
THE CONNECTION

Published by the Franklin School PTO

Nov 2, 2007

PRINCIPAL'S PAD

Dear Franklin Families,

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, the staff and I will have had the pleasure of hearing many descriptions of family traditions—a reflection of our multi-cultural diversity. Certainly it is a time of giving thanks for the love, goodness, and bounty with which our families are blessed.

We can join in thanking all the people who have enhanced and enriched this year for our children:

- **Thanks to:** The Franklin faculty who care deeply about your children, who are thinking of the whole child and the myriad of ways they can support their intellectual, social, and physical development;
- **Thanks to:** Our parents who are so wonderfully supportive of Franklin School through their volunteerism, fundraisers, chaperones, and program helpers.
- **Thanks to:** Our PTO, its dedicated leadership, and our energetic Franklin Connection editor for keeping communication thoroughly consistent.
- **Thanks to:** Our custodians and the lunch staff for keeping our building clean and sparkling and taking care that our children are carefully feed.
- **Thanks to:** Our children who help us keep a perspective about the importance of nurturing and educating our youth. We remember every moment is precious.

Finally, I want to thank you for welcoming me into this special community. I look forward to our working together in the months of ahead.

On behalf of the entire faculty, I wish all of you a HAPPY THANKSGIVING! May you have a safe holiday. Please remember that dismissal on Wednesday, November 21, is at NOON. There will be no kindergarten bus on that day.

Sincerely,

Ruth H. Chapman, Interim Principal

Nov 21	School closes 12 pm
Nov 22-23	Thanksgiving break
Nov 26	7:30 pm 5 th Gr Graduation mtg.
Nov 27	PTO Meeting, 7:30 pm
Dec 5	7:30 pm Playground mtg
Dec 10-14	Book Fair

Attendance Line 617-559-9509

NEWS FROM THE PTO

Can you believe that Thanksgiving is right around the corner? With those chilly winds beginning to blow, our **Social Action Committee** (headed up by Bela Labovitch) collected gently used coats, scarves, hats, gloves and boots for charity which will go a long way to keeping needy children warm this winter. The Social Action Committee also collected many pounds of candy for the Pine Street Inn. (Do you hear your dentist cheering?) Many thanks for everyone's efforts in these two worthwhile causes!

Our thanks and appreciation go out to Ellen Bradley and her crew for another successful **gift wrap sale**. While early indicators showed a less than stellar year, the end result was much closer to our hopes for this very important fundraiser. Thank you to all children, parents and families for making this event another winner!

One item on many parents' minds is our children's (and Franklin school's) **MCAS results**. Our principal, Ruth Chapman, will speak to this topic and take questions at our **next PTO meeting on Tuesday, November 27th at 7:30 p.m.** We realize that our first meeting of the year was a bit of a marathon, but we assure you there will be less PTO "business" to attend to this time. Stop in, grab a bit of dessert, and get caught up on what is happening at Franklin while getting to know some other parents.

Susan Boyer and the Playful Parents are well underway with their fundraising efforts toward a new **Franklin School Playground**. If you have someone on your Holiday list who loves Webkins, please consider buying chances to win a beautiful basket of these virtual pets. Or, if you happen to have waterbugs on your list, consider purchasing tickets for CoCo Keys indoor water park. You can find one of these Playful Parents set up in front of the school each afternoon at dismissal.

BUT WAIT! We have more ways for you to knock items off of that gift list AND help Franklin School at the same time. During the week of December 10th, the PTO will be sponsoring a **Book Fair** right here at the school. We will be using a different vendor for this fair (not Scholastic), so there will be a new variety of books for you to choose from. What could be easier?

THERE'S MORE! If you shop by the warmth of your home computer, (mine is warming my lap quite nicely now

as I type – who needs a fireplace?) you can earn cash back for Franklin simply by shopping on-line through the Box Tops link on www.franklinpto.org. Your purchases earn Franklin up to 8% cash back. Learn more at www.boxtops4education.com. We are also signed up with Amazon.com; stay tuned for more information.

AND IF YOU ACT NOW! Shop **TODAY (11/16)** until 9 p.m. at The Construction Site, tell them you are from Franklin School, and they will donate 10% of your pre-tax sales to the Franklin PTO.

We truly do try to get you the maximum value while picking your pockets for the benefit of our kids!

As a reminder to all, the **Newton Parent Advisory Council for Special Education** is a useful resource for parents and guardians of children with special needs. For further information, call Leslie Lockhart, Chairperson, at 617-527-5046 or e-mail leslielockhart46@yahoo.com or newtonspedpac@yahoo.com. Get added to the Newton PAC email list (newtonpac@yahoo.com)--contact Leslie to be added.

Another resource for all parents and guardians is **Project INTERFACE**, an initiative to improve the integration of mental health services within school systems and their greater community. Contact them at projectinterface.org or 617-990-4975.

We wish you a wonderful, warm Thanksgiving with your families. We do have so much to be grateful for!

Susan and Kim

MIDWINTER COFFEEHOUSE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for music-lovers and hanger-outers to join our team of volunteers to put the Midwinter Coffeehouse together! This will be our Eighth Annual Midwinter Coffeehouse, a cozy Franklin PTO fundraiser that brings together our community of parents and other Newton folks with talented Franklin musicians. The Coffeehouse will be held at the First Unitarian Society in Newton on Saturday, February 9th from 7 to 10 p.m. This year our special guest performer will be Catie Curtis, nationally-known singer/songwriter and Franklin parent! You will be guaranteed fun, good music, and only ONE meeting to attend.

If you'd like to help with publicity, coffee/food, set-up, etc. please contact Cindy Mapes or Patrice Joyce

MIDWINTER COFFEEHOUSE SEEKS MUSICIANS!

The Eighth Annual Midwinter Coffeehouse will be held on Saturday, February 9th at the First Unitarian Society in Newton from 7 to 10 p.m. Each year, parents, teachers, and other community members share their musical talents with the Franklin School Community, creating a bit of warmth and fun in the middle of the winter. We have had barbershop quartets, a cappella singing ensembles, classical guitarists, and singers of Broadway show tunes, as well as singer/songwriters in the folk and blues traditions.

If you are someone who loves to sing or play in your living room and think you'd like to perform for a slightly larger audience, here is your chance!! Please contact Cindy Mapes

Parents of 5th graders

The 5th grade graduation Committee is having their 1st meeting on Monday, November 26th at 7:30 @ Julie Barbieri's house.

Please join us as we begin to plan this very special event for our 5th graders! All are welcome!

Any questions: email Julie or call

Playground Committee

MEETING: Save the date our next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on December 5th. E-mail or call Susan Boyer if you plan to attend. Location information to follow.

COCO KEY INDOOR WATERPARK FUNDRAISER

When: Monday January 21, 2007 (No School Day)

Time: 1p.m. to 6p.m.

Cost: \$25 per person

A flyer and ticket order form will be coming home soon.

Tickets also available at Webkinz Raffle table and at the PTO meeting.

Anyone can come to the event so please invite your children's friends from other schools and relatives. It will be a ton of fun!

\$13 from every ticket sold will go to the playground renovation!

WEBKINZ RAFFLE

We will pick the lucky winner at the November 27th PTO meeting!

Get your tickets and support the playground fund!



BOX TOPS

A large number of Box Tops have already been returned to school, and we'll be displaying a graph shortly.

Please bear in mind that if you want the Box Tops added to your classroom tally, you must return them in a bag or envelope marked with your teacher's name. While we love to receive them in any form, it is going to be more exciting for your child to watch those classroom Box Top totals climb. If you sent in a bag before you realized there was going to be a contest, please contact Jennifer Roy and she can assign your bag to the correct classroom.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Box Tops and where to find them, check your homes for Chex Mix, Cheerios, Fruit Roll Ups, Pillsbury Cookie Dough, Trix Yogurt and Ziploc Bags. These are just a few of the hundreds of products out there with Box Tops on them, please take the time to turn your packages over before you throw them in the trash or recycling. If you see a Box Top, please cut it out (being careful not to damage the expiry date) and send it to school. You may think that a ten cent Box Top will not go very far, but when hundreds are returned, they add up quickly.

Finally, if you sign up at the Box Tops website, boxtops4education.com, and shop at your favorite online stores through that website, the Franklin PTO will receive a percentage of your purchase. Consider adding the Box Top Marketplace to your browser's toolbar so that you remember to shop through the Box Tops site. Merchants include Oriental Trading, Lands End, Gap, Staples, and many more. It is a wonderful way to support the PTO by making purchases you would be making anyway.

Keep Saving!
Jennifer Roy and Rebecca Kayser

Update on Fluorescent Bulb Fundraiser

Sorry for the change, but the PTO and Faculty has decided to move this fundraiser to March 2008 to coincide with 5th grade curriculum on energy and light. So stay tuned....Julia Wolfe, Fluorescent Light Bulb Fundraiser,

The next Connection will be published on Dec 7th. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is Monday, Dec 3rd, 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.

Thanks for your Support!

Thank you! Our Innisbrook Wraps Fundraiser was a success.

Because of the generous support of parents, teachers, and staff, we raised over \$7,200.00 for our school.

Catalogue sales – \$12,214.00
Internet sales - \$ 1,689.68

We had 39.75% school participation which equals 161 sellers out of a possible 405 students!

Kudos to Ms. D'Eath's class with the highest class participation with 65%!

Congratulations to first grader, Andrew Moylan! His name was drawn by principal, Ms. Chapman to win the IPOD Shuffle.

I want to thank the many volunteers that helped run such a successful drive - Heather Dias, Maria Galvagno, Bob Sampson, Sheila Lenihan, Elise Lublin, Carmen Pancerella, Kim Freedman, John Carvelli, Richard Bradley, and Susan St. Pierre.

We can raise money all year long with Innisbrook by shopping online. Please visit www.innisbrook.com and use our school number of 101615 and support our school.

Thanks again,
Ellen Bradley

School Publication of Out-of-District Policy Statement - 2008

- Out-of-District placements for students who wish to attend a school in Newton other than his/her district school **are limited. Such placements are made on a space available basis only.** Newton families, as well as members of Units A, B, C, D, E, NESAs, Custodians and Boston parents of students participating in the METCO Program, should call the Attendance Office at 617-559-6030 for information.* **Students who receive acceptance for Out-of-District placement must remain in the school selected or file for out-of-district placement at the appropriate time.**
- Applications for the following school year must be submitted on forms, which will be available in the Attendance Office at the Education Center beginning November 1.
- If necessary, a lottery will be implemented to determine the order in which placements will be made. Completed applications, signed by the in-district principal, can be

submitted no earlier than January 2, 2008 and no later than April 30, 2008.

Applications submitted after April 30, 2008 will not be included in the lottery.

•Hand-delivered applications will only be accepted from the parent or legal guardian. Application forms must have the 'Reason for Request' section completed in order to be considered.

•Class size in a given grade, in a given year, in a specific school, may preclude any placements including siblings.

- Parents will be responsible for transportation.
 - Tuition Free Enrollment is limited to the per pupil cost of regular education.

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Wondering about....

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?

The new INTERFACE Community Resource & Referral HELPLINE is now available to parents and community members to assist in finding appropriate mental health services for children and families. A licensed mental health professional helps callers with navigating the mental health system. You may call 617-990-4975 on Tuesday, 4-6 PM, and Thursday, 2-4 PM.

The HELPLINE is a service of Project INTERFACE, which is an initiative to improve the integration of mental health services within school systems and their greater community. A major goal of the project is to enhance access to mental health services for children and families. This project was successfully piloted over the past two years within the Newton Public Schools. Additional funds were recently granted to maintain and expand this Web site and database, now also serving the communities of Waltham and West Roxbury.

On the Project INTERFACE Web site, www.projectinterface.org, parents can find information related to mental health questions and services for children and families, including a calendar of community trainings and events.

The Project INTERFACE database, developed and maintained by WarmLines, includes individuals and groups providing mental health services in the area. With the assistance of this database, the mental health professionals of the Newton Public Schools are able to provide parents and students with referrals to appropriate local resources outside the school. For General Information about Project INTERFACE, please call: 617-332-3666 x411.

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Franklin Office 617-559-9500

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The sixth annual CELEBRATE NEWTON! HOLIDAY ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL will take place on Sunday, December 2nd from 10 am until 4 pm at Newton South High School. This Citywide PTO-sponsored fair will feature 60+ artisans with ties to Newton: crafters and artists in the show are Newton residents, teachers, parents, students, employees, alums and more. Shoppers can also enjoy onsite craft projects, live music from community and school groups, a silent auction, bake sale and lunch cafe. **ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE NEWTON SCHOOLS FOUNDATION.** Please see www.perugi.com/newton for more details. Questions? Please contact Sara Coen at 617-558-3695 or at saracoen3@aol.com.

KNIT ONE ... CHAT TOO: Have you always wanted to learn how to knit? Are you stuck in the middle of a project? Did you knit years ago and want to try again? Do you want to hang out with a great group of women and chat (and pretend to knit)? If you answered YES to any of the questions then KNIT ONE ... CHAT TOO is just the thing for you. Groups are held at Margot Rendall's house in Newton. Ongoing sessions Wednesday, 9:30-11:00 AM. Evening and after work sessions available. \$90.00 per 6 week session (no charge for 1-2 missed classes). **KNIT ONE ...CHAT TOO..COMES TO YOU:** If you put together a group, I will come to your house. Also, children, parent-child, after school groups are available. Specifics can be arranged depending on your needs. Call 617-965-9857 or email capemargot@aol.com for more information.

Helping kids in your community...for a week, a month, a year...a lifetime. Dare Family Services is a private, nonprofit social services agency that specializes in providing intensive foster care to children that have been abused or neglected. We are searching for foster parents in Newton to provide homes for local foster children/teens. If you have a desire to help a child in need of a family or would like to make donations, please call Marilyn or Janelle at (617) 628-3696. And remember...Dare....to make a difference. www.darefamily.org

Newton TAB Editor Gail Spector To Discuss Candidate Coverage All are invited to join the members of the Ward 6 Democratic Committee at our next meeting to hear the Editor of the Newton TAB discuss how the paper approaches candidate coverage and what factors are considered in deciding endorsements. Invite a friend and some neighbors to come with you! When and Where: Sunday, December 2, 2007 12:00 p.m. at NewTV's office/studio on 23 Needham Street. (take a right hand turn after National Lumber onto Easy Street, go up the hill and park in their lot.) Handicap accessible.

Family Movie Day & Night at West Newton Cinema See a movie and get popcorn & soda for one low price. Tickets will be sold starting at 11:45 (Nov) or 4:15 (Dec) at the cinema on the day of the event. Tue Nov 27 1:30 & 1:45 pm; Dec 26 & 27 6:15 & 6:30 pm. \$6 per person.

December Vacation Program at Lower Falls Community Center It's like summer camp in the winter for children in grades K-6. Participate in sports, arts and crafts, cooking, inside games, outside games, gym activities and more. Dec 26, 27, 28 8:15-3:30 pm extended day available until 5:15 pm \$40/day or \$105/all 3 days; add \$10/day for extended day. www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks, register www.activityreg.com, or call at 617-796-1500

Family Trip to Disney on Ice—Finding Nemo: Join the ocean-sized adventure of the curious clownfish Nemo, his over-protective father Marlin and their absent-minded pal Dory as Disney on Ice immerses you in a vibrant aquatic world in Disney/Pixar's Finding Nemo. Transportation is provided. Sat Dec 29, 1:45-5:30 pm, \$35/person. www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks, register www.activityreg.com, or call at 617-796-1500

SPORTS

GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY LEARN-TO-PLAY – The Eastern Commonwealth Girl's Hockey (ECGH) program is for girls with basic skating skills who want to play the fastest game in the world! Practices and skill sessions start in early November on Saturdays and varying weeknights with full-ice scrimmages and games beginning in January. Sessions are held at Fessenden School Rink in West Newton. For more information go to www.ecgh.org.

WEST SUBURBAN YMCA OFFERS YOUTH BASKETBALL AT NCSC The West Suburban YMCA is offering a Youth Basketball Association program in partnership with Newton Community Service Center at NCSC's 492 Waltham St. facility this winter. Children will learn skills and play league games. The one-hour sessions are structured into four age-appropriate groups. Program begins Jan. 5, 2008 for eight Saturdays. For information or to register, please call Jennifer Capello McAuliffe, NCSC Camp and Recreational Director (617) 969-5906, ext. 224 or visit www.ncscweb.org and click on Recreational Programs.

NCSC FEBRUARY VACATION WINTER SKILLS PROGRAM Looking for something fun and exciting for your child to do during their school vacations? This winter the Newton Community Service Center is offering a Winter Skills Program during February Vacation for 3rd through 6th grade students. We will be heading to Hale Reservation to learn essential winter skills in the areas of fire building, ice rescue, and stretcher building. Additional activities include Big Box Hockey, Archery, team sledding, and more.

For information or to register, please call Jennifer Capello McAuliffe, NCSC Camp and Recreational Director (617) 969-5906, ext. 224 or visit www.ncscweb.org and click on Recreational Programs.

Newton Girls Soccer Spring registration is now open. Deadline for travel team registration is December 1st, intramural deadline is January 31st. The spring season starts in April. (Tryouts for travel high school girls is this weekend 11/18.) For info or to register: www.newtongirlssoccer.org

CLASSIFIED

Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.

JEWELRY WAREHOUSE SALE- Starting on Friday November 23rd and ending on December 26th, 2007, we will be opening our warehouse located at 224 Calvary St, Waltham, MA to the public. We invite everyone to come between the hours of 10:00am and 6:00pm daily (including Sunday) to view one of the largest selections of silver and fun fashion jewelry all at Wholesale prices. This opportunity is only available once a year. For more information, please call 781-642-0881.

Trail bike for sale – used for one year and paid \$160. (These frames attach to a bigger bike and is designed for kids, ages 3-10.) Will take \$100 or b.o. Please email: rinkus@comcast.net or call 617-965-4680.

50 gallon gas hot water heater for sale – purchased for \$1,000 and used for only one year. Asking price: \$300 or b.o. Please email: rinkus@comcast.net or call 617-965-4680.

Experienced Newton Middle School Math Teacher with over 20 years of Middle School and Elementary classroom teaching and tutoring experience is accepting students. Call Russ at 508-847-8282 or email russellahunt@yahoo.com.

TUTOR AVAILABLE: Experienced tutor available at the elementary level. Subjects include: reading, written language, math and word processing. I work in the Wellesley Public Schools and I live and tutor children in Newton. I will meet your child's unique learning style and find the best strategies to help promote their learning. References available upon request. Please call or email me for a free consultation. Haralie Alpert, MS, M.Ed., (617)630-0608; Haralie@gmail.com.

GREAT PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT SPECIAL This would be a perfect time to take professional current photographs at Donna Stanger's photo studio in Newton (near the library). Call Donna Stanger for an appointment now. Donna Stanger Photography and Video 617-304-1819