
THE CONNECTION

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Attendance Line 617-559-9509

PRINCIPAL'S PAD

We have made it through the first several weeks and everyone seems to have settled in nicely. Let me take a moment to thank the wonderful staff at Franklin for working so efficiently to create a smooth transition and school beginning for your children.

It was great to see many of you at the "welcome back" coffee and the family picnic. I want to thank the PTO for arranging these events as well as the welcoming picnics for the kindergarten families and families of the K/1 class. These important events help new families acclimate, provide opportunities for veteran families to renew acquaintances, and help all feel connected to the Franklin community.

As an educator, I believe in the power of communication and collaboration. Open communication and the unified efforts of parents and staff create the most beneficial learning environment for children to achieve academic success. Please feel free to contact the teachers or me when you have a question, concern, or suggestion. Only through open communication, collaboration, and respect, can we provide an optimum learning environment for all students. Another important communication link between school and home is "The Franklin Connection". This school newsletter will enable you to keep abreast of happenings at Franklin School as well as the broader community. Please look for the electronic newsletter every other Friday. (If you require a hard copy, please notify the office.)

I look forward to working with all of you. My door is always open and I encourage people to visit in order to share their insights, feedback, concerns, delights, or simply to chat. Through open communication we all benefit and learn.

Oct 9	No School—Columbus Day
Oct 13	School Picture Day!
Oct 14	School Appreciation 8:30-4
Oct 19	Early Release
Oct 28	Beggar's Bash

Last June, some of our fifth grade students wrote letters to students in Afghanistan. Over the summer we received a thank you letter from Governor Romney who carried our letters with him on his visit to Afghanistan. Not only did he visit with our men and women in uniform, but he also spent time with some of the Afghani people. He shared our letters with delighted Afghani students who found the stories interesting and exciting. This was a wonderful exchange which helped children in Afghanistan gain a stronger understanding of children in America.

Other fifth graders also wrote persuasive letters to the Parks and Recreation Department and to the Honorable Mayor David Cohen. As a result, we now have a new and functioning water fountain in the school playground. I'm thrilled that our students engaged in social action and are using their writing skills for authentic purposes. Their efforts make a difference.

I am pleased to announce a new partnership with Lasell College. Lasell trains students who are interested in teaching and/or giving back to the community. As part of this literacy training, the students commit to tutor 1:1 twice a week for an entire school year while being supervised by a professor from Lasell. "America Reads", the Lasell initiative, will be implemented at Franklin this year. We are starting small, with 5 tutors at the third grade level, but hope to grow the program.

I have also been able to hire two literacy aides funded through Title 1, as additional support this year. One will support third grade students in small groups, and the second will support students and collaborate with teachers within the classrooms in grades two and later in grade one. This funding has also provided for the hire of a math aide to work with first grade students who need a little extra support around mathematical concepts and skills, and in strengthening their mathematical foundation.

Ron Luce has accepted a new position at Newton South High School. We appreciate all his hard work, support of staff, and commitment to the Franklin Community. Please join us in welcoming our new evening custodians, Paul Kohler and Geary Chalmus.

Cynthia Marchand

NEWS FROM THE PTO

Welcome to our first electronic edition of the Connection! For the remainder of the year, this is how you'll receive the newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy the convenience of getting it right to your email mailbox, not to mention the money and trees we're saving!

We've been blessed with some awesome weather and were fortunate that we had a glorious, sunny day for our **Family Photo Day!** For those of you that took advantage of this opportunity, thank you. Many thanks to Eleanor Boschert-Ambrosio for a great job coordinating this event. **Proofs are available online** to view. Just think - our holiday greeting cards may actually go out in time for the holidays!

Our PTO dues drive is well underway and we would like to thank the generosity of those families that have responded. It's never too late. A blue dues form was sent home in backpacks last week explaining how PTO dues are used to enrich the curriculum and support our teachers. We hope, too, you'll consider our **Franklin Fun Pass**, which gives you a discount on our most popular events, including a family pass to our upcoming Halloween Bash (Sat. Oct. 28th)! The Fun Pass forms (pink) came home in backpacks recently. Extra forms are in the Franklin office. **Our goal is to double the amount of PTO dues paid this year. We're only half way there!**

We had an excellent turn out for the first PTO meeting. Our principal updated us on literacy programs, Title I, and the Blue Zone rules. Committee Chairs entertained us with presentations of their events and activities, including a singing duo from the coffeehouse committee and a tool-belt clad mom from School Appreciation day. Congratulations to the three lucky winners of our Sheryl Pelligrini's Learn to Skate Program Raffle. To see the budget info and minutes from the meeting, go to the www.Franklinpto.org website. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 8th.

School Appreciation Day is a great way to show your child's teacher that you care. Paint a bookshelf, file papers, organize books, weed gardens . . . there are many ways you can help on **Saturday October 14th**.

Franklin School Directory forms were sent out in September and Julie Barbieri is hard at work putting together the 2006-2007 list. If you haven't done so, please fill out those forms and hand them in to your child's teacher so we can start using our much-loved directory.

Preparations for the **Halloween Bash** are well underway. The Scream Team is just about howling! Please make a point to volunteer and/or donate to this family evening of fun and festivities! We can use as little (half hour) or as much (4 hours) of your time that you can provide. We want to make this as fun as possible for the children. To make that happen we need volunteers and donations. The children are all "abuzz" about this night! Please help us make it a screaming success!

Finally, **School Photos** will be taken next Friday, October 13th. How busy will the barber shop be tomorrow?

Elizabeth and Kim

..... **Understanding Our Differences – Seeking Volunteers for Upcoming Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade Programs**

The **Understanding Our Differences** program will take place in the 3-5th Grades again at Franklin. This nationally recognized program is part of the Newton Public Schools' curriculum and takes place in all 15 elementary schools each year. The goal of the program is to increase information, understanding and acceptance of people with disabilities and individual differences in our community.

This program is organized and led by parents with support from the school, the grade level teachers and the specialists. This is a great opportunity to share time in the classroom and take action in support of our school's core values. Please consider volunteering... this program helps teach our children life long lessons for understanding differences in peers and the community around them.

The **Fourth grade** program will kick off late fall through winter with three sessions: **Learning Disabilities & Challenges – Thursday, November 9th 1pm-3pm**
Developmental Disabilities/Mental Retardation – Thursday, March 8th 1pm-3pm
Special Medical Conditions – Thursday, May 3rd , 1pm-3pm

In the **Third** grade we will have programs on Deafness and Blindness in the Winter/Spring and in the **Fifth** grade we will have a program focused on Physical Disabilities.

If you want to learn more or are interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Beth McIntyre at (5th grade coordinator), or Janna Zwerner (Deafness and 3rd grade coordinator). We are looking for both Unit leaders and in class volunteers. You do not have to have a 3-5th grader to participate. More information to follow.

The next Connection will be published on Oct 20th. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is Monday, Oct 16th, 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.



**Halloween Bash
Needs
Volunteers And
Donations**



**Saturday, October 28, 2006
5PM - 7PM**

Calling all witches, ghosts, monsters, and Franklin families! In order to make the Halloween Bash a fabulous success, **we still need lots of volunteers!** We've had a strong response so far, but we are still in need of more parents and teachers to help. It takes a lot of people to get the school ready, to staff all activities during the evening, and to clean up after the party. If you can set up after school at 3PM on Friday or at 4 pm on Saturday, run games for just hour between 5 and 7PM at the party, work in the haunted house, and/or clean up after the party at 7PM, please lend a hand. In particular, we need 3 or 4 men/strong women to help unload the haunted house from the truck and setup some large portions of the haunted house at 3PM on Friday, October 27. And we need people to join the cleanup crew so that we have the school in tip-top shape for Monday morning - again it would be helpful to have strong folks to disassemble the haunted house. If you're new to Franklin, volunteering is a great way to meet Franklin families and teachers!

We are also seeking 5th graders to set up and work in the Haunted House during the party. Sign-up lists will be posted in 5th grade classrooms in the next week or so.

**PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION BY
OCT. 10TH. THANK YOU!!!!**

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE HALLOWEEN
BASH:**

Another way that you can help is to donate one of these items:

- (4) 100 tootsie pops -- 400 total
- (10) 2 gallons of bottled water -- 20 gallons total
- (4) 200 napkins -- 800 total
- (20) 40 cookies (approximately 2 packages) -- 800 total
- (1) 10-pack of glue sticks
- (2) 1 package of 100-count basket coffee filters -- 200 total
- (4) 200 7 oz. cups 800 -- 800 total

I CAN VOLUNTEER FOR: _____

I CAN DONATE: _____

NAME _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please email or call Jocelyn Scheirer if you can volunteer and/or donate.

Return by 10/10/06! Thank you!!



**School Appreciation
Day
WE NEED YOUR
HELP!!!**

**SATURDAY, October 14, 2006
8:30 a. m. – 4:00 p. m.**

THIS IS OUR LAST CALL... Show the teachers/staff at Franklin School how much we appreciate them. There is a job for everyone... from organizing and cleaning to painting and building/repairing.

We need lots food donations too to feed the hungry volunteers. We promise good music and great food to all.☺

Here is a great way to meet other parents and an easy way to become involved in the Franklin PTO community.

To sign up or ask questions, please call Megan McA'Nulty or Paul Labovitch. Thank you for your generosity and time! We look forward to seeing you on the 15th.

Food Committee: Katherine Lee, Greer Swiston

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Calling All Buddies

There are several new families in the following grades/classrooms that still need "buddy" families. As a "buddy" family, your role is to meet the new family and/or be available to answer any of their questions about Franklin. If you have a child in any of the following classrooms and would like to be a buddy family, please contact the Franklin PTO Welcome Committee (Michelle Lecks Roover or Ellen Tanowitz) for more details.

THANK YOU!

<u>Gender of Student</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Classroom</u>
Female	K	Vanaria
Female	K	Joseph
Male	1	Russillo
Male	3	Skolnik
Male	4	D'Eath

(for both K students, family registered late so was not matched up with a K buddy in late August like other K students)

Upcoming School Committee Meetings

October 10 Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Superintendent's Personnel Report; FY07 Budget Update; Operations Status Report; High School Building Project Update; Special Education Update - Including Contracted Services; Staffing

Reconciliation Report; Appointment of Budget Guidelines Subcommittee and Initial Discussion of FY08 Budget Guidelines; Continued Discussion re: Short-Term Space Needs - Enrollment Update

October 23 Monday 7:30 p.m. Report from Health & Human Services Department; Curriculum Review: History/Social Studies Program; Continued Discussion of FY08 Budget Guidelines; Continued Discussion re: Short-Term Space Needs – Policy Options

October 30 Interactive Forum re: Short-Term Space Needs; Monday 7:00 p.m. Oak Hill Middle School Library

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 and Thursday, 9:30-11:30 AM. \$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.

Temple Sinai invites you to join us on Friday, November 10th 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.

Horace Mann Family Walk & Fun Run. Sunday, October 22. Horace Mann School, 687 Watertown Street. 5K Run, 5K Walk, Kids Dash. Registration 8:30am, Events begin at 10:00am. 5K course starts on Albemarle Ave and continues through the residential areas of Newtonville. Music, Post-Race Refreshments, Free T-shirts to first 100 5K registrants, Mile Splits, Water Station. Ribbons to all finishers in Fun Run. Medals to first, second and third place winners in under 15, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 & over 60 male & female finishers. Trophies to overall men and women finishers. \$18(Adult 5K)/\$8(Youth 5K/Fun Run/Walk) post-

marked on or before 10/18 or \$20(Adult 5K)/\$10(Youth 5K/Fun Run/Walk) on Race Day Contact 617 559-0574 or randalldk@rcn.com.

New at create-a-cook, Newton's just for kids cooking school!! Join Anne Taylor, pastry chef at Lineage, for a spooktacular baking workshop: Halloween Whoopie Pies, Graveyard Cakes, and Quicksand Pudding. October 11, 18, or 25 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Ages 10+. Call us at 617 795-2223 to reserve your place now! www.createacook.com

K2 Enrichment Program-Engineering and science for young children! This K2 Enrichment program is for girls and boys (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 weekday-afternoon sessions and weekend-morning sessions. For more information; www.k2enrichment.com k2enrichment@gmail.com Tel: 617-782-9570

Flu Clinic Wed Nov 1, 10-2, American Legion Post 440, 295 California St. Newton, For Newton Residents aged 65 and older, or those with chronic illness. Bring your medicare card, wheelchair accessible, sponsored by the Newton HHS Dept. 617-796-1420

Wheelock Family Theatre WFT Story Troupers Mon Oct 9 at 11 am. Fenway Cultural District's Opening Our Doors Day. FREE! www.wheelock.edu/wft or 617-879-2300

Sports & Dance

Come play in the First Annual Jordan Bennett Weiss Three on Three Basketball Tournament! The tournament will be held on Sunday, October 22nd from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the John M. Barry Boys and Girls Club of Newton. The Jordan Bennett Weiss Fund is committed to increasing public awareness of the prevalence and warning signs of type 1 and type 2 diabetes. For more information, to register for this event, or to make a contribution, please go to www.newtonasc.org. Thanks to our friends at Newton Athletes Serving the Community for allowing us to use their web site to publicize this event.

The Newton Children's Dance Association presents a celebration of movement and dance with a "Dress Up Dance Party" Sunday, October 22 1-2:30 pm at the Joanne Langione Dance Center 35 Border St. Newton, Ma 02465 617-969-8724 for children ages 5-7. Each young dancer will receive a special gift. For more information please visit

our website at

www.jldancecenter.com/events_workshops.html. FREE. NEWTON METROWEST BASKETBALL TRYOUTS Tryouts for Newton travel basketball teams playing in the Metrowest Basketball League, which is made up of 40 area towns, are scheduled for October. Newton places at least one team in each age group below. Players who live in Newton or attend Newton schools through the METCO program are eligible. No pre-registration is necessary. Games run from December through early March. For more information, see the Newton Metrowest website at www.eteamz.com/NewtonTravelBB or e-mail Ted Tye at tye@natdev.com.

Boys & Girls 4th grade Tue 10/10 & 10/17, 6-7:30, Brown
Boys & Girls 5th grade Wed 10/11 & 10/18, 6-7:30, Brown
Boys & Girls 6th grade Wed 10/11 & 10/18, 7:30-9, Brown
Girls 7th grade - Tues 10/10 and 10/17, 7:30-9, Brown
Boys 7th grade - Sun 10/15 and 10/22, 6-7:30, Brown
Girls 8th grade - Thur 10/12 and 10/19, 6-7:30, Fessenden
Boys 8th grade - Sun 10/15 and 10/22, 7:30-9, Brown

CLASSIFIED

Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.

3-BR Furnished Home for Rent Featured on Newton House and Garden tours, our beautiful, architect redesigned, furnished home is available for rent from Nov. 2006 to June 2007. We're located on a quiet, tree-lined, child-safe street bordering Cold Spring Park. Walk to "T", main library, Whole Foods, and Crystal Lake. House includes 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, home office with wifi, cathedral ceilings, skylights, sunny fireplaced living room, open kitchen/dining room with wall of glass overlooking landscaped rock gardens. Hardwood floors & beautiful woodwork throughout. Washing machine and dryer. Parking for 2 cars. No fees. Call 617-969-5541 or email batsheva_fenster@yahoo.com.

PIANO INSTRUCTION Berklee/New England Conservatory graduate with 25 years teaching experience will travel. Beginners Welcome. Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sightreading from a patient, caring teacher.

Howe Family, Mountain House Rentals available!!! Fantastic views of Franconia Notch. Within close prox. to many ski areas, includ. Loon, Waterville Valley, and Cannon mtns. Wkly. rates, and special long wknd. rates available. Sleeps 9 plus. Great family room. Kid friendly. Go hiking leaf peeping, or sledding out back door! * Please contact Michele G.Howe Hm.# 617-969-6184 or mgiggihowe@comcast.net for more info.

Taverns Painting. Interior painting, professional work, affordable price. Call 617-244-5157
www.HomeOwnersHelpList.com

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

High Tech Help. Computer maintenance, cable/DSL routers, data transfers, upgrades, training, virus detection/removal. Call 617-244-5157.
www.IneedHighTechHelp.com

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

Franklin Office 617-559-9500