
THE CONNECTION

Published by the Franklin School PTO

May 5, 2006

Attendance Line 617-559-9509

NEWS FROM THE PTO

Come one, come all! **Monday, May 8th, is our fourth general PTO meeting, 7:30pm**, in the Franklin auditorium. We will be discussing upcoming events, board openings, and of course updates from our principal. **We still need to fill PTO board positions.** Please consider joining the Board. It is a wonderful experience and a great way to volunteer. We need you! It is not a huge time commitment. Contact Elizabeth Roll or Maria Rufo-Bueno for all the details. All are welcome.

Is your child ready for a new bike? **Farina's Bicycle Center**, 61 Galen St, in Watertown, will donate **10% of any bike purchase between Sat, May 6th and Sat, May 13th** to the Franklin PTO. Based on the success of last year, we are thrilled to bring this opportunity to Franklin parents and students again. Farina's will also provide free helmet fittings during that week and has a great selection of quality bicycles and accessories for adults and children.

While planning your summer activities, don't forget to stock up on some good books! **The Franklin Spring Book Fair** runs the week of **May 15th-May 19th** with a great selection of titles for all readers. Don't miss it!

One of the nicest and most thoughtful PTO events is the **luncheon** we provide for our outstanding teachers and staff. Heather Dias needs help with set-up, clean-up, and hot or cold dishes and desserts, **Tuesday May 16th, 1:00**. Contact her directly or fill out the flyer in your child's backpack.

A giant obstacle course. Bubblemania. Tom Sawyer's White Washed Fence, and much more. Here comes the **Franklin Spring Fair**! Carol Hutter, a Franklin kindergarten parent, who also runs Funfactor, a professional fair service, is putting together a day like Franklin hasn't seen before. This woman has connections! But -- we still need your help to work the event and make the day a success.

May 8th	4 th PTO Meeting
May 15-19	Spring Book Fair
May 16 th	Teacher Appreciation Lunch
May 20 th	Spring Fair

Please fill out and return the **yellow volunteer form** sent out in backpacks last week to your teacher and let us know what shift you can do. Also, take a look at the donation form and see what you have around the house or office that you can donate. Let's make the day a roaring success -- every bit helps!

CAP, the Child Assault Prevention Program, is looking for a contact person from Franklin who will put up signs around the school, make sure meeting dates are in the newsletter, and inform CAP of parents' questions or concerns. CAP is also looking for volunteers to participate in its prevention workshops. Training begins mid-May. If you are interested in either position, please contact Gail Sommer.

Spring has finally sprung. And we hope you spring into action and support the PTO in the weeks ahead!

Elizabeth and Maria

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

Staff Appreciation Luncheon Tuesday, May 16, 2006

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.

FRANKLIN SCHOOL SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006

Rain Date: SUNDAY, MAY 21st

1-4

Ticket Activities:

**GIANT OBSTACLE COURSE
CARNIVAL GAMES & PRIZES**

FuN Food:

Ice Cream Truck * Cotton Candy * Popcorn

WRIST BAND ACTIVITIES:

Bubblemania

Mini Golf

Tom Sawyer's White Washed Fence

Face Painting & Tattoos

Relay Races

Tile Mosaic Project (gift to the school)

Toddler Town (age 3 & Under)

**WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP...you ask?
DONATIONS OF TIME or ITEMS**

If you can provide ONE or more of the following:
PLEASE contact Carol Hutter or Maria Rufo-Bueno. We can start collecting items right away. Bring items to the office, or call for a pick-up. E-Mail me 1st to check to be sure we still need it. I have a place to store it ALL!

*** Help sell wristbands from 8:00-8:45 am May 15, May 16, May 17, May 18, or May 19**

*** Volunteer to work the event on Saturday, May 20th:
SHIFTS: #1 is from 11-1:30, #2 is from 1:30 - 4:00, #3 is from 3:30 -5:30**

*** Volunteer to work the event on the RAINDATE:
Sunday, May 21st
SHIFTS: #4 is from 11-1:30, #5 is from 1:30 - 4:00, #6 is from 3:30 - 5:30**

THANK-YOU to everyone who has already contributed!

*** COMMITTEE MEMBERS & SUGGESTIONS
NEEDED!**

*** CASH Donation (any amount will help!)**

*** 4-generators filled with gas**

*** Cotton Candy Machine with supplies for 500**

*** Pop Corn Machine with supplies for 500**

- * 4 10' x 10' Pop-up Tents (need 3 more)
- * 1-4' x 8' piece of 1/2' plywood (already donated)
- * 20-8' Banquet tables (still need 12 more)
- * 10-Card Tables
- * 1000-paper plates (already donated)
- * 1000-paper napkins (already donated)
- * 60-plastic serving gloves
- * 20-trash cans
- * 20-trash can liners (50 gallon size)
- * 300 Water bottles
- * 300 Juice Boxes
- * 4-Cases of 50 snack size bags of Potato Chip
- * 4-Cases of 50 single snack sizes Candy Bars (Variety)
- * 4-gallons of Dawn or Joy Dish Soap
- * 2-Quarts of CLEAR Ivory Dish Soap
- * Toddler Toys (For a play area, we will donate them to the Tag Sale after the event)
- * Carnival Prizes
- * Raffle tickets

The MORE we can collect the MORE \$ we can collect for the school...**THANKS!**

Social Action Update

Scandinavian Living Center Sing-along
Join us for our annual sing-along at the Scandinavian Living Center. Our own Cindy Mapes has once again generously volunteered to lead the sing-along. We invite all children to join this wonderful event - no talent required.

We hold one after-school practice session with Cindy. Here the children practice the songs - mostly familiar tunes and one or two new songs.

A week later we meet after-school and walk down to the Scandinavian Living Center. We have the opportunity to sing along with many of the elderly residents at the Center - some of whom have attended this annual event for many years.

Please encourage your child to join this very fun event and connect with our larger community. Cindy is a generous, talented and wonderful music teacher, and they are sure to enjoy themselves.

Practice Session: Wednesday, May 17 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Sing-along: Wednesday, May 24

We will leave after school from Franklin and sing from 3:30-4:00 with refreshments to follow

Children may be picked up by 4:15. Plowshares children will be walked back to Franklin.

Please contact Bela if your child plans to join us, or if you can volunteer to help on the 17th and/or 24th.

FRANKLIN'S 3rd ANNUAL TAG SALE

Saturday, June 3, 9:00 AM
Donations and Volunteers Needed

Excitement is building for the Tag Sale! So many Franklin families are looking forward to clearing out their clutter! Great stuff to contribute includes: *gently used* Books & CDs, Baby Equipment, Toys of all kinds, Sporting Goods and Bikes, and Housewares of all kinds. (No Clothing, please.)

We'd also like your leftover party favors and Happy Meal toys to make Mystery Grab Bags – the kids love 'em! In order to assemble these in advance, a collection box will be in the school hallway.

Contributions can be dropped off in front of the school on Saturday, June 3rd after 7:00 am. We will also accept donations from outside our school, so tell your neighbors! If you need help or have questions, please call Kim Freedman in advance of that morning.

Volunteers are needed to help sell that day – just an hour, or as long as you're having fun. If Tag Sales are your thing, please contact Kim Freedman.

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Words of Wellness

During the month of June, there is a two day bike ride from Quincy-Provincetown for a total of 150 miles. The bike ride is to raise awareness and funds for research and treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. Both Ms. Foster and Ms. Nohmy are in the process of training for this ride. For more information you can go to www.nationalmssociety.org.

You can support Ms. Foster and Ms. Nohmy in this bike ride for Multiple Sclerosis by purchasing a one of a kind piece of jewelry. There will be necklaces, bracelets, hair ties, earrings and pins available from between \$1-\$10. The materials used for the jewelry are semi-precious stones, fimo beads (polymer clay), and other colorful varieties of beads. At 12:30, on Tuesday, **May 2nd & 9th**, we will set up a table outside in front of the building. We have set a fundraising goal of \$800 (collectively) and 100% of the jewelry sale proceeds will go toward that goal. If you don't want to purchase the jewelry we will have a jar available for any available donations.

Beth Nohmy
Sharon Foster
Physical Education, Health & Wellness

Franklin Office 617-559-9500

FRANKLY SPEAKING NEWS

The second edition of Frankly Speaking was distributed on Monday, May 1. The Staff of Frankly Speaking hope you enjoy reading it! Thanks to all the Franklin parents, faculty, and staff for their help in producing and distributing the paper.

Frankly Speaking has been asked by the faculty at Franklin if we would like to help create a **special Ben Franklin Edition of Frankly Speaking**, which would contain work from the all-school study of Benjamin Franklin. The all-school project will begin after MCAS at the end of May. Frankly Speaking staff members would edit work from 4th and 5th graders who choose to write about Franklin, as well as report on the activities in the various grades, create word searches and puzzles, and do illustrations. **We would meet on Fridays from 3 to 4:00 pm in the Library, beginning at the end of May. (Probably through June 16—details to follow!)** If your FS staff member is interested in participating, please call Cindy Mapes.

WANTED: PARENT VOLUNTEERS TO HELP RUN FRANKLY SPEAKING!

Frankly Speaking is an after-school activity which is sponsored by the Franklin School PTO. A team of at least four parents has been running the program for the past two years. At least two members of the team will not be continuing. We will need parents to help out next year, if Frankly Speaking is to continue. If your child is interested in continuing with Frankly Speaking, or if he/she might like to join the staff in September, perhaps you could consider volunteering to keep the paper going. It's really fun to be involved with students in creating their own news magazine! The Sponsors determine the format of meetings and the schedule, help type articles, and help format the paper in final production.

If you are interested in volunteering, or have questions about what volunteering might entail, please contact Anu Annaswamy or Cindy Mapes.

The next Connection will be published on Friday, May 19th. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is NOON, Monday, May 15th. Ads are only printed as space allows, so meeting the deadline is not a guarantee of ad placement.

Franklin Students Find The Golden Lyre!

On April 27, actor Jeff Benoit presented a one-man performance entitled *The Golden Lyre* for grades K–2. The students were mesmerized as Jeff acted out the story of young Alex searching for the Gorgon who stole the king's golden lyre. The entire story was told in rhyming verses, with masks, and mime, and it was just fabulous! The Franklin children provided all the sound effects and also helped to locate the gold lyre and save the day. Hurray! What a wonderful introduction to Greek mythology! At the end of the performance, the children asked very thoughtful questions. Jeff raved about what a bright and well-behaved audience our Franklin students are, so parents and teachers should be very proud of them.

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The May 11 meeting of the Newton Parent Advisory Council for Special Education features author Stanley Klein, Ph.D., Co-Founder of Exceptional Parent Magazine, and Noted Expert. Dr Klein will discuss his new book and parents' questions and concerns about raising their children. How do you parent a special needs child when you have little experience of living with a disability? How can you really understand what your child is living and feeling and the best way to help them? Reflections from a Different Journey. What Adults with Disabilities Want All Parents to Know, Edited by Stanley D. Klein, Ph.D. and John D. Kemp, includes forty essays written by successful adults who share what it is like to have grown up with a disability. Hearing from people who have lived the disability experience can provide parents with essential information about the possibilities for their children. Each author wrote about something they wished their parents had known when they were growing up. The book includes essays by people with a variety of disabilities, including learning disabilities, autism, Downs Syndrome, cerebral palsy and more. Dr. Klein frequently lectures to health care and education professionals about communicating with parents of children with disabilities. He has lectured on this topic at teaching hospitals and many other clinical and educational settings throughout the U.S. as well as in Greece, United Kingdom, Israel, and Germany. More information about Dr Klein and his books is online at www.disabilitiesbooks.com. The meeting is on Thursday, May 11, at 7:30 PM at the Education Center, 100 Walnut Street, Room 210. Please contact Leslie Lockhart for more information at 617-527-5046 or newtonspedpac@yahoo.com. Information is online at www.newtonpublicschools.com under Partners.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Shelter in need of donations: Mary's House Family Shelter (affiliated with Bristol Lodge) reopened in February after a fire. The renovations are beautiful...but these families-in-need-of-homes are also still in need of some

kitchen items and toiletries. Their current wish list includes: silverware/flatware, a toaster, a cutting board, mixing bowls, food storage containers, shampoo, toothpaste and blankets. There are typically 6-8 women and 10-15 children living in the shelter at any one time. Please call before delivering donations so that they may be expecting you: 781-647-9957. The shelter is an unmarked white house at 62 Church Street in Waltham. Alternatively, donations may be dropped off (please mark containers!) on the porch at the McCarty home, 40 Dearborn Street West Newton. This shelter is also always in need of healthy foods, including fresh fruit and vegetables.

RELAY FOR LIFE Please join Franklin Friends as we help American Cancer Society in their annual Relay, Saturday and Sunday, May 20 & 21. We need more walkers. Contact Alison McCarty or Allan Cohen to schedule your time in the relay, purchase a memorial candle, encourage current patients, honor survivors, and more info. 617-243-0264 or acvalue@aol.com

“Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Our Homes and Community” a special program for Newton parents, professionals and concerned adults. Featuring Robert Baker, Director of Operations Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board And Jetta Bernier, Chairperson Massachusetts Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Partnership and Executive Director, Massachusetts Citizens for Children. Wednesday, May 17, 2006 7 PM – 9 PM Newton Community Service Center Auditorium 492 Waltham St, West Newton Directions to NCSC available at: <http://www.ncscweb.org/directions.html>. For more information, please contact the Newton Partnership at Newton@enoughabuse.org or (617) 742-8555 x. 108. RSVP not required, but will be helpful for planning refreshments.

Now Enrolling for After-school and weekend program for September 2006-June 2007!!! K2 Enrichment Program-Engineering and science for young children! This K2 Enrichment program is for children (Kindergarten-2nd grade) to do fun activities associated with science and engineering. Exploration for its own sake is great fun and educational; however, exploring for a reason can be challenging and meaningful as well. We have structured the program so that children have the time to acclimate to the instructors and their peers, have fun in group, free play, and use a problem-based approach to explore science and design solutions! There are two weekday-afternoon sessions and two weekend-morning sessions. For more information; www.k2enrichment.com k2enrichment@gmail.com Tel: 617-782-9570

Understanding Our Differences, a nonprofit, school based, disability awareness program is looking for a program director who has strong leadership, communication and organizational skills. 30 hrs/week, mid \$20's. Send CV by

5/8 to: Understanding Our Differences, Inc. PO Box 600671
Newtonville, MA 02460

Newton Symphony Orchestra Randall Hodgkinson, Grand Prize Winner of the International American Music Competition, sponsored by Carnegie Hall and the Rockefeller Foundation, performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, The Emperor on May 7, 2006 at 7:30 pm. The orchestra will also play Cesar Franck's Symphony in D minor. The concert will be held at the Rashi Auditorium, 15 Walnut Park, Newton Corner. Tickets are \$30 and \$25 with discounts for seniors, students and groups; children under 12, \$10. Contact the NSO office at 617.965.2555

Rabies Clinics: Monday May 1, Wed May 3, Mon June 5, Wed June 7 5:30-7:30. All clinics will be held at Fire Station #4, 195 Crafts St, Newtonville. Cats and Dogs must be caged or leashed, and escorted by someone over age 14. \$10 fee.

Cabot Fair Saturday May 6th, 10-3 Music, Dunk Tank, Magic Show, Pony Rides (11-2), Martial Arts Demo 1 pm, Kiddie Ferris Wheel, Raffle, Pirate Ship, Gourmet Bake Table, Games Food & Much More. At Cabot School, 229 Cabot St., Newtonville

Kumon Math and Reading Center Open House Tue May 2, May 16, May 23, and June 6 6-7 pm at the Bishop Mackensie Center, 1337 Centre St, Newton Centre. Great after-school program to improve math and reading skills, strengthen study habits, and build self-confidence. FREE DIAGNOSTIC TESTING. Call 617-928-0446 for more information or visit our website at www.kumonnewton.com

Summer Camps

Spaces still available Camp Echo Bridge, an integrated camp serving children with and without disabilities, still has openings for 5-6 year olds this summer. This action-packed summer program in Newton Center includes swimming at Crystal Lake, arts and crafts, special events as well as speech and music therapy. For more information or an application please call the Newton Parks & Recreation Department at (617) 796-1527.

Outdoor Adventure Camp at Nahanton Park located along the Charles River. Space available in Session I July 3-14 and Session II July 17-28. Boys and girls entering grades 2-5 from 9 am to 1 pm activities include canoeing, fishing, hiking, birding, camp skills, outdoor crafts & games, swimming, story telling, orienteering, and mapping. Cost per 2 week session \$225. Register Newton Parks & Red 617-796-1500

4-day Golf Clinic Youth & Adult Golf Lessons July 24-27 or July 31-Aug 3 9-11 am or 1-3 pm. Equipment provided, warm-up exercises, swing, grip, putting, pitching, and

chipping \$90 per person location Brookline Golf Club at Putterham. In August golfers are invited to the John G. Trahon, Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament. Register Newton Parks & Red 617-796-1500

A Step Ahead Basketball Camp ASA Basketball Camp at Cabot Park, Eastside Parkway, Newtonville now in its 9th year for boys & girls 8-17 yrs old. July 24-Aug 25, 8:30-2:30 cost \$195 per week. The program focuses on team concepts, fundamental skills and improving self-confidence that will enable one to stay "A Step Ahead" on the basketball court. Register Newton Parks & Red 617-796-1500

Sports & Dance

Fall registration has started for Newton Girls Soccer!!

The Newton Girls Soccer Intramural Program is open to girls who live, or attend school in Newton and who will be enrolled in grades K-8 this fall. Newton Girls Soccer is committed to providing girls the best possible Youth soccer experience and the opportunity to learn soccer skills in a fun, safe and age-appropriate environment. Professional coaches from Mass Premier Soccer work with our parent coaches. The 10-week season for Grades 1-8 starts September 9. The Kindergarten program will run 7-8 weeks. Games are played on Saturdays. Grades 2-8 also generally have one practice each week. 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.

CLASSIFIED

Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.

Mortgage: For all your mortgage needs please call Adele Jasperse at 617-584-2590. High integrity, friendly service and best rates guaranteed.

Family Daycare-Playgroup. Openings for 2006-2007 school year. Tuesday and Thursday 9 am – 1 pm. For children 18 months to preschool age. Convenient location, off Commonwealth Ave. between Centre and Walnut Sts. Please call Lynda 617.527.2117 (licence#:202746)

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE ON AVALON ROAD IN NEWTON - Saturday, May 6, 9-1 (Rain dates: Saturday, May 20 or Saturday, May 27): Lots of gently used French children's clothing, adult clothing, strollers, baby items, kid items, toys, computer desk, dining table, household appliances, and more!

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