
THE CONNECTION

Published by the Franklin School PTO

May 30, 2008

Attendance Line 617-559-9509

PRINCIPAL'S PAD

I write to you on this Memorial Day week-end with respect for the sanctity of this holiday. This was a week-end to pause, to thank, and to remember. In 1884, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Civil War veteran and Supreme Court justice-to-be, gave a famous Memorial Day speech in which he said, "Every year—in the full tide of spring, at the height of the symphony of flowers and love and life—there comes a pause, and through the silence we hear the lonely pipe of death. But grief is not the end of all...Our dead brothers still live for us, and bid us think of life, not death—of life to which in their youth they lent the passion and joy of the spring." He continued, "To us who remain behind is left this day." (Boston Globe, May 26, 2008) There are many among us who have loved ones who have served this country. We remember them and offer to use each day well.

It is difficult to transition to the business of school. But let me offer some dates to celebrate as school comes quickly to close.

- June 2 – Incoming Kindergarten letters go out listing whether our new students are in group A or B.
- June 5 – Color Day & Early Release of students at 12:30p.m. (Raindate for Color Day is June 10). The new Principal, Amy Kelly, will come to Color Day
- June 9 – Grade 4 Concert at 9:00a.m. & 7:30p.m. (Grade 3 Recorder will play in the morning, only)
- June 11 – Grade 5 Concert at 9:00a.m. & 7:30p.m.
- June 11 – Art Exhibit, art work from grades 3 – 5. (Exhibit open beginning at 5:30 and during the day for classes to visit) Location: Gym
- June 16 – Grade 5 only, Beach Day
- June 17 – Visitation Tour for incoming kindergarten students @ 1:00p.m. Guides: Fifth grade students
- June 18 – Graduation, Grade 5, @ 9:00a.m.
- June 19 – Last Day for Students; dismissal at 12:00 (noon)
- June 20 – Last Day for Staff
- August 22 – Placement letters are mailed

June 5	Color Day & Early Release
June 9	4 th Grade Concert
June 11	3 rd -5 th Art Show
June 11	5 th Grade Concert
June 16	End of year Picnic, 6 pm
June 19	Last Day of School --NOON

I am hiring two grade 4 teachers so interviews are being conducted at this time. At present, we are planning the following grade level organization for 2008-2009: three kindergarten classes, 3 grade one, 3 grade two, 4 grade three, 3 grade four, and 3 grade five classes. I know you are most curious about staffing. After that work is completed, I will announce the entire staffing for next year.

As we enjoy this summer like weather, I want to emphasize that school still begins with the first bell at 8:20. The second bell is 8:35. It is our expectation that unless there is inclement weather, everyone waits patiently outside until the bell rings.

Our time together is moving along too quickly, so it is my wish to savor each day that I get to spend with our faculty, students, and families.

Thank you,
Ruth H. Chapman, Interim Principal

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NEWS FROM THE PTO

It is a beautiful sunny day as I write this, and I am imagining all of our happy children running around on the school playground with delight. In my imagination I see their mouths moving in exuberant squeals and screams but hear no sound – isn't fantasy wonderful?! While new playground equipment does not yet come with a mute button, there are some very cool structures that will entertain our children and increase their strength and coordination. Our hardworking playground committee is working to make a new playground a reality and needs your support. Give what you can; donations of any amount are welcome and appreciated.

Mark your calendars for the **Franklin End of Year Picnic** on Monday, June 16th at 6pm (raindate Tuesday June 17th)! This will be a bittersweet event as we celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer while saying goodbye to several of our cherished educators. We will say a sad goodbye to our interim principal, **Ruth Chapman**.

Bring a picnic dinner for your family and a dessert to share. **Welcome Deb Rooney and Lisa Chedekel!** At our May 14th PTO meeting, these two ladies were voted into the PTO board as **Treasurer** and **Secretary**, respectively. As you know, both Deb and Lisa have been very generous with their time and talent and we are grateful for their continued commitment to the Franklin community.

Do you prefer to write one PTO check and be done with it? Do you prefer to have many events that give you value for



your donations? Do you have ideas on how we can do things differently to accomplish our goals? Your opportunity to turn your constructive criticism into helpful means of change has arrived! We are still looking for a couple of board members for next year. Since we need to set our PTO calendar prior to September, stepping up **now** enables you to maximize your input into next year's events and fundraisers. **PLEASE consider lending your time and talent.**

Our spirited P.E. teachers, **Ms. Foster** and **Ms. Nohmy**, are planning an exciting **Color Day**, Franklin's celebration of outdoor fun, on June 5th (Early Release Thursday). Many parents are needed to supervise the games and races. Please look for emails from Shelli Adam with details, and reply promptly if you can join in. We hope you can take a morning off and spend time with your kids and their friends. Our talented art teacher, **Ms. Leed**, is hard at work organizing our first **Franklin School Grade 3 – 5 Art Show!** While she has always been deserving of our support and thanks, let her know how much we appreciate her talents with art and with our children by attending this inspiring exhibition on June 11th at 5:30-7:00pm.

Our gifted music teachers **Ms. Quinn, Mr. Decolo, Mr. Sheppard** and **Mrs. Reynders** are orchestrating the Spring 4th and 5th grade concerts. Remember to mark your calendars and come watch and listen to our children as they entertain us with their voices, strings, and wind instruments.

The children's last day of school is June 19th, with dismissal at NOON. And for those of you who are thinking ahead (we know some of you are out there), the first day of the next school year is scheduled for Thursday, September 4th.

Susan and Kim

We aren't just building a playground, we're building a community...

Franklin PTO Playground Committee

Progress and Status Report

As you may know, the Franklin PTO formed a Playground Committee at this time last year.

Working overtime all year long, and through meetings with the PTO Executive Committee and the Newton Parks and Recreations Dept., we've come to some conclusions, and wish to share them here.

Franklin is indeed slated for an addition of eight new classrooms, which will be constructed where the Kindergarten classrooms are currently located. The School Department has indicated that this project is slated to begin as early as five years or as late as twelve years from now. There are many more details regarding this decision, for more information, please feel free to contact one of the members of the playground committee

The final result has been a decision to build a larger structure on the West side of the school when we raise enough capital. Immediately, however, we will be making some improvements to the East playground to improve and make safer that structure for the K-1 students.

You may have already received our initial fundraising mailing, and we ask that you give whatever you can at this time to move us closer to our goal of raising an additional \$50,000.00 to the funds already on hand that we have been saving the past several years. This goal represents the largest fundraising endeavor ever undertaken by the PTO.

There will be many opportunities to give both money and time in the next couple of years to see this project through. We hope you will join our efforts to insure this legacy for our and future generations of Franklin's children.

We've kept this briefing short so we don't overload you with facts, but there's much more to the story and none of it is secret to us, just trying to save space! Anyone who wants more information is welcome to contact anyone on the committee for details. Please, just pick up the phone or write. We aren't just building a playground, we are building community.

The Franklin PTO Playground Committee

Karen Bernat, Midge Connolly, Karen Eveleth, Laura Lanfear, Marysol Masse-Makimura, Alison May, Sue Membrino, Jocelyn Scheirer, Sandra Skinner

Library Book Returns

As we get ready for the end of the school year I want to let parents know that the last day the library is circulating books this school year is June 6th. Please help your child find and return any books that are still checked out under their name by that date if possible. Overdue notices should be coming home from school once a week with your child, so check backpacks to make sure that there are no overdue books for your child. Sometimes the overdue slips are printed and then a book is returned in the day or so it takes to distribute the slips and get them sent home. If your child has an overdue notice for a book you think is returned, feel free to give me a call and I will doublecheck the shelves and the computer system. The library number is 617-559-9492. Thank you for your help! Heather Weiner, Library Teacher.

**Franklin Environmental Update:
CFL Fundraiser, Green Decade Coalition Climate
Change Presentation, 5th Grade Energy Detectives
Project, Franklin Clean-up Day, and Formation of the
Environmental Club!!**

CFL Fundraiser:

Thanks to all of the families that supported the compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL) fundraiser – we raised over \$2,000 for the Franklin PTO by purchasing 785 CFLs. Here’s what the Franklin Community can achieve over this next year if all of these bulbs replace incandescent bulbs:

Potential annual energy reductions from CFLs purchased:	106114.04 kilowatt hours*
Potential annual savings in electricity costs:	\$11,900 per year**
<p>*this assumes that each bulb was replaced with its equivalent bulb (e.g., a 60 watt bulb replaced with a 15 watt CFL and a 100 watt bulb replaced with at 26 watt CFL) and that the bulbs were on 8 hours a day, 365 days per year before and after replacement **current electricity costs are approximately .11 cents per kilowatt hour</p>	

This equates to approximately 80 tons of carbon dioxide reduced per year or planting close to 400 trees (www.carbonify.com). This is really impressive!

So thanks again Franklin community for helping to do your part in reducing your carbon footprint.

Climate Change Presentation by the Green Decade Coalition

We started the fundraiser of with a bang, and invited Eric Olsen and Heather Tausig from the Green Decade Coalition to give a kid- friendly presentation to the 3-5 grades. Heather showed an excellent video on the effects of global warming – and what happens when the earth heats up. The video also gave tips on how the students could make a difference in their lives by using alternative transportation (such as walking, biking, or using public transportation), recycling, planting trees and replacing standard lightbulbs with CFLs in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Eric brought in a cool bike with its wheel hooked up to a small generator. Attached to the generator were two lights – one a standard incandescent bulb, and the other a CFL. Max Hernandez was chosen from the audience to pedal the bike – demonstrating that he had to pedal much harder to power the incandescent bulb than the CFL! The point being that the incandescent bulb uses more energy.

5th Grade Energy Detectives Project

We also worked with many of the 5th grade students on an “energy detectives” project – corresponding to their curriculum on energy. Each student was given an assignment to identify how many lightbulbs they had in their home and what kind (incandescent or CFL), whether their home was insulated or had a programmable thermostat, and to identify how much energy their family used in the past year by reading their energy bills. Not an easy task! Here’s what we found:

- Out of 1800 lightbulbs, over 600 were already CFLs!
- Most homes were insulated and had programmable thermostats
- The average amount of electricity used per household was 7900 kwh per year. (10,500 is average for households in US)

Franklin Clean-up Day

On Patriots Day many students and parents came to Franklin to help clean up the field and the front of the building. It was a huge success! We planted a number of plants (donations from the Freedman and the Wolfe/Moore Families), swept up many bags of sand from the front walkway, and picked up all the trash and clothes scattered around Franklin. Please check the lost and found at the school, maybe that sweatshirt is there!

Formation of the Environmental Club

Julia Wolfe and Laura Thompson have officially formed *The Environmental Club* at Franklin. We will be looking for more projects next year – please let us know if you have any ideas and we look forward to working with you all.



BOX TOPS



The Box Tops contest is over for the year with three winners. Lauren Ayube and Heather Lufkin came in first (again) with 345 Box Tops. Stephen Kanode came in second with 316 and Jaqueline Mahoney came in third with 228. Lauren Ayube was awarded a gift card for Lakeshore Learning Store, where she will purchase some new games. Stephen Kanode opted for some new playground equipment, and was awarded a new basketball, a kickball and some jump ropes. Jackie Mahoney requested a new plug-in pencil sharpener for her classroom and some jump ropes.

Congratulations to all of the winners and to the PTO as well. This year's grand total for Box Tops submissions was about \$800! Many thanks to everyone who gathered their Box Tops together and sent them in. Don't stop collecting over the summer. We can do even better next year!
Jennifer Roy

Fifth Grade Moving On Ceremony Wednesday, June 18th 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Franklin School Auditorium
Reception immediately following the ceremony for graduates and their guests that will last until about 10:30-11:00 am.
More details to follow via your child's folder in the upcoming weeks.

Food Service News

Summer mailings: You can expect to receive your September menu, ordering procedures and past due balances during the third week in July. Once you receive them please fill them out and return them.

On-line ordering: We encourage parents to sign up even if they do not want to order on-line. The benefits are: You can view the Elementary menus, your child(s) order, account activity and credits at any time.

Program information: You can find information about our program on:

- Our web-site <http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/foodservices/>
- E-mail - Food_service@newton.k12.ma.us
- Phone- 617-559-6315
- Food service brochure about our program coming this fall.

Account balances: 5th grade account balances will be transferred to the middle school they will be attending.

Parents who wish to prepay can sign up for cafe prepay:

Online Payment Information On-line credit card payments may be made at the following website: cafeprepay.com Please be advised that the service fee for credit card transactions is 5% of the amount paid. The service fee for payments made by direct withdrawal is \$1 per payment per student.

Parents who would like to get their money back must send a letter to food service requesting this. This will take approximately six weeks to receive the money. Mail requests to:, Newton Public Schools, Food Service Office, 100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460
“Coming in the fall” Elementary on-line survey--Fill it out and your child will receive a free lunch

The next Connection will be published on June 13th. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is Monday, June 9th, 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

Special Education News

On Tuesday evening, May 27, 2008, the School Committee voted to appoint Dr. Judy Levin-Charns as the new Assistant Superintendent Student Services. She will take over for Stephanie Powers and Mozelle Berkowitz who served during the 2007 – 2008 year as co-interim Directors of Pupil Services.

The Newton Parents Advisory Council for Special Education (Sped PAC) invites everyone to **meet Dr. Levin-Charns**, learn about her background, and ask questions at the last meeting of this school year on Tuesday, June 10th 2008. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm in Room 210 of the Education Center, 100 Walnut Street, Newtonville.

For more information, please visit the PAC website, www.newtonpac.org or email info@newtonpac.org

Newton's Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program is seeking volunteers

We can't do it without you.

Each year CAP volunteer Prevention Specialists present 125 workshops to students in Newton's kindergarten, second and fifth grade classrooms. Working in teams of 3, we teach Newton children that they have the right to be Safe, Strong and Free with their friends and peers, with adult strangers, and with those who are trusted to take care of them. Using simple and age appropriate language we address bullying, stranger safety, and sexual assault by known persons.

We are looking for parents who are interested in becoming volunteer Prevention Specialists. Please join us. The next training will begin in October. CAP volunteers include parents, grandparents, retirees and other community members who are interested in child safety, and who can contribute 6 hours per month for one school year, October - May.

For more information, please call Gail Sommer, (617) 969-5906, ext. 143 or email, gsommer@ncscweb.org or visit the CAP page on our website at www.ncscweb.org for a description of this very rewarding volunteer position.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

An Evening with Beloved Author, Judy Blume: Imagine an evening with Judy Blume, author of “Are you there God? It's me Margaret”, the “Fudge” books and the new “Pain and the Great One” chapter book series about a brother and sister. A conversation with Q&A session followed by a book signing reception with famed author will take place on Friday, June 6 at 5-6:30PM at the Pine Manor College, 400 Heath St, Newton. Books will be on sale for signing, or you may bring your own copy to be signed. The cost is \$20/per person. The event is a fundraiser for the Ward Elementary

School. Seating is limited. Advance tickets purchase is suggested. For more information visit www.wardpto.org/judyblume, or call Allison Donelan at 617-332-3355.

"Kindertransport": A Newton South Stage production. May 29, 30 and 31 at 7:30 pm. Newton South Lab Theatre at Newton South High School. Tickets: \$8. www.southstage.org. 617-559-6594.

The Sunday School for Jewish Studies is now accepting registrations for grades K-7 for the 2008-2009 school year. The Sunday School provides a liberal, egalitarian approach to Jewish education in classes held Sunday mornings at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill. The curriculum includes Hebrew, Jewish holidays, traditions, ethics, Bible stories, contemporary history and music. Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation is available but not required, and students may enter in any grade. Interfaith and nontraditional families are welcome. High Holiday services sponsored by the Sunday School are open to the community and no tickets are required. For additional information about the Sunday School for Jewish Studies, please call 617-264-8855 or visit www.sundayschoolforjewishstudies.org

RED SOX TROPHIES IN NEWTON: Mayor Cohen is pleased to announce that the World Champion Boston Red Sox will be bringing the two World Series trophies from their 2004 and 2007 Championship seasons to the City of Newton this weekend. On Saturday, May 31st from 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm bring your Red Sox gear and your cameras with you to the Newton Cultural Center at 225 Nevada Street for a personal and up-close look at these impressive trophies.

SPORTS

City-Wide 2008 Summer Baseball season: Registration now underway. This program for 10-12 year olds is being run by Newton East Little League, but all are invited to take part. This league serves eligible boys and girls who were born on or between May 1, 1995 & April 30, 1998. All new applicants must reside in Newton OR attend the Newton Public Schools. The season begins in early July and runs through the middle of August. Player evaluations take place Saturday June 14th from 10-12 at Jay Gordon Field. (rain date Sunday June 15th, 3-5). Applications and program information at: <http://www.eteamz.com/newtoneastll/news/index.cfm?cat=267730>. All registrations must be done on-line at the web site. Registration deadline is Monday June 16th. Coaching info is also available on-line. If you do not have on-line access, please call: Jodi Detjen at 617 312-2733. Editor's note: There's also summer baseball for younger ages, look at the Newton West Little League site.

Register Now for Fall Newton Girls Soccer: Both Intramural and Travel should register now. Registration deadline for 'Intramural Soccer' is June 15th. Those planning to take part in the Fall 2008 Travel program are urged to register right away, because the placement process is underway. Register even if you signed up for and attended the travel tryouts. You will not be placed on a team without registering. Travel registration is now for the entire year: Fall '08 and Spring '09. Please Note - the official deadline for 'Travel Soccer' registration deadline has passed, but you may still get a spot on a space-available basis. For more information and to register, go to www.newtongirlssoccer.org. Questions? Contact registrar@newtongirlssoccer.org or 617-527-7728. Newton Girls Soccer, P.O. Box 610333, Newton, Ma. 02461.

CLASSIFIED

Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.

PIANO INSTRUCTION - Flexible summer scheduling makes now an ideal time to try piano lessons. Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 25+ years teaching experience. Beginners welcome. Build a high quality musical foundation with a patient, caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: piano566@comcast.net

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. I am available before and after camp. Please contact me for a free consultation: Haralie Alpert, M.Ed., MS. (617) 630-0608; Haralie@gmail.com. References available.

Tutor available for the summer and upcoming school year. Newton-veteran teacher will work with your child throughout the summer helping to retain what has been learned during the school year or to help them reach benchmark scores before September. Reasonable rates for Franklin families. Call Elaine (a Franklin mom) 617-694-6787

GUITAR, DRUMS, AND RECORDING ARTS LESSONS Syracuse University music industry major and songwriter available now through August to teach drums and guitar (without having to read music) and computer recording arts in my home recording studio. All types of learners welcome! Newton South 2007 graduate lives in Newton Highlands. Email Nate Stein at nhstein@syr.edu

Sign up now for violin and viola lessons at Brioso Strings! We are conservatory-trained, experienced teachers of violin and viola offering instruction to students from kindergarten through high school, sharing our life-long love of music in an encouraging environment. Our modified

Suzuki program includes private lessons, group classes, and exciting performing opportunities. We are accepting new students of all levels for lessons beginning in the summer or next fall. For more information, please visit www.briosostrings.com, or contact Betsy Sellers and Emily Rome by e-mailing briosostrings@gmail.com or calling (617) 680-2512

Sharpen your Math Skills and Get Ready for the Fall:

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

Does your child need a tutor I am educated at Boston Collge and Lesley University and certified in moderate special needs. I have: Over 10 years experience; Taught students in preschool through college; Taught students with Asperger's Syndrome, NLD, Communication Disorders, and Learning Disabilities; Taught academic subjects as well as social and organizational skills. Flexible hours and reasonable rates. Call Janet 617-312-2340.

Bowen Cooperative Nursery School, located in Newtonville, has a few openings left in its Transitional Kindergarten program for the 2008-2009 year. This program is for children who are 5 years old, or who are about to turn 5, but who will not yet be in Kindergarten as of September. We are a child-centered, play-based school at which children can continue their social, emotional, intellectual and physical development in a creative, safe and exciting environment. For more information about our Transitional Kindergarten program and to obtain an application, please visit our website, www.bowencoop.org or contact Barbara Cleary, Director, at (617) 332-3923.