

---

---

# THE CONNECTION

---

---

Published by the Franklin School PTO

May 2, 2008

**Attendance Line 617-559-9509**

## PRINCIPAL'S PAD

Returning from a restful April Vacation gives all of us extra energy for those final weeks and days of school. This year's vacation offered particularly beautiful weather. The rays of sun brought back an array of rich colors. Newton truly is the Garden City once again. Then, we add some showers from this week to clean things up. I was ready for a new season and I suspect many of you were too. (Especially Spring and its gentle breezes!) Recess becomes an enjoyable time for all particularly when the playing field is not muddy. More importantly we want to emphasize that ours is an inclusive school; everyone gets to play. Each child should find ways to be kind to others. When speaking with your child, please stress respectful and kind behavior.

With Spring's arrival comes the reminder we have much to complete. Suddenly our family schedules speed up to become overcrowded with "to do" lists of activities. Spring can be that time we say hellos and good-byes. While our fourth grade families already know this news, it is important that I share with all of you that two of our wonderful fourth grade teachers will not be at Franklin next year. As many of you know, Lauren Ayube and her husband expect their first child this summer. She will take a child care leave for the school year with plans to return to the school system in 2009-2010. Jill D'Eath and her husband will return to Canada and settle in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. These are two valued professionals who will be sorely missed. I thank them for their tremendous commitment to the Franklin School and its children.

This month brings the return of more MCAS testing. Dates are on our school's website, but let me remind you that grade 5 Math MCAS begins May 12<sup>th</sup>. Grade 4 MCAS Math starts May 14. Grade 3 MCAS Math begins May 15. Grade 5 will also have MCAS tests in Science/ Technology and Social Studies. We do take these tests seriously and expect that students will come to school on time and rested.

May 6	Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
May 14	PTO Meeting 7:30 pm
June 11	3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Art Show
June 11	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Concert
June 12	End of Year Picnic
June 19	Last Day of School --NOON

The Newton Schools Library Teachers and the Newton Free Library are sponsoring an extremely valuable seminar, "Wondering About Internet Safety and Your Child?" This seminar will be held on May 13, 2008 (7-8:30 p.m) at the Newton Free Library. The speaker is Sarah Sogigian, Youth Service Consultant, Metrowest Regional Library System. This presentation is geared for grades 3-5 parents, guardians, and grandparents.

The staff and I look forward to the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual event to which a number of you make a cooking or baking contribution. Please know that this treat is deeply appreciated, so let me offer a huge thank you in advance. Amy Kelly, Franklin's new Principal, will join us at that time, plus she'll visit during Color Day in June.

Please remain up-to-date about the school budget and its affect on the K-12 programs, including Franklin's programs. Also, the last day for placement letters to come to me is May 5.

Sincerely,  
Ruth H. Chapman, Interim Principal

---

## NEWS FROM THE PTO

This May brings a decision on the 20<sup>th</sup>, when the City of Newton will vote on an override. With the many complexities of what cutbacks will be required of the schools and other city services weighed against rising tax bills, this can be a difficult choice for us. To help provide background and an opportunity to ask your elected officials the pertinent questions, the PTO has invited representatives from the School Committee to our next PTO meeting. Please note that our meeting was moved up to **Wednesday, May 14 at 7:30pm.**

As the weather turned warmer in April, parents enjoying late afternoons on the playgrounds noticed that Franklin's gardens and fields needed attention. We thank the newly formed **Environmental Club**, spearheaded by **Laura Thompson** and **Julia Wolfe**, and the Franklin families who volunteered their Patriots Day afternoon to prune and weed, collect trash and lost clothing, and sweep the sand from the sidewalks and steps. With fresh shrubs and flowers in the courtyard, the school has real curb appeal!

Also, many thanks to **Lorraine Miller** for making our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Franklin Skating Day** at Fessenden Rink come to life. Over 70 skaters joined us for two hours on the ice. If skating in April is any indication of devotion to a sport, we may have some Olympians in our future!

On Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon** will show our Franklin faculty how deeply we value their efforts on behalf of our children. Volunteers are needed to contribute your favorite luncheon dish, decorate the auditorium, or help serve the luncheon in style. Please let Heather Dias know how you would like to help.

Franklin's art teacher, Ms. Leed, is hosting a student **Art Show** at Franklin on June 11th. Parent volunteers are needed now to assist Ms. Leed in matting and labeling the artwork for display. She would be happy for you to work on this at home with supplies she will provide. If you would like to help, please contact Ms. Leed at robin\_leed@newton.k12.ma.us.

In the last Connection we introduced a new reading incentive program - **Books 4 Bikes**. The program has been scheduled for three weeks of reading activity from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Every reading log returned by May 28<sup>th</sup> will qualify students in a raffle for a new bicycle. Two bikes will be awarded to Franklin students, so the chances of winning are real! See information packets coming home today for full entry instructions.

In every Connection letter we draft, we describe exciting events, ways to help the school, and notices that affect our families and children. Do you enjoy some or all of it? Do you have novel ideas for the future at Franklin? If so, the PTO is beginning to plan for next year, and we need your input. More importantly, we need new Board members. If you'd like to investigate how your interests can help Franklin in small or large ways, please contact Susan LaPierre, Kim Freedman, Eleanor Ambrosio, Walter Devine or Terri Romanelli.

Kim and Susan



## Staff Appreciation Luncheon Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Please help show our gratitude to the teachers and staff who help our children all year long...

We need your help to make this event possible. We would like to be able to serve a variety of hot and cold dishes, salads, and desserts to the faculty.

If you can cook or donate a food item, or help with the set up/clean up, please contact Heather Dias

Thanks for your help!



## SAVE YOUR PTO!!



Folks, nearly every PTO board member is stepping down this year. If you want the PTO to continue the many programs it sponsors for our children, people **MUST** step up to help. Please contact Susan or Kim with your offer to serve on the PTO board ASAP. Thank you!



## Rocking Chair Wanted for the Library

If you have a rocking chair you no longer want, please consider donating it to the Franklin Library. The chair will be used by the librarian during story times and by children who come to the library to read. Thank you! Ms Weiner, Librarian.

## A "Cause for Paws" comes to Franklin!

By: Lauren Ayube

Greetings Franklin families! Please keep your eyes open over the next few weeks: the Franklin fourth graders are up to something inspiring! In the upcoming weeks, you will be hearing a great deal about an incredible fundraiser called "A Cause for Paws". This amazing project is part of the Newton Community Service Learning program. The fourth graders have spoke with and interviewed representatives from the Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham, MA, which is just one part of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. The students will be learning about caring for animals, and about the over-population problem that stems from pets not being neutered or spayed. The students will be making informative brochures that will be going home with your children. These brochures will educate families about the issues that homeless animals may face, and what we can all do to help. Finally, beginning in May, the fourth graders will hold a fabulous fundraiser! You can donate many things that animal shelters may need such as: blankets, food, treats, toys, used towel, and even money. The fourth grade held this fundraiser last year, and it was very successful. So, please keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open, because "A Cause for Paws" is coming soon to Franklin School!

## Help the Franklin Community Unite to Fight Hunger!!

### Walk this Sunday!!

This Sunday (May 4), members of the Franklin School community will be participating in Project Bread's annual Walk for Hunger. We are walking just a short distance -- a mile or two, beginning at the checkpoint at the intersection of Centre and Langley (checkpoint #3). We're meeting at 1:00 -- strollers and wagons welcome! Don't feel like you need a long list of sponsors to participate. Just put on some comfortable shoes, bring your kids and join us to walk against hunger. All cash donations to support our team are welcome!!! Contact Julie or Jocelyn.

### Help with a Food Drive!!

We are also looking for Social Action Kids to run Food Drives in their classes. If your child has not previously signed up as a Social Action Kid, but would like to help, please send email to Bela.



## Franklin Students Make Waves

What is sound? How is it created? On Tuesday, April 8th, Kindergarteners found out the answers to these questions and many more when educators from the Science Discovery Museum visited Franklin School for a program on sound. They learned that sound is caused by vibrations called sound waves. The students participated in a variety of hands-on experiments demonstrating how sound moves through the air, water and even solid objects! At the conclusion of the program, the children each made a laughing cup to take home and received passes to visit the museum.

Power plants, wind energy, light bulbs, fossils, carbon and bicycles. All these topics were covered (and taken for a ride) on Tuesday, April 8th. Eric Olson, a scientist and member of Newton's Green Decade Coalition, spoke to the 5th grade about natural resources and how we can protect the earth. The students also learned about how electricity is generated and experienced first hand (by peddling a bike!) how "regular" light bulbs take up far more energy than compact fluorescent bulbs. So everyone should buy energy-efficient bulbs and protect our scarce resources!

--Melanie and Jane

## NEWTON PTO COUNCIL SUPPORTS OVERRIDE

After careful consideration and reflection, Newton PTO Council has voted to support the override on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Newton schools provide a wonderful learning environment for our children. The strong community surrounding the schools is part of what makes Newton a special place to live and raise children. Unfortunately, we are now in a position where the resources needed to maintain the schools require an override. This is not unique to Newton. More than 50 cities and towns will vote on overrides this spring mostly due to rising costs of energy, health insurance, and state mandates. An override will provide elected officials with time to develop and implement more difficult and complex long-term solutions to the structural deficit.

This override will help keep class sizes small enough for children of all abilities and ages to receive individual attention. Social workers can continue to provide services important to supporting families and students. The school buildings can be cleaned and maintained at a reasonable level. The literacy and math curricula can continue to improve with support from specialists at the elementary school level.

We cannot ignore the anger of many parents and community members over the cost of Newton North and the effect of this anger on override support. However, our community must understand that whatever the outcome of the override vote, the new high school has been approved and will be built. Those voters who vote against the override to send a message about Newton North will only hurt the students, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

We have a responsibility as a community to do what is best for our children, as others have done in past generations. Our city has a wonderful legacy of high quality education. Help us maintain it by voting YES on May 20.



## Franklin Office 617-559-9500

*The next Connection will be published on May 16th. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is Monday, May 12th, 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.*

## Information and discussion on FY09 City Budget

With Jeff Young—Superintendent of Newton Schools and Jonathan Yeo—Ward 4 School Committee member. Perspective on the Override and Non-Override budgets and how they affect the Newton Schools. Williams School Auditorium, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm. For more information, email Lauren Brooks: [president@williamspto.org](mailto:president@williamspto.org)

.....

## SPED PAC May 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 7 pm

Mary Jean Hughes, EdD, author of *The Wolf Who Cried Boy: The True Story of One Mother's Struggle for Justice for Her Son with Dyslexia*, will share her experiences of finding help from her school system for her son with dyslexia. This is a great story of perseverance and advocacy. Dr. Hughes was the founding Chairperson of the Occupational Therapy Program at Salem State College and is currently the Director of Occupational Therapy at The Massachusetts Hospital School.

■ please note time change to 7:00 pm -- The meeting is beginning earlier than usual so that we can honor and celebrate Leslie Lockhart for her many years of dedicated leadership of the Newton PAC. At 7:45 pm, following our celebration, Dr. Hughes will speak.

.....

## PROJECT INTERFACE

Wondering about... Mental Health Services? WHAT services exist in and around Newton? HOW do you navigate the mental health system in Massachusetts? WHERE can you find information about topics related to a child's or family's mental health? Find the answers at Project INTERFACE, [www.projectinterface.org](http://www.projectinterface.org), or 617-332-3666, ext. 411.

Project INTERFACE was successfully piloted over the past two years within the Newton Public Schools. Additional funds were recently granted to maintain and expand the web site and its database of individuals and groups providing mental health services in the area. The database, developed and maintained by WarmLines, facilitates the timely referral of children and families in need of services to appropriate local resources.

The Project INTERFACE Community Resource and Referral HELPLINE allows callers to speak directly with a licensed mental health professional during convenient afternoon hours. Call 617-990-4975, Tuesdays from 4:00pm to 6:00pm or Thursdays from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

## Concert for Youth Suicide Prevention

Families for Depression Awareness presents "Here Comes the Sun: A Concert for Youth Suicide Prevention," May 15th at 7pm at the Emerson Umbrella Theater in Concord. "Here Comes the Sun" will be a fun-filled event featuring Beatlejuice, a Beatles cover band; a silent auction; and speakers who will discuss the importance of youth suicide prevention. The president of Families for Depression Awareness is Julie Totten, a resident of Newton with kids in the school system.

For more information go to:

[www.familyaware.org/BeatleJuiceConcert.php](http://www.familyaware.org/BeatleJuiceConcert.php).

To purchase tickets go to: [www.acteva.com/go/familyaware](http://www.acteva.com/go/familyaware)

.....

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Paul Green School of Rock** located at 120 Elm Street in Watertown, announces two summer daycamps for young musicians ages 7-17 who play one of the following 5 instruments: guitar, bass, drums, keyboards and vocals - a one-weeker from July 7-12 and a two-weeker from August 4-16. All levels of experience are welcome; focus will be on songwriting, performing, recording, jamming with a full band, and learning about the Music Industry. Enrollment is limited to 20 students per session. For more information, please contact: Anderson Mar General Manager Paul Green School of Rock – Boston, Phone: 617-923-3434 Email: [amar@schoolofrock.com](mailto:amar@schoolofrock.com) (<http://www.schoolofrock.com>),

**Saturday Drop-In Art at the New Art Center** Parents can drop off their children or stay and create art together from 10AM-11:30AM on Saturday mornings. A different project and theme each week! Grades K-5. No pre-registration required, \$15 cash/check. Upcoming Dates: April 12, 19, May 3, 10, June 7, 14. For more information call 617-964-3424 or visit us online [www.newartcenter.org](http://www.newartcenter.org) Birthday Art Parties at the New Art Center Bored of just cake and balloons? Celebrate your child's birthday with a unique art experience! We provide a talented art instructor, a space for art and a space for refreshments, and 7 possible themes to inspire your party. Call for pricing and more.

**The Newton Symphony Orchestra** presents a spring concert of sparkling music, conducted by Federico Cortese, with soloists from Newton based Boston Artists Ensemble, Sharan Leventhal, Jonathan Miller and Randall Hodgkinson, playing Beethoven's Triple Concerto. The concert will open with Mozart's overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* and close with Mendelssohn's third symphony, *The Scottish*, written following a visit to Scotland that included the Hebrides and Holyrood, the home of Mary Queen of Scots. The concert will take place on May 4th at 7.30pm at the Rashi Auditorium, 15 Walnut Park, Newton Corner, MA 02458. Tickets are \$25 and \$30, with a \$5 discount for students and seniors; children under 14 get in for \$10, Newton Public

School students \$5. Steven Ledbetter, former annotator for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, offers a free pre-concert lecture at 6:30 pm. There will be a free post-concert reception, at which the audience is invited to meet the conductor, soloists and orchestra members. For more information call 617 965 2555, or go to [www.newtonsymphony.org](http://www.newtonsymphony.org).

**Newton METCO Scholarship Celebration** May 18 4-6 pm, Myrtle Baptist Church, 21 Curve St, West Newton, MA (Church Office: 617-332-5870). Refreshments will flow in the Jeffrey Miller Banks Agape Room. For additional info, [newtonmcsf@yahoo.com](mailto:newtonmcsf@yahoo.com) or fax 617-559-6133.

**Cabot School Fair** Sat May 3<sup>rd</sup> 10 am-3 pm, 229 Cabot St, Newtonville. The fair will be held rain or shine. Fantastic family fun including pony rides, karate, music, food, arts and crafts, yard sale, raffle and much more! Proceeds benefit Cabot PTO.

## SPORTS

**BIKE NEWTON** Sunday, May 18, 12:30 PM; Rally and Friends & Family Ride; Newton City Hall War Mem Steps; Free raffles of bike merchandise and Teen membership to WSuburban YMCA; free snacks, free bike tune-ups; come by bike or on foot sign up for ride at [bikenewton.org](http://bikenewton.org)

## SUMMER

**Arts in Action Children's Summer Program** at the New Art Center Spend your summer creating art! The New Art Center offers 8 weeks of our popular Arts in Action Summer Program. Program runs from July 7-August 29, Monday-Friday, 9AM-3:30PM. Students entering grades 1-5 in the fall attend 5 classes daily, including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and activities taught by our talented art instructors. Register for one week or all eight! A new and creative theme each week! For more information call 617-964-3424 or visit us online [www.newartcenter.org](http://www.newartcenter.org)

**T-ville Trails:** New summer program at Bowen School runs from July 7th-August 15th. Located at Bowen, it is for children entering kindergarten through 2nd grade. For more information, I can be contacted at Newton Parks and Recreation at (617) 796-1500, or [sbordett@newtonma.gov](mailto:sbordett@newtonma.gov).

Boston College Women's Soccer Summer Camps. One is a youth development camp for girls **Age 4-9 that runs July 28th-July 31st**. The second camp is for girls **Age 6-13 and runs June 23rd- June 26th** and a second session runs **July 21st-July 24th**. Chris Hamblin at [hamblinc@bc.edu](mailto:hamblinc@bc.edu) or 617-552-0982. [www.ladyeaglessoccerschools.com](http://www.ladyeaglessoccerschools.com)

## CLASSIFIED

*Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.*

**Reading Tutor** Certified Reading Specialist with M. Ed in Reading Education, trained in Lindamood, Phono-Graphix, & O.G. I specialize in remediating students who read at or below a 2nd grade level. Age 4 and up. Exc. ref's. Free assessment. \$35.00 per hour. Formerly employed by "The Learning Lab @ Lesley." I'm also a certified Suzuki violin teacher, and am accepting students age 7 and up (\$20.00 per 30 minutes). [ChrisMandell@yahoo.com](mailto:ChrisMandell@yahoo.com) (617-323-4709)

**Drawing/Illustration-** Enrich your child's academic achievements while he/she is having fun. Improve your child's ability to concentrate and visualize. Experienced children's book illustrator for Disney, Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon will tutor your child in your home. Your child will create drawings, learn about animation, develop characters and much more while also learning a variety of approaches. References available. Please call Mark (617) 244-2648.

**Taverns Painting.** Interior painting, professional work, affordable price. Call 617-244-5157  
[www.HomeOwnersHelpList.com](http://www.HomeOwnersHelpList.com)

**Handyman Al.** Licensed, reliable, affordable. Electrical, carpentry, plumbing, tile, and more. Excellent references. Call 617-244-5157 x2. [www.TheRealHandyManAl.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.HomeOwnersHelpList.com)