
THE CONNECTION

Published by the Franklin School PTO

Nov 2, 2007

Attendance Line 617-559-9509

PRINCIPAL'S PAD

Dear Franklin Families,

Once there is a chill in the air, families immediately begin to wonder about procedures concerning school closing or delayed opening due to inclement weather. Beginning in 1992, the school system instituted a policy of delayed openings. Should there be a delayed opening, students will be expected to go to their bus stops or leave their houses (if they walk to school) one (or two) hours after their regularly scheduled time. The bus companies and crossing guards will know about the delay. More information will be forthcoming from the school system. If a storm occurs during the school day, school will ordinarily remain in session. We are advised by the Police Department that once students are in school they are better off remaining there than being released earlier than usual. In addition, can you imagine notifying the parents of 405 students? However, if there ever were an early dismissal it would be broadcast in advance over local radio stations. In addition, because you filled out the yellow emergency sheets for Connect-Ed, we have better resources with which to notify you. I am telling you this information now so that you can have a plan in mind as to where your child(ren) should go should there be a rare delayed opening, no school, or early dismissal.

In that vein of planning, please know that this year Thanksgiving dismissal is November 22 at noon. (not 12:30p.m.). All students leave at 12:00p.m. Thanksgiving feels like it is arriving earlier this year, but it is still the fourth Thursday. School will reopen on Monday, November 24.

With all the stresses and expectations that will come about the upcoming holidays, children and adults alike can lose sight of the simple joys of the moment. I am keenly aware of the job of parents. It is no easy task to raise children in today's world. Please know that during these times there are supports in place for parents, teachers, and students through our school psychologist and social worker. In addition, a mental health grant was received by the school system that allows for one additional day of an additional social worker

to be present in each elementary school. These professionals not only can evaluate situations, but they can see students individually and in highly successful friendship groups. Families can be assisted to find resources outside of the school.

November brings two additional highly supportive programs to Franklin. The first is the return of C.A.P.P (Child Assault Prevention Program) November 8-30. Kindergarten and grades 2 & 5 participate in the program each year. There will be a parent informational meeting on November 6, 7:30p.m. at Cabot School. If you are new to the program, this is an important meeting for you to attend. Permission slips will need to be signed by you in order for your child to participate in C.A.P.P. Your child's classroom teacher sent home a notice via your child. Second, comes the nationally recognized Understanding Our Differences program which focuses on grades 3, 4, & 5. This well organized & thoughtful two hour parent-instructed program has as its goal "to educate students about disabilities in order to promote acceptance, empathy and friendship with people with disabilities and individual differences in our community." Information comes home to families before each topic is introduced. This enables families to have discussions before and after the presentations. The first topic is physical disabilities on November 8 for fifth graders. All these programs, in addition to Open Circle/Social Competency & weekly classroom visits with the school social worker are designed to empower students to address dangerous & destructive behaviors, to say no to certain behaviors, and to learn how to be an ally.

As October ended our school enjoyed the festivities of the annual Halloween Bash. A tremendous amount of work was devoted to this being such a fun evening for ghosts and goblins alike. Thank you to Terri Romanelli and her committee.

November promises to be a full, busy, and delightful month at Franklin. (And we have only just begun!) With the cool weather come exceptional autumn colors. I hope you are enjoying the outdoor scenery as well as the crisp air.

Sincerely,

Ruth H. Chapman, Interim Principal

Nov 12	No School
Nov 13	School Council 3:30-4:30 2 nd floor conference room
Nov 21	School closes 12 pm
Nov 22-23	Thanksgiving break
Nov 27	PTO Meeting, 7:30 pm

Franklin Office 617-559-9500

NEWS FROM THE PTO

Pretty princesses and ghastly ghouls roamed the halls of Franklin last weekend at our legendary **Halloween Bash**. Children of all ages enjoyed the games, the crafts, the treats and the fright of Franklin's Haunted House. We were visited by a few Franklin alums that testify that their strongest memories of Franklin – even after 20 years! – include this time-tested celebration. Thank you to everyone that contributed pops, treats, and drinks. Our deepest thanks to Terri Romanelli, Cindy Schechtman, and their Scream Team of volunteers for the wonderful party. We also extend a special acknowledgment to Herb Ryan and his brother Rob for creating the amazing Haunted House.

What do swings and slides, Webkinz and water parks have to do with each other? They add up to a great opportunity for us to have fun. Susan Boyer and her playground gang will be selling raffle tickets for a basket of one dozen Webkinz and entrance tickets to Danvers' CoCo Keys Water Park for January 21st. All proceeds will go directly to the PTO Playground renovation fund. A few tickets to CoCo Keys are on Kim's holiday gift list!

In the coming weeks, the **Child Assault Prevention (CAP)** program will be teaching our Kindergarteners, 2nd and 5th graders how they can stand up for themselves and stay safe in situations of bullying and assault by strangers or persons they know. To learn more about how you can discuss issues of safety with your children, you are invited to attend the CAP Parent Workshop on Tuesday, November 6th at 7pm at Cabot School.

Also, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are about to participate in their first **Understanding Our Differences** units of the year. UOD needs your help to put on these workshops. Please check the dates listed in this Connection and let Janna or Kim know when you can help.

The holiday season is fast approaching, and while you are shopping for family dinners and holiday gifts, you can participate in **Shopping Rewards** fundraising for the Franklin PTO. Several merchants are generously donating a portion of your spending. The Box Tops for Education co-chairs are sponsoring a contest for the class collecting the most box tops from General Mills, Betty Crocker and other foods. We hope you find these programs easy for you to participate in now and all year round! Details will be coming home with this and other Connections.

We are looking for some parents to help us create new pages for our PTO website at www.franklinpto.org. One page will post all the wonderful thank you notes we get for School Appreciation and other PTO projects. One will promote Garden City Kindergarten Soccer. If you are interested, and

would like your PTO participation to be on your schedule, please contact Kim or Susan.

Tuesday, November 6th is election day, and the Franklin gym will be a polling site. Please cooperate with any security measures the school administration implements that day to keep our children safe.

Kim and Susan

.....

“FRANKLY SPEAKING”

the news magazine for kids by kids!

CALLING ALL FRANKLIN WRITERS AND ARTISTS IN ALL GRADES!

We would love to receive entries from you for publication in the student newspaper “Frankly Speaking”. There are a number of categories in which you can submit something. The following is a list of suggestions.

Please write your entry neatly on a piece of paper, and don't forget to write your name, grade, and room number at the top. Drop off this paper in the box in the school office labeled “**Frankly Speaking**.” The deadline for submitting your entry is **November 16, 2007**. You do not need to wait till then – you can drop off your entry even now. So, hurry, grab a paper and pen, and get those wheels turning!

Categories:

1. Poems
2. Jokes
3. Riddles
4. Crossword puzzle or word search
5. Interview with teachers or Mrs. Chapman
6. Recipes
7. Geography Bee (Sample question: Name 2 states that start and end with a vowel in one minute or less).
8. Short story (one page long)
9. Illustrations (black ink on plain white paper, maximum 4” by 4”)
10. Book and film reviews
11. Events (around school, travel, etc.)

Thanks!

PTO Sponsors: Lisa Chedekl, Karen Eveleth, Cindy Mapes, and Shirley Taylor

Contact Cindy Mapes with questions

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

Your holiday shopping can help Franklin!

Shopping for the things you need can raise funds for the Franklin PTO! Whether it's ingredients for your favorite recipes, presents for the ones you love, or decorating in the holiday spirit, purchases made at local retailers can earn the PTO cash rewards. Keep the following **Shopping Rewards** programs in mind:

- The Construction Site and other Shops at 200 Moody Street: Shop on Friday, November 16 10am-9pm and mention you're with Franklin at check out. 10% of your pre-tax sales will be donated to the PTO. Find out what they offer at www.constructiontoys.com.
- Learning Express in Newton Centre: Shop on Saturday, December 1st 9:30am - 6pm and mention you're with Franklin at check out. 20% of your pre-tax sales will be donated to the PTO. They can be found at www.newton.learningexpress-toys.com. Coupons are not valid for this fundraiser.
- Target's Take Charge of Education program: Any time you shop at Target and use your Target charge (in store Red Card or Target VISA), 1% of your sales are donated to the PTO, and the Franklin library may qualify for discounted book purchases (last year we bought \$1600 worth of books for \$800). This program is available year round. Learn more and designate Franklin on your Target card at www.target.com/tcoe.

And, don't forget to clip your Box Tops for Education. It all adds up. Make your purchases count!

Questions? Contact Eva Enselek or Kim Freedman.

PARENT WORKSHOP

Friday November 16 9:15-10:45 a.m.

Tuesday November 27 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Enhancing Family Life Through Ritual & Connection.

At the West Suburban YMCA, 276 Church St., Newton MA. Discussion leader Aviva Bock, CCMHC, LMHC is a licensed psychotherapist with a private practice in Newton and Cambridge, MA. She has frequently taught parenting classes in schools, synagogues and community settings. Cost per class: YMCA Member \$35 Non-Member \$45 (financial assistance available). Contact: Jennifer Sandeman, Health Promotion Specialist, at 617-244-6050 Ext. 3017 or jennifers@westsuburbanymca.org.

Playground Committee Meeting

Save the date our next meeting will be at 7:30p.m. on December 5th.

E-mail Susan Boyer if you plan to attend. Location information to follow.

Playground Fundraising News

Webkinz basket raffle tickets are on sale! We have a basket of 13 Webkinz to raffle off. Tickets are \$1 each or seven for \$5. Look for us before or after school. We have also sent home a flyer with the children so you can turn in your tickets and cash to the box in main office.

Lastly - no one will want to miss **our CoCo Key Water park adventure**. Tickets are only \$25 each (a discount from their \$30 weekday and \$40 weekend normal prices). CoCoKey is donating back to the playground fund \$13 from each ticket sold. Our event will take place from 1pm to 6pm on Monday January 21, (MLK Day - No School). Flyers will be coming home school. You can also buy ticket at the Webkinz raffle table before and after school or by e-mailing Susan Boyer.

These tickets will make an awesome clutter free holiday gift for you son or daughter. Event is open to non-Franklin families so why not give this as a gift to your nieces and nephews as well. Please note - adults need tickets as well - its like going to Disney you pay admission whether you ride space mountain or just sit around watching your kids have all the fun!

Understanding Our Differences Seeking Volunteers for November Programs

The **Understanding Our Differences** program for the 3-5th Grades educates students about disabilities in order to promote acceptance, empathy and friendship with people with disabilities and individual differences in our community. Parents are needed to help with hands-on activities - this is a great opportunity to share time in the classroom and teach our children life long lessons for understanding differences.

- The 5th grade will explore Physical Disabilities on **November 8th**.
- The 4th grade will explore Learning Disabilities & Challenges on **November 15th**.
- The 3rd grade will explore Deafness/Hard of Hearing on **November 29th**.

All programs will be held on Thursdays from 1:00-3:00. You may participate in any program regardless of your child's grade level. If you want to learn more or are interested in volunteering, please contact Janna Zwerner or Kim Freedman.

Creative Arts Update

Creative Arts and Sciences is off to a great start! Working since last March, the Committee has put together a wonderful line up of programs—22 in all—and we're thrilled with what we've seen so far!

David Zucker's *Poetry in Motion* program was a huge hit! David's visit to Franklin in early October thoroughly entranced both students and faculty alike, reviving the almost lost art of performing poetry. His masterful acting, combined with his high energy, obvious love of poetry, and talent as a mime, brought the works of A.A. Milne, Lewis Carroll, Jack Prelutsky, and others to life! David performed separately for the upper and lower grades, tailoring his presentations accordingly. Both groups were riveted, and actually groaned aloud when he announced that his show was nearing its end!

Later in the month, third graders enjoyed a very different type of presentation by biologist Eric Olsen (aka "Canopy Man"). During his hands-on classroom workshops, designed to complement the Grade 3 unit on trees, Mr. Olsen talked about the role trees play in the forest food web, had students examine and draw different types of bugs native to New England, and—to the kids' delight—demonstrated the tree-climbing gear he uses to collect specimens when conducting his own research in Costa Rica. One parent reported that her daughter left the program "thrilled and enthralled with the world of biology!" Eric will be back in the spring to present his conservation program to the fifth graders.

And speaking of fifth graders . . . Jill Sanford from *ArtQuest* visited each of the fifth grade classrooms to present *Two Cultures Meet: Native Americans and Europeans*. During the first part of the program, students explored how European and Native American art and culture influenced each other, from the time of exploration to the 20th century. During the second part, students looked at how the art of these periods reflected changing attitudes between the indigenous Americans the Europeans. Joan Yospin described the presentation as "a great addition to the Creative Arts offerings . . . It successfully dealt with abstract ideas that are hard to address."

More programs are on the way, on topics ranging from beekeeping to immigration. Stay tuned! *For more information on the Creative Arts and Sciences Committee, check out our web page at www.franklinpto.org/creative_arts_sciences/franklincas1.htm.*

Thank-You's from School Appreciation

It was such a great feeling to walk into my classroom and be greeted with freshly painted shelves & doors. As an

added bonus, my closet doors work! (This is truly above & beyond the call of duty!) Mary Jane Boudreau

How wonderful to come back to beautiful new lockers!! Thank you so much for all your hard work. The children love them and are taking very good care of them. Michelle Matteo

Thank you so much for decorating our bulletin boards with fabric. We also appreciate the new (easily erasable) white board. Beth Nohmy & Sharon Foster

Thank you so much for all of your hard work and thoughtful planning. My beautifully painted, doorless closet is wonderful! We are so lucky to have such a generous, caring group of parents at this school! Lindsay Scott

We also got a set of gorgeous Thank-Yous from 5th graders about the lockers & book leveling done for them. Want to see them? Come to the next PTO meeting!

Let's Stop Bullying Now!

Wednesday, November 7, 6:30-8 pm.

NPS Education Center, Room 210, 100 Walnut St., Newtonville.

Let's Stop Bullying Now! Anti-Bullying Program for Parents. Everything you wanted to know about bullying and teasing . . . and more!

- What is the difference between bullying and teasing?
- What is an active bystander?
- What to do about cyber bullying?
- What can you do to help your child?
- Work with your child's school
- Learn the same language
- Get involved! A comprehensive anti-bullying program designed by the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State College. Sponsored by the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology and Project INTERFACE.

An Invitation from the Superintendent to Participate in Strategic Vision sessions

For those of you who have become interested in our strategic planning effort, I invite you to participate in one of the parent/community sessions to create a shared vision for the NPS. Here are the particulars:

- Session #1: Tuesday, November 13, 9:15 - 11:45 a.m. in the Druker Auditorium, Main Branch, Newton Free Library
- Session #2: Tuesday, November 20, 6:45 - 9:15 p.m. in the Newton South High School Student Center

At these sessions, we will build upon the strengths that have been identified across the system and create a shared picture of the "envisioned future" for Newton Public Schools in the year 2020, when this year's kindergartners graduate! Participants in these sessions will be invited to work creatively and collaboratively to brainstorm what they would like to see evident as NPS' key accomplishments and outstanding qualities at that point in time. The sessions will be very interactive and give people a chance to be bold and vivid as they consider the future they would like to call forward for the district and its various stakeholders.

Please click on the link

<https://fmweb.newton.k12.ma.us/fmi/iwp/cgi?-db=Attendance%20Questioner%20Parents&-startsession&-visibility> and take 10 seconds to tell us whether you will attend one of the sessions. We need to get some rough idea as to the likely size of the group.

About 700 parents completed the electronic survey on "enduring strengths." We are now analyzing the data (from a similar faculty/staff survey as well) and will be ready to report the results shortly.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in this project.

Jeff Young

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please come and support action on climate change!

Who: City of Newton residents, concerned citizens, environmental leaders, green business entrepreneurs, students, kids and families What: A 'Climate Rally' including music, speakers and community spirit When: November, 3, 2007 2:00pm to 4:00pm Where: Newton City Hall For more: StepItUp2007.org, see 'local action' under Newton MA Please join Newton residents, environmental and political leaders, and green business entrepreneurs in raising awareness for the importance of action on climate change. On November 3rd, people are rallying in hundreds of communities across the country to ask our political leaders and candidates to do something about bringing us into a clean energy future. This will be one of the first big nationwide rallies against global warming. And Newton will be represented as a municipal leader on environmental issues. In April 2007, Newton joined in the first ever StepItUp2007 event. We need to keep our commitment growing.

"Rockin' for Our Kids" - Celebrate National Adoption Awareness Month (November) by supporting the unique, important work of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, a national not-for-profit dedicated to improving the lives of everyone touched by adoption. Join Newton parent Adam Pertman – the Institute's Executive Director and author of the acclaimed book "Adoption Nation" – for an evening of major fun, food and professional rockin' provided by 'Full House,' featuring Danny Klein of the J.

Geils Band. The festivities take place Friday, Nov. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Spring Valley Country Club in Sharon, MA. Admission includes a full dinner, open bar and great live music. For more information or to buy tickets, please call 617-332-8944 or go to: www.adoptioninstitute.org/events/rockinkids_2007.php. Capacity is limited so please, don't delay!

Teen Dating--Keeping it Safe: Tuesday Nov. 13, 7:30-9 pm. Newton South High School Auditorium. All Newton Parents are invited to attend this event sponsored by the Teen Link Campaign (TLC). Dating violence can happen to anyone - knowledge can help prevent it. Does your child date? Would you recognize the signs of an unhealthy relationship? Are you concerned about peer pressure in social situations? Do you know what to do if your child is in an abusive relationship? The evening features authorities on domestic violence and specialists from the Newton Police Department and from the High School community. Find out how to empower your children, and how to help them physically, mentally, socially and legally should they find themselves in a bad relationship. The Teen Link Campaign (TLC) is a collaborative effort among all organizations in Newton to bring students, parents, schools and community members together to encourage open, honest conversations and actions that will help all teens succeed in school and in life. The Newton North and Newton South PTSOs are active members of TLC. For more information call 617-244-9508.

The next "Funtastic Friday" for all Newton 5th graders is Nov. 16th 7-9 pm at the Hyde Community Center, 90 Lincoln Street. \$6 admission. Snack and drinks extra. Info: 617-796-1525.

CLASSIFIED

Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.

Aren't you looking for a daycare you can rely on and where your child can have fun? Ages infant-6 yrs old (please consult for other ages). Qualifications: licensed by Dept. of Early Education and Care, member of Child Care & Adult Food program, CPR, First Aid, Defibrillator certified. Located West Newton, MA 02465. Transportation service available in limited area. Our goal is to provide a fun program for your kid. He or she will learn to take turns, socialize and make friends while feeling happy, comfortable, secure, just like home. Email kinderkidz-usa@hotmail.com phone 617-965-3303. Website: www.kinderkidz-usa.com

PIANO INSTRUCTION Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 25+ years teaching experience has several openings in home. Beginners Welcome. Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sightreading from a patient, caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski phone: 617.566.9704 email: piano566@comcast.net