
THE CONNECTION

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Attendance Line 617-559-9509

PRINCIPAL'S PAD

Did you visit with Franklinstein in the haunted house? Have your caricature drawn or your photo taken in the hay pile? Play pin the eye on the monster? Did you make and eat a ghost pop? If so, you must have been at the Franklin School Halloween Bash. As always, in spite of the wild weather, the Bash was well attended. Some folks attended in costume, but all brought their excitement and spirit. A special thanks to Terri Romanelli, Jocelyn Scheirer and their committee members for their splendid efforts in organizing this major event. Thank you also to the many parents, who set up, volunteered at booths, hauled equipment, and a multitude of other jobs. A great time was had by all. Well done!

Weather is beginning to change and the cold season is upon us. However, it is important for children to be in school as often as possible. In a collaborative effort to increase achievement and insure that all children develop the educational foundation that they need to be successful, let me share the following:

Times to keep your child home:

- ✓ a fever over 100 during the past 24 hours.
- ✓ vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- ✓ a cold in the active stages, i.e. coughing, running nose, sneezing.
- ✓ a sore throat and /or swollen neck glands.
- ✓ an undiagnosed rash or skin eruptions.
- ✓ head lice that haven't been treated.

Excessive absences and/or tardies tend to negatively impact learning and academic achievement. Therefore, when excessive absences or tardies result, a letter indicating the number of absences will be sent home. A meeting with the principal, parent and child will occur if the situation continues and if warranted, the meeting may include the city attendance officer. Thank you in advance for your collaboration with this effort.

Homework: Just a reminder that parents should write a note, an e-mail, or call when there are extenuating circumstances that prevent homework from being completed, or when a child has spent an inordinate amount of time, and/or does not understand the assignments. In this way, a teacher can support the child and no consequence will follow. When a child does not understand an assignment, he/she should attempt to contact a homework buddy from class in order to get help. Thank you for your support.

Reading: Reading must be the basis for students to grow in all other academic areas. If students develop solid reading skills, they can use those skills to increase chances of success in other areas. This expectation of building a solid literacy foundation is a shared responsibility. It is the responsibility of the school to develop a comprehensive reading program that provides connections among and between grade levels (described in the last PAD). The school has the added responsibility to work with students and their families to challenge each child and help each child develop a love of reading. The parent's responsibility is to encourage student reading each and every night, either reading to your child, with your child, and/or discussing with your child what he/she has read. It is also the parent's responsibility to provide the time and space to insure that reading occurs. The student is responsible for reading each night and thinking about what is read.

Isn't the cool weather a great excuse to cuddle up with your child, a cup of cocoa, and a good book? Thank you for all your efforts supporting your child's independent nightly reading at home. Please continue to read to your child as well. This provides an opportunity for your child to increase their vocabulary, experience rich imagery, and hear more complex sentence structure than they might be able to read independently. Plus, it's a great excuse for the whole family to chill together and enjoy one another. Happy fall!!

Cynthia Marchand

Nov 22	School closes at NOON
Nov 23-24	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec 4-8	Scholastic Book Fair
Dec 14	Early Release
Dec 25-Jan 1	December Recess

NEWS FROM THE PTO

Despite strong rains last Wednesday, many hardy Franklin parents attended the PTO General Meeting. In addition to the regular course of PTO business, we voted in two new School Council representatives: thank you very much to Joanne Caruso and Walter Devine for their strong commitment to our schools.

Also that night, we learned that Michael Jackson and other Newton men marched to Lexington in 1775 to fight the British making their way to Concord to confiscate colonial munitions. Well, soon our third graders will know this and more about colonial Newton and the American Revolution thanks to a grant from the **Newton Schools Foundation**. NSF executive director Chryse Gibson and Board member (and Franklin parent!) Alison McCarty described for us how this new history unit and many other innovative projects are made possible through the creativity of motivated teachers and the private funding available through the Newton Schools Foundation. Teachers from Franklin School have been keen users of NSF grants. Still, Chryse and Alison strongly advocate that Franklin parents encourage their teachers to look to NSF to fund their curriculum enhancing projects. More information is available at nsfonline.org.

Elections are over, but we'll be back at the voting booths in January to weigh in on the **Newton North site plan**. If you would like more information about the building site plan, you're invited to attend a forum on Tuesday, November 28th at 7:30 in Newton North's Lasker Auditorium. Panelists representing various views will discuss the plan and take questions from the audience. The forum is hosted by Newton's League of Women Voters, the Newton PTO Council and the Newton Schools Foundation, and will be followed up by a second forum in January regarding the project's finances.

Scanning the PTO calendar, we are looking forward to the **Scholastic Book Fair** running December 4-8th (just in time for some gift shopping!) and **Family Movie Night** on January 19th. This year, we're adding a second feature! Of course this means we need more parent volunteers. If you'd like to help organize a Friday flick, please get in touch with Michelle Roover.

Have a happy Thanksgiving! Remember, school lets out at noon on Wednesday.

Kim and Elizabeth

Creative Arts Strikes Gold!

Gold! Diamonds! Sedimentary Rock! These are just a few examples of what our fourth graders saw and learned about during last week's *Rocks and Minerals* program. The hour-long workshop, presented for each classroom by veteran instructor Jody Harris from the Science Discovery Museum, featured a component on classification and how to observe identifying features, such as color, texture and density. Students explored several examples, including amethyst, iron pyrite ("fool's gold"), petrified wood, sandstone, pumice (it floats!), quartz, and yes, gold and diamonds. They also created their own crystals (from Epsom salt solution) and a sedimentation bottle. Ask them how long it will take to turn to rock!

The students asked some great questions, gave astute answers, and showed their appreciation with a round of applause. This program has come to Franklin for the past seven years and was a great way to kick off the grade 4 geology unit. In fact, fifth graders were overheard exclaiming to Jody as she prepared to set up: "I remember Rocks and Minerals last year! It was awesome!"

Also last week, Jill Sanford from ArtQuest visited each of the first grade classrooms to present a wonderful program entitled *Children in Art*. The program, which integrates art history and art appreciation, is designed to enhance students' observation skills as they compare art masterpieces that contain images of children from a variety of cultures. The program, described as "terrific" but one teacher, was a great introduction to "reading" artwork for fun and learning.

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Looking for lunch room attendant at Franklin

for the following days Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Hours would be from 11:45 to 2:00. If interested please contact Betty Moy at 617-559-9493.

The next Connection will be published on Dec 8th. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is Monday, Dec 4th, 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



Halloween Bash Acknowledgements



As the days darken into late fall, the memories of a FABULOUS BASH linger.....Thank you and kudos go out to everyone in the entire Franklin Community who attended, helped with and made this yearly event a success once again. Parents and kids had a wonderful time playing, mingling and having a grand ole time!

Thank you, thank you to the many volunteers who helped with decorating, setup, games, activities, arts and crafts, tickets, and clean up. Thank you to those who lent a hand for an hour or for part of their afternoon or evening on Friday or Saturday. THANK YOU to all of the families who donated Tootsie Pops, cookies, water bottles, and juice boxes so everyone could have refreshments. Thank you to the kindergarten and first graders and their parents and teachers for all of the gorgeous carved pumpkins!!! Thanks to all of the families and friends who donated spooky objects and other decorative items to turn the school and the Haunted House into a festive Halloween fete!!!! And THANK YOU to the school staff for their help and patience while we turned the building into the venue for our party, and for graciously helping us to clean up after all of the hullabaloo on Saturday evening!

While we cannot possibly name every person who helped in so many ways (there were a ton of you!) very special shout out of thanks to the following people: Herb Ryan and his crew of parents, friends and students who made the Haunted House a wonder of technical and creative scary achievement! Julie Barbieri for her special help in setting up the gym. Cindy Shechtman for directing the fantastic decorations of the school. Patrice Joyce for decorating and leading the incredibly creative storytelling center in the Art Room. Cindy Shechtman and Pat Capobianco for designing and donating the tickets. Deirdre Fitzgerald and her girl scout troop for their face painting station. Rob Sardella for his Caricatures. Ellen Whalley and Lisa Chedekel for keeping an eye on the refreshment table. Elizabeth Roll, Nicole Lesser and Lillian Benson for predicting the future at the Fortune Teller booth. Carol McKrill for once again donating the instamatic camera for the insta-photo booth. Heather Dias for creating yet another Halloween Bash sign! Michelle Roover and Lisa Chedekel for ticket selling. Maria Galvagno for donating the estimation table. We would especially like to thank Melissa DeNucci for all of her invaluable help planning, organizing, and donating items, and also to Patricia Ryder for her help on the committee.

Thank you all so much from the Halloween co-chairs of 2006: Terri Romanelli, Cindy Schectman and Jocelyn Scheirer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Energy for Education Public Forum is Dec. 5 Come explore how energy services companies can help Newton improve the energy efficiency in our public schools and other municipal facilities, save hundreds of thousands of dollars, improve our children's learning environments, and address building improvement needs for the long term. Newton Stand for Children and the Green Decade Coalition/Newton are co-sponsoring a public education forum on Tuesday December 5, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Newton Free Library. For more information visit the Stand website at www.stand.org/chapter.asp?ID=337

Free Tot Shabbat Services for young children at Temple Sinai, Brookline, Friday, December 1, 2006 Temple Sinai invites you to join us on Friday, December 1st from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. for a joyful and engaging Tot Shabbat service. With singing and a Shabbat story followed by Kiddush and challah, this brief service is perfect for children ages 2-7 and their families. Our Tot Shabbat services take place monthly and are open to the community. All are welcome! Temple Sinai is a small reform congregation located at 50 Sewall Avenue in the Coolidge Corner neighborhood of Brookline. Call 617-277-5888 or go to www.sinaibrookline.org for more information.

PlaySpace Open at Cultural Center PlaySpace has opened at the Newton Cultural Center for it's second year of supplying a place for children 7 and under and their parents & caregivers to play indoors during the winter months. Centrally located at 225 Nevada Street in Newtonville. Off Watertown Street, 2 blocks East of Crafts Street, PlaySpace offers arts and crafts and toys every Tuesday & Thursday from 2:30 – 5PM and Saturdays from 1 – 4:30 PM. It will be open during school vacations at the regular hours. Standard Membership fee of \$70 for Newton Residents includes unlimited visits. \$90 for non Newton Residents. Single visit per family is \$10 for Newton Resident and \$12 for non Newton resident. With the holidays coming, consider giving a membership to a friend or family member. Plan a party at PlaySpace which includes art and craft projects, PlaySpace area and a refreshment room. Call The Mayor's Office for Cultural Affairs at 617 527-8283 for scheduling and prices.

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JEWELRY AT WHOLESALE PRICES: Huge selection of sterling silver, watches, fashion jewelry and much more...all at wholesale prices. Come visit our warehouse 10-5 daily, 7 days per wk. Located at 224 Calvary Street on the Waltham/West Newton line between Cedar and North Sts. Begins 11-24 thru 12/26.

For families looking for a photographer for upcoming events. Such as: Bat/Bar Mitzvahs, Anniversaries, Holiday Portaiture, etc. Photographer Donna Stanger is a multi-Emmy Award winner for her work in television. With her easygoing personality, Donna not only helps her clients feel comfortable in front of the lens, but she helps them reveal their inner star, bringing an element of joy reflected in the photographs. Whether capturing a winning equestrian or a bit of whimsy at a wedding, her artist's eye and experience result in an exciting photo that the family will treasure always. Ms. Stanger is based in Boston, Massachusetts. Contact Donna Stanger: Donna Stanger Photography donna@donnastangerphotography.com 617-304-1819

Tiny Tots has 1, 2, or 3-day spots available for your child ages 1-3. Half or full-day openings. Call Kathy at 617-244-5157. www.HomeOwnersHelpList.com

Experienced Math Tutor available for individualized tutoring. Former Lower School Math Specialist at Brimmer and May School. Remedial work, math maniputives, math/test/learning anxiety. Grades 1-8. After school and weekend times available. Office near by. Lots of references. Nancy Levy BA, MEd. 617-244-3599

Experienced tutor available! Local teacher, patient, and practiced with knowledge of the Newton elementary school curriculums! Available after school, evenings and weekends. Call 617-275-6210

SparkCleaning and Babysitting: Have a sparkling home and a very happy child! We are from Newton and have been providing housecleaning for a lot of families living in the area and we also provide babysitting service. We are honest, experienced, responsible and detail oriented. If you want someone who is caring, loving and fun to take care of your kids, this is the right place! Please CALL Simone or Dayanne FOR A FREE ESTIMATE at 1-617-527-8391. Great References Available for both Services!

Housecleaner available: Reliable and friendly, English-speaking Brazilian couple available to do housecleaning and other odd jobs, including yardwork, basement cleaning, etc. Outstanding Waban references. Please contact Roberta or Wallace Carmo at (781) 420-2788 or Tricia at (617) 964-2224.

Taverns Painting. Interior painting, professional work, affordable price. Call 617-244-5157
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High Tech Help. Computer maintenance, cable/DSL routers, data transfers, upgrades, training, virus detection/removal. Call 617-244-5157.
www.IneedHighTechHelp.com