
THE CONNECTION

Published by the Franklin School PTO

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Attendance Line 617-559-9509

NEWS FROM THE PTO

We hope everyone has seen the letter from Jeff Young informing us that Ruth Chapman has been appointed Interim Principal at Franklin for next year. Ruth was interim principal at Zervas, and was principal at Angier School for 15 years. Dr. Young has great confidence in fulfilling Franklin's needs for next year. Look for more information about when she'll be at Franklin this spring for us to get to know her.

A big thanks to Jocelyn Scheirer and Julie Youdovin for organizing The Walk for Hunger Franklin group a couple of weeks ago. The rainy weather held out on us and we were thrilled to join hundreds of other walkers as they made their way around Boston. It was great to see Franklin kids too, some in strollers, participate with their parents in the walk.

Also, many, many thanks to Heather Dias and her spirited volunteers for making the Teacher Appreciation luncheon so special. With a delectable buffet and flowers decorating every table, it was a beautiful afternoon where parents and students together treated the Franklin staff like royalty. We are so lucky to have such great people educating and taking care of our children every day!

Maria Galvagno and crew ran a great Book Sale this year – as usual. Thank you to Maria and to the many volunteers who rang up books, stocked shelves, and helped with the raffles. We hope everyone enjoys their new books!

Tomorrow, **Saturday, May 19th** is the **Franklin Tag Sale** from **9-1**. Drop off your “stuff” between 7 and 9 am, then come shop, shop, shop! There will be some great buys there – from toys and bikes to housewares and collectibles. Contact Nancy Mazzapica with any questions.

May 19	Franklin Yard Sale
May 21	4 th Grade concert 10 am & 7 pm
May 30	PTO Meeting 7:30 (last one!)
June 7	Color Day
June 7	Early Release
June 13	End Of Year Picnic
June 14	5 th Grade concert 10 am & 7 pm
June 20	Last Day of School—ends at 12

Our **final PTO meeting is Wednesday, May 30 at 7:30 pm** in the Franklin auditorium. We will discuss end-of-year business, interesting projects for next year (including the playground renovations and more), and hopefully vote in a new co-president. The position is open! If you are interested in taking on this role next year, please contact Kim Freedman. It is a great opportunity to get involved with community building and fundraising and most of all to meet new people and help out the school!

Color Day is Thursday, June 7th at the Franklin Playground. This parent-kid event involves a morning of activities, races, and contests that is pure fun. If you've done it before, you know how great it is. If you haven't, please join us! Your kids will love to have you there. For more information or to volunteer, please contact MaryBeth McIntyre or Shelli Adam. Remember to check your CORI status now with Mrs. Mastroianni in the school office – CORIs can't be done at the last minute.

The Franklin End-of-the-Year Picnic is Wednesday, June 13th. Come play softball with the teachers and staff and hang out with other families. Each family should bring dinner for themselves and a dessert to share. We're really looking forward to it!

Enjoy the great weather and see you at the Tag Sale!

Elizabeth and Kim

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FRANKLIN SCHOOL YARD SALE

Saturday, May 19 from 9AM to 1PM.

We need bric a brac, costume jewelry, dishes, toys, books, furniture, etc.

Any good junk will be accepted as long as it is clean and in working order.

Donations can be dropped off in front of the school from 7-9 AM.

Sign up to volunteer for an hour or two and you get first option to buy.

To volunteer or if you have any questions, please call or email

Nancy Solari or Eleanor Boschert-Ambrosio

Color Day is Coming June 7th!

If you haven't volunteered for Color Day before, reserve your calendar for Thursday, June 7th from 9am-12:30pm (this is an Early Release Thursday!). Think of it like your own personal play date. We have a lot of fun... you will help run games, serve water, line dance, run races and more. All ages, all grades, fun for all. We hope you can join in the excitement this year. The rain date will be Tuesday June 12th, same time, same place. Let Mary Beth McIntyre or Shelli Adam know if you are interested. You will need to have a valid CORI form to participate. Please check in with the office in advance, forms are on the website. Mark your calendars. Thank you!

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE CALENDAR SETTING

The School Committee is interested in getting feedback from parents about a proposed policy for setting the start date of the school calendar each year. Comments can be emailed to the school Committee at schoolcommittee@newton.k12.ma.us.

The School Committee held an initial discussion at its regular meeting on May 14, 2007 related to the school calendar for FY09 and is considering the following policy for all future school calendars:

"When Labor Day occurs on September 1, 2, or 3, teachers will report on the Tuesday following Labor Day, and students will return on Thursday of that week.

When Labor Day occurs on September 4, 5, 6, or 7, teachers will report to school on the Wednesday and Thursday preceding Labor Day, and students will return on the Tuesday following Labor Day."

Members of the committee have expressed interest in having a separate vote to mark December 24th as a holiday in the school calendar.

Final School Committee vote on the calendar will be held on May 29th.

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Franklin Walks for Hunger 2007!!

A shout out of thanks to all who participated, students AND parents, in the Franklin team that walked a mile for Project Bread's Walk For Hunger this year. We raised over \$250 to help provide vital resources for Massachusetts' hungry individuals and families. Go Team!

Great thanks especially to co-planner Julie Youdovin

Jocelyn Scheirer



Original Works Thank-you!!!!!!

Thank you to everybody who made the Original Works fundraiser a success! This fundraiser showed how excited the Franklin community is about celebrating our children's art, and we also raised almost \$2500 for the Franklin PTO.

First of all, thanks to our fabulous art teachers, Ms. Robin Leed and Ms. Rachael Simkins, who worked with the Franklin students to create beautiful and colorful masterpieces during their art classes.

Thank you to Jennifer Roy, who prepared electronic classlist information from the Franklin phonebook database. And thanks to Tim Strayer, who created and printed labels for the students' artwork.

Thank you to the following volunteers who organized the artwork, magnets, order forms, and payments: Valerie Razis, Elise Lublin, Pam Wright, and Clare Safran-Norton.

Thank you to the Franklin classroom teachers who helped to collect the magnets and payments and to remind students who had outstanding magnets.

Thank you to the following people who helped to distribute the artwork before and after school: Pam Wright, Elise Lublin, Kim Freedman, and Elizabeth Roll. Thank you also to Mary Reynders and Cathy Palumbo who helped to deliver artwork to classrooms.

Finally thank you to the Franklin families who supported the Franklin arts by purchasing any Original Arts item.

Carmen Pancerella and Laura Thompson
Co-chairs, Original Works fundraiser

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Food Service News

On-line account: We encourage all parents to sign up for on-line ordering even if you do not want to order your child(s) meal on-line. Your personal on-line account allows you to access your child(s) account balance and your child(s) orders at any time.

Openings for next School year: If you are interested in working a couple of hours a week M-W-TH-F as a lunch attendant, please call Rob at 617-559-9015 in the beginning of August.

September Menu: The September menu will be mailed out over the summer.

Have a great rest of the year and an enjoyable summer.

Thanks from all of the food service staff.

Rob Clickstein, Food Service Director,

Newton Public Schools, Rob_Clickstein@Newton.k12.ma.us



Celebrate Your Teachers and Children with a Franklin Library Donation!

Each year, many Franklin families choose to celebrate and honor their teachers and students by a special donation to Franklin School Library. When you donate to this program, an appropriate book is chosen by our school library teacher, Mrs. Matera, and a bookplate is placed inside the cover that tells the reader who the donor is and the occasion of the donation. The amount of your gift is discretionary (suggested donation is \$20.00 per book.).

If you are interested in participating in this program, please complete the form attached below and leave it with your check, made payable to FRANKLIN SCHOOL LIBRARY, in Mrs. Matera's box in the office. Please make your donation by Monday, June 18th.

Thank you very much for your support of this very valuable program!

Your Name and Address:

Name of person you wish to honor:

Amount of check: _____

For the occasion of:

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bowen Cooperative Nursery School is currently accepting applications for its Transitional Kindergarten Program. If your child turns 5 after the kindergarten cut-off date, this is the program for you! Call (617) 332-3923 or visit us at www.bowencoop.org for more information.

Family International Dance Night (May 19th) has been cancelled due to lack of interest. (This was the dancing thing of Ms. Foster's)

Raffle for the Green Decade Coalition: 1st Prize: 2007 Computerized Cruise Control Raleigh Bicycle; 2nd Prize: \$300 Whole Foods Gift Certificate; 3rd prize: one month free Clean Air Lawn Care. More prizes listed on-line. Tickets only \$10 or 3 for \$20. Available on-line at

www.greendecade.org. GDC/Newton is a volunteer non-profit organization whose mission is to create an environment in better balance with the natural world by making significant, measurable improvements in the way we use resources. For more information contact info@greendecade.org or 617-965-1995.

Explore Japan! comes to Newbury College this summer. Explore Japan, a FREE two week day camp and exchange program, is coming to Newbury College this summer. In Explore Japan, students learn about the many facets of Japanese culture from July 25 – August 9, 2007. The camp includes workshops on Japanese language, arts and crafts, cooking, martial arts, calligraphy and a variety of interesting cultural exercises. This will be the 15th year Explore Japan has been offered in MA. Last year, over 75 area families participated in the program. Explore Japan is held in conjunction with the visit by a group of Japanese students to the area who will stay with host families during the two weeks. Each morning, students will learn about Japanese culture while their Japanese counterparts study English. In the afternoon, the Japanese students and American students embark together on field trips and participate in fun activities. The visiting students are girls from Osaka Jogakuin School, a prestigious private school in Osaka, Japan. Osaka is the second largest city in Japan and its busiest port. Explore Japan is for girls ages 8-16. Students learn in small groups (broken down by age) under the guidance of Japanese teachers, both from Japan and from the local area. For families who host a visiting Japanese student during the camp, Explore Japan is FREE for one of their children! That is a two and ½ week camp, 9AM – 4:00PM, Monday- Friday, including admission and supervision on afternoon field trips – for free! Students will embark on the afternoon field trips with the Japanese students to the MFA, Boston Harbor Cruise, Canoeing, Bowling, Harvard University and much more. For More information, call 781 828-2800 or enroll online at www.americanlearning.com

Humanistic Jewish Sunday School - Now enrolling for the fall! The Sunday school at Kahal B'raira (KB), "Community of Choice", acquaints children with the history, traditions, beliefs and accomplishments of the Jewish people. The school emphasizes the humanistic rather than the theistic elements of that rich heritage. We want our children's connection to Humanistic Judaism to be meaningful and dynamic; something that will grow with them as they mature. The school includes a broad range of Jewish experiences and is welcoming to families with multiple heritages. Kahal B'raira Sunday School consists of small classes spanning Pre-K through seventh grade. Curriculum includes holidays, Bible stories, history, Jewish culture and traditions, literature, current events and ethics. The school meets on 15 Sundays during the academic year. Adult meetings are held at the same time to enable the whole family to participate. Kahal B'raira also has a Bar/Bat Mitzvah program that offers additional assistance in preparing for this important life

event. For more information about the Kahal B'raira community or our Sunday school, please visit our website: www.kahalbraira.org or www.communityofchoice.org or call Shari Gelber, our prospective member contact, at 617-969-4596. The information transmitted in this electronic communication is intended only for the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of or taking of any action in reliance upon this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this information in error, please contact the Compliance HelpLine at 800-856-1983 and properly dispose of this information.

Take a moment...Take your kids...Did you realize that one of the **largest Blueback Herring runs in** Massachusetts is just off Watertown Square, barely a mile from Newton Corner? Mid-May to Mid-June is the best viewing time. This free show is sponsored by: Mother Nature. Watch as these determined little fish battle to swim upriver to their spawning grounds. Some try to leap over the dam, others use the concrete fish ladder. Some years the schools of Herring are so thick at the base of the dam that you could practically walk across the Charles River on their backs. In recent years, fishermen with nets have scooped up these migrating fish by the dozen, but after a couple of off-years, that practice is now banned. To get there from Newton Corner, go down Galen Street toward Watertown Square and at the light just before you cross the river, turn ! left onto Watertown Street. In a block take the right fork onto California Street. The dam is about a block down on your right. You can't miss it. If the fish are running, you'll see seagulls and cormorants dive bombing the dam to catch the fish.

Don't miss all the fun! Come to the third annual Waban Village Day, to be held on Sunday, May 20 from 11AM to 3PM. Family Fun Run 5K begins at 10AM. Visit the web site to register. On going throughout the day will be a petting zoo, amusement rides, games and activities for children, as well as handmade crafts, gifts and jewelry for sale. Live music provided by Julia Priest and World Beat. The Dance Academy and Siagel Productions will provide Hip Hop Instruction and entertainment. The grills start at 11AM with great food all day long. More information can be found at www.wabanimprovement.org.

Cool Globes is a public art project that is looking to raise awareness about global warming. It will take place in Chicago from June through September. To get youngsters into the festivities, the "Cool Globes for Cool Kids" was created. The contest is challenging kids to create a piece of artwork shaped like a globe. Along with their globe, entrants must also submit a written description of their solutions to global warming. Students are allowed to work individually or as a group. The globe submissions must be in on Friday May 25th. The winners will be announced on the website by June 1st, and then the artwork will be displayed at the Kohl's

Children's Museum in Glenville, Illinois. Encourage your child to have a group of friends create a globe together. Maybe suggest to your child's teacher to make it a classroom activity. Go to www.coolglobes.com for details.

SPORTS

Newton Girls Soccer: Registration for the upcoming fall season of Newton Girls Intramural Soccer is currently underway for Newton girls currently in grades K-8. Games are played on Saturdays, starting September 8 and continue until November 10. For grades 2-8, in addition to the games on Saturdays, there is also generally one practice per week. 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.

KIDS' KARATE Free trial beginners class. Summer-Sat June 30 10-11 am. May pro-rate summer payment based on number of Saturdays expected to be attended, June 30-Aug 25, \$11 per class. Fall—week of Sept 10 (Tue, Fri or Sat) \$79 per 7-week session. Entry ages first through fifth grades. Beautiful space at Trinity High School, Newton. For more information, please leave message for Rich Jacobs, Directory 617-527-8052 www.kids-karate.org

SUMMER CAMPS

Making summer plans? Check out Newton Parks & Rec. tennis classes beginning in late June and continuing into August. Kids may attend for one week or several, morning or afternoon or both! Please check out www.newtontennis.com for our summer schedule. Adults, there are also clinics and round robins for you. Have fun!!!

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TUTOR-Experienced tutor available this SUMMER! Elementary level: Reading, Written Expression, Math, Study Skills. I work in the Wellesley Public Schools and live and tutor in Newton. My approach is motivating and highly interesting for your child. Please contact me for a free

consultation: Haralie Alpert, M.Ed., MS. (617) 630-0608;
Haralie@gmail.com . References available.

Looking for a summer tutor? Experienced teacher looking to tutor students in grades K-5. I am certified K-8 and Special Needs, I have taught at Williams Elementary for 14 years in grades K, 3, 4, and 5, and I have 9 years tutoring experience in all subject areas. Please call Monica at 617-901-2335.

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legatoschoolofmusic@hotmail.com

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The next Connection will be published on June 1st.. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is FRIDAY, May 25th, 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.

Franklin Office 617-559-9500