street, Newton. Contact Officer Dawn Hough, Safety Officer, at 617-796-2178. Newton City Hall, Human Resource Dept. 1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton.

Newton Free Library: Pajama Storytime (Ages 4 and up) Thursdays at 7:00pm: March 9, 16, 23, 30
Bilingual Storytime Come listen to some fun stories in English and Spanish Thurs, Mar 16 at 9:45AM Ages 2/12+
Science Tuesday-Top Secret Science-Space Adventures Children will explore the constellations, telling time and astronomy Tue, Mar28 at 4 Ages 7+ Registration begins Mar 6 Druker Auditorium
Fun With Folktales-Tricksters Children will hear and talk about trickster folktales from around the world and do a craft. Thurs March 30 at 4:15 Ages 7+ Reg. begins Mar 13
World Cultures—St. Patrick's Day Come learn about this Irish festival with a story, craft and delicious treat. Thurs, Mar 16 at 4:15 Ages 5+ Registration begins Mar 6

Sports & Dance

FIELD HOCKEY CLINIC Who: Girls and Boys in Grades 4-8 What: A Field Hockey Clinic designed to introduce youth to the game When: Saturday April 1 and Sunday April 2 from 1:00-3:00 pm OR Saturday April 8 and Sunday April 9 from 1:00-3:00 pm Where: The West Suburban YMCA Gymnasium located at 276 Church Street in Newton How to Register: Contact the West Suburban YMCA Sports Department at 617-244-6050 ext. 3012 for more information or to register. Cost is \$60 per player. What to Bring: Participants need to bring a mouth guard, shin guards, goggles or face shield, and a stick. Guest Coaches include: Kim Keefe—Newton North J.V. Field Hockey Coach Heidi Hanna—Newton North Freshmen Field Hockey Coach and Former Collegiate Player Current and Former High School Varsity and College Players

Registration for the upcoming spring season of **Newton Girls Intramural Soccer** is currently underway for Newton girls currently in grades 1-9. Games are played on Saturdays, starting April 8 and continue until June 10. For grades 2-9, in addition to the games on Saturdays, there is also generally one practice per week. For the first time, Newton Girls Soccer and Newton Girls Softball have coordinated their weekend game schedules, allowing girls to play both soccer and softball if they wish. The goals of the NGS Intramural Program are for the girls to learn soccer skills, have fun and be part of a team. To register, or to find out more information about the NGS IM Program, please visit our website at www.newtongirlssoccer.org. Scholarships are available based on need.

Down Under Yoga Australian yoga teacher, Justine Wiltshire, has moved to Newton. Yoga teacher to the US Supreme Court, featured in Newton Magazine & Tab, Justine is well known for her detailed instructions, warmth and humor. Beginner and advanced classes (mornings, 5.15pm, 6.30 & 8pm) in Iyengar and flow yoga in Newton Highlands. For free classes + schedule see www.downunderyoga.com or call (617) 928 6080.

CLASSIFIED

Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.

Have your taxes done quickly and electronically. No - we are not H&R Block. Call Patrick McKrill at 781-849-0060

Need electrical work done? Call Scott at 781-727-8698

Burr Cooperative Nursery School in Auburndale is now enrolling children for the 2006-07 school year. B.C.N.S is a small, progressive, nurturing parent cooperative that emphasizes the social and emotional development of each individual child. We offer three, four and five-day options

for 3-5 year olds. For more information and/or to schedule a tour, please call 617.332.0886, or e-mail director@burrcooperative.org.

Legal Help: Need to plan for the future? I can help with your wills, estate plans and other documents. Evening appointments at your home available. Ellen Rappaport Tanowitz, Esq., 617-527-6647, email: ellen.tanowitz@verizon.net

Taverns Painting. Interior painting, professional work, affordable price. Call 617-244-5157 www.HomeOwnersHelpList.com

Handyman Al. Licensed, reliable, affordable. Electrical, carpentry, plumbing, tile, and more. Excellent references. Call 617-244-5157 x2. www.TheRealHandyManAl.com

High Tech Help. Computer maintenance, cable/DSL routers, data transfers, upgrades, training, virus detection/removal. Call 617-244-5157. www.IneedHighTechHelp.com

Tiny Tots has 1, 2, or 3-day spots available for your child ages 1-3. Half or full-day openings. Call Kathy at 617-244-5157. www.HomeOwnersHelpList.com

The next Connection will be published on Friday Mar 17th. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is NOON, Monday, Mar 13th. Ads are only printed as space allows, so meeting the deadline is not a guarantee of ad placement.

Franklin Office 617-559-9500