
THE CONNECTION

Published by the Franklin School PTO

Sept 7, 2007

Attendance Line 617-559-9509

Receiving The Connection

We hope that you find The Connection a useful tool for staying in touch with life at Franklin School. The first two issues of The Connection will be sent home in your child's folder. After the first two issues, The Connection will only be distributed electronically, although copies will be available for pickup in the office. In this way, we are able to apply more of our PTO dollars to classroom enrichment programs. As an added benefit we'll be saving a small forest!

As of the October 5th issue, you can receive The Connection in one of three ways:

1. Directly to your email account via the Franklin PTO Announcement List. If you are not receiving PTO Announcements through this service (you should have received an invitation to the Back to School Picnic by now), or you would like to update your email address, please send an email to Paul Rensing.
2. Private Email—if you don't want to be part of the PTO Announcements list, email Megan McA'Nulty and it will be emailed to you directly.
3. On the PTO website at www.franklinpto.org. You can access all back issues on the website as well. (Note: private emails and phone numbers are removed from the web version.)
4. In the school office. You can stop by to pick up a paper copy, or ask your child's teacher for assistance.

PRINCIPAL'S PAD

Dear Franklin Families,

Welcome to Franklin School! The staff and I are delighted you are here for what promises to be an exciting year. Each September is a new beginning, a fresh start, a hopeful time. Students often begin by wondering quietly, "Will my teacher like me?" which later turns to "Will my teacher know me?" The staff and I share similar feelings and questions!

I am reminded with each new beginning how much hard work is involved in deciding that right approach to content, in gathering the supplies, in planning the projects, in setting up those first lessons which will build community and respectful classroom procedures, and in organizing the physical space of the classroom—setting beautiful artifacts

Sept 11	6-8 pm Fall Picnic
Sept 13	No School—Rosh Hashanah
Sept 20	Curriculum Night
Sept 26	PTO Meeting 7:30 pm
Oct 1	End of Innisbrook Fundraiser
Oct 7	Apple Picking
Oct 8	No School—Columbus Day
Oct 13	School Appreciation 8:30-4
Oct 27	Beggar's Bash

next to intriguing books, displaying eye-appealing bulletin boards, spelling names correctly for cubbies, studying curriculum, and matching appropriate materials to that curriculum. There is a lot more behind the scenes than meets the eye. Had you been here this summer, you would have seen some of this preparatory work. I want to thank our staff for their extra efforts.

In addition, there was other work happening behind the scenes this summer to make Franklin a better place for "kids." Painting happened, a new larger sink was installed in the kitchen, another classroom was created downstairs, the art room was moved, tile floors were installed in the Learning Center, ELL and Literacy rooms, and psychologist's office. The hallways were waxed and re-waxed. Our senior custodian, John Carvelli, and Paul Kohler, our junior custodian, renewed the sparkle of the building as well. They spent numerous hours getting the building "up and running." This was done despite the back injury to Mr. Carvelli.

This newsletter is an important "connection" between home and school, and will enable you to keep abreast of happenings at Franklin, as well as in the city. You can receive Connections electronically. I urge you to read it. You will also receive a packet of information, all of which requires your careful reading, and some of which requires your immediate response. We definitely must be certain we have your emergency information.

I am delighted to introduce our new staff members:

Jennifer Mayo, Kindergarten
Steven Mucci, Grade One
Kara Fucci, Grade Four
Kathleen Crowley, Grade 5 REACH teacher
Megan Barberio, Inclusion Facilitator, full time
Caitlin Quinn, Music, full time
Shoshana Anapolle, Learning Center Teacher, .5
Leon Gerson, Building Aide, full time

Additional staff will be introduced in the next edition of Connections.

An apology is in order to those of you who were trying to call the school during the beginning of August 23-27. We were having phone difficulties, but were unaware of the problem within the answering machine. In addition, there were some difficulties with the nurse's phone. I am sorry this happened; all repairs have been completed.

On a personal note, I loved seeing new faces this morning, and some familiar ones too. I have deeply appreciated the numerous welcomes to Franklin that I have received. Thank you. I look forward to our year together.

Sincerely,

Ruth H. Chapman, Interim Principal

NEWS FROM THE PTO

Greetings everyone! It's been great catching up with old friends and meeting new ones at our Welcome Coffees. Thanks to all of the generous bakers who contributed our morning snacks. We are so excited about the coming year!

The Franklin PTO mission is two-fold: to help everyone get to know each other and to raise funds for classroom enrichment programs. Over the years, Franklin has created some terrific community celebrations and highly successful fundraisers. Among them, the Halloween Bash, the Mid-Winter Coffeehouse and the Spring Auction stand out as classic Franklin events. In order to present these events every year, it is critical that we parents get involved – either as leaders or as helpers.

Soon you will find in your child's backpack a **PTO Committee List** of all of this year's planned events. Somewhere in this list is an activity that matches *your* interests, *your* goals, and *your* available time. We encourage everyone to pick an activity to help with or a committee to join. Your participation in school activities will make Franklin an even better place for our children to learn and grow. It is your help – in both large and small ways – that make this one of the most active schools and one of the most dynamic communities in all of Newton!

In your child's backpack next week, you will receive information on the **Franklin Family Fun Pass**, which gives you a discount on favorite Franklin events when you pay

your PTO dues early. Also, you will receive a catalog for **Innisbrook Gifts**. A critical fundraiser for Franklin, Innisbrook supports our early financial commitments for special presentations and field trip subsidies.

Please pay attention to the CORI form being sent to you from the school. You will not be permitted to chaperone a field trip or volunteer at school without a CORI! We had some very disappointed parents last year and would very much like to avoid that situation again. CORI forms are good for three years. If you have filled out a CORI before, check with Debbie Mastroianni, the school secretary, to make sure it is still valid.

Lastly, we hope you'll stay connected with the Franklin community in two ways. First, make sure you continue to receive this bi-weekly newsletter by following the instructions above. Second, please return the phone Directory Authorization form. Only with your approval can the PTO include your contact information in the school phone directory – an essential tool for building friendships outside the classroom. We begin work on this directory immediately, so please be sure to return the form promptly!

This year's PTO Board looks forward to serving the Franklin community. If you would like to share a comment or introduce a new idea, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us: Eleanor Boschert-Ambrosio – Vice President, Walter Devine – Secretary, Terri Romanelli – Treasurer, and...

Yours Truly,

Kim Freedman and Susan LaPierre
PTO Co-Presidents

PTO Events is September and October:

- September 11 – Back to School Picnic: Bring a picnic for your family and a dessert to share. 6:00 – 8:00 pm on the big playground.
- September 26 – First PTO Meeting: Learn about the upcoming school events, meet the Board, hear the Principal's remarks. 7:30 pm in the Auditorium.
- October 13 – School Appreciation Day: Come help paint, sort and build things for the school. 8:30 – 4 pm.
- October 27 – Halloween Bash: A Franklin favorite! Goblins, games and treats for the whole family. Held in the school.

For more details, check out our website at www.franklinpto.org.

PTO EMAIL LISTS

The Franklin PTO maintains two email lists to help our school community communicate:

Franklin-PTO-Announcements

This is a moderated list intended for PTO announcements. Generally, these will be items like meeting reminders, and school event reminders.

The Franklin PTO newsletter "The Connection" is distributed electronically every two weeks through the Franklin-PTO-Announcements lists, so enrollment on the list is important (although paper copies are available in school office).

Franklin-Parents-Discussion

This is an unmoderated list for general discussion. Anyone can post messages; however, items should be likely to be of general interest to the Franklin community.

You can sign up for the lists by sending an email to the list Administrator, Paul Rensing. Please include something about yourself so that we know you are a Franklin community member. Also, please specify if you only want the Announcements list.

Once enrolled, you can control your subscription using the Web interface for the list. The URL is "https://lists.neighborhoods.net/". You can change delivery options, add alternate emails, unsubscribe, etc. using the Web. For instance, you can set the list to deliver a "digest" of the day's messages, or no messages at all. If you have trouble, you can always send an email to the list moderator.

Enrollment in the lists is controlled, so only Franklin community members (parents, teachers) can subscribe. As said above, the Franklin-PTO-Announcements list is moderated, so only approved messages get distributed. Franklin-Parents-Discussion is open to any subscriber to send messages, but please keep to topics which are of interest to the greater school population (eg. questions about activities, local kids events, etc.). There is a "code of etiquette" which sent out on enrollment and once in a while as a reminder.

Paul Rensing
Franklin Email List Administrator

Franklin PTO Website

Check out the Franklin PTO Website at www.franklinpto.org! If you see anything you think should be added, contact Megan McA’Nulty—we’re always looking for volunteers to help add information, no web experience necessary!

Our Fall Fundraiser, INNISBROOK WRAPS, Will Start Soon!

Franklin School's Got the BEAT!

Sale starts September 14th and ends on October 1st. Our school receives 50% profit on items purchased during the fundraiser, and we continue to receive 50% profit ALL YEAR ROUND on items purchased on Innisbrook's website at www.innisbrook.com.

Look for the Innisbrook Wraps packet in your child's backpack in the upcoming week. Every child that sells 10 or more items in the Innisbrook Wraps Catalog during the sale will receive a HIP HOP CLIPPER!

Help Us Keep the BEAT with our biggest fundraiser!

For more information or interested in helping out, please contact Ellen Bradley.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Welcome back everyone!

Each fall, the Franklin School PTO publishes a school-wide phone directory to help foster friendships among classmates and to open communication among parents. In order for this to happen, information needs to be collected from each student at the school. The good news is that, if you were here last year, the Franklin School Phone Directory forms have already been completed for you!

Please take the time to check that the information we currently have is correct. Every child will receive a form with his/her individual information. If you would like to reduce your paperwork, feel free to write additional student names on the back of one form, and only return that one form.

Remember to sign the form: Parental permission is mandatory in order to print any of your child's information. Finally, please try to return your form(s) to the school by Friday, September 14th.

With your help, the directory will be in your child's backpack by the end of the month.

Thanks,
Jennifer Roy

Franklin Office 617-559-9500

Want to be a Room Parent? Now's your chance!

Every year the PTO recruits at least two parents from each classroom to become room parents. Room parenting is a great way to support your child's teacher, get to know the other parents and children in your child's classroom, and help build a sense of community and pride in Franklin School by encouraging other families to participate in classroom and school-wide activities.

A room parent's responsibilities will vary from class to class – depending on the season and needs of different teachers. In the past, room parents have often been responsible for:

- Helping teachers coordinate classroom events and special parties
- Welcoming new families to their child's classroom
- Serving as an important liaison between parents, classroom, and the PTO

Room parents are not expected to do it alone! In fact, a room parent's *main* responsibility is to encourage as many parents as possible to get involved in their child's classroom and school. The more parents involved, the better!

If you'd like to volunteer as a room parent, or learn more about what's involved, please contact:

Melanie Adler or Ellen Bradley. We look forward to hearing from you!



School Appreciation Day VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**SATURDAY, October 13, 2006
8:30 a. m. – 4:00 p. m.**

Here is a wonderful opportunity (and a fun day) to show the teachers how much you care about our school. Appreciation Day began as a way to make improvements and repairs to the school and its' classrooms that the School Department budget does not cover. Projects can be painting, carpentry, copying, and paperwork. It is also a great way to meet other parents and an easy way to become involved in the Franklin PTO community.

We have asked every teacher and/or department to submit a list of projects to be completed in their room or area. Enthusiasm is the only requirement. While some parents bring talent with tools and brushes - **THERE IS A JOB FOR EVERYONE!** Saturdays can be busy -- soccer, lessons, etc. If you cannot come all day, drop by for an hour. **ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOMED AND NEEDED!** Can't be there on the 13th? We need lots of help leading up to the big day too.

In addition to participating on the actual day, parents can also make a donation to defray the cost of materials –

Lumber and Paint are not cheap! Donations can be placed in the PTO box in the main office, or turned into teachers. Or help us organize the event, get donations of food or materials.

--There is no child care for children and it can be dangerous for them to be around tools and paints.

-- We will feed you breakfast & lunch (good food too!) If you have any questions, please call Megan McA'Nulty or Paul Labovitch. Thank you for your generosity and time! We look forward to seeing you on the 13th.

FRANKLIN SCHOOL CONNECTION NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE FOR 2007-2008

Below is the schedule for the year. The newsletter will be emailed on Fridays. All deadlines are Mondays by 12:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Please call Megan (leave a message if I'm at work) or send me an email (best bet) if you have something for an issue but really can't make the deadline. Publication dates and deadline reminders will also be included in each issue of the newsletter; if you'd like an email reminder before each deadline, send me an email.

DEADLINE DATES

Monday, Sept 17th
 Monday, Oct 1st
 Monday, Oct 15th
 Monday, Oct 29th
Friday, Nov 9th (Mon holiday)
 Monday, Dec 3rd
 Monday, Dec 17th
 Monday, Jan 7th
Friday, Jan 18th (Mon holiday)
 Monday, Feb 4th
 Monday, Feb 25th
 Monday, Mar 10th
 Monday, Mar 24th
 Monday, Apr 7th
 Monday, Apr 28th
 Monday, May 12th
Friday, May 23rd (Mon holiday)
 Monday, June 9th

PUBLICATION

Friday, Sept 21st
 Friday, Oct 5th
 Friday, Oct 19th
 Friday, Nov 2nd
 Friday, Nov 16th
 Friday, Dec 7th
 Friday, Dec 21st
 Friday, Jan 11th
 Friday, Jan 25th
 Friday, Feb 8th
 Friday, Feb 29th
 Friday, Mar 14th
 Friday, Mar 28th
 Friday, Apr 11th
 Friday, May 2nd
 Friday, May 16th
 Friday, May 30th
 Friday, June 13th

The next Connection will be published on Sept 21st. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is Monday, Sept 17th, 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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kumon Math and Reading in Auburndale is offering a \$10. discount toward new students in September and October. Please check our website at newtonkumon.com or call Winston Chiong, Ph.D. or Jane Chiong, Ed.D. at 617-244-9540 for a free informational interview/testing.

Newton Community Ed classes at Franklin Registration is now underway for fall classes through Newton Community Education. Coming up at Franklin we have **Mad Science** on Mondays, **Drawing** on Tuesdays, Art on Wednesdays, **Drama and Chess** on Thursdays, and **Combat Sambo** on Monday and Wednesday evenings. For 5th graders we offer **Babysitting** and **Lego Robotics** at North, and **Create a TV Show** at NewTV. For kids in grades 1 and 2 we have **Nature Explorers** in Newton's great outdoors on two Friday afternoons, and for kids in grades 3-5 we have **Fencing** at Bigelow on Mondays. We have many exciting Saturday classes for **adult-child pairs**, such as **Apple Extravaganza**, **A Taste of the Farm**, **Worm Mania**, **Marble Machine Madness**, **Holiday Gift-Making**, and the ever-popular **Chocolate Connection**. We also have lots of Saturday **sports options** for kids ages 2 and up, and many more weekday classes at schools throughout Newton. For more information or to register, call our office at 617-559-6999 or visit our website at newtoncommunityed.org.

Girl Scouts Registration Calling all girls, Kindergarten and up, interested in outdoor fun and camping, community service, art, hands-on science, leadership, and more! Newton Girl Scouts announces open registration for new members: Wednesday, September 19 between 2 and 8 pm, or Sunday, September 30 between 2 and 4:30 pm at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street (main branch). Drop in during either time. Parent or guardian signature required for registration. For more information, contact Greer Tan Swiston at gswiston@comcast.net, (617) 308-7906 or Newton Girl Scouts at newton@ptgirlscouts.org or leave message at 617-671-1223.

SPORTS & DANCE

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. For eight Saturdays, beginning Jan. 5, 2008, children ages 4 – 12 will learn skills and play league games. The one-hour sessions are structured into four age-appropriate groups. For information or a registration form, please visit www.ncscweb.org and click on Athletic Programs or call 617-969-5906, ext. 224.

4th & 5th Grade Basketball: Metrowest Tryouts
Metrowest is a travel basketball league serving boys and girls in 4th-8th grade. Tryouts for girls and boys aged 4th and 5th grade will take place at Brown Middle School in October on the following days and times:
Girls 4th grade - Wednesdays 10/10 and 10/17, 6:00 p.m.
Girls 5th grade - Fridays 10/12 and 10/19, 6:00 p.m.
Boys 4th grade - Tuesdays 10/9 and 10/16, 6:00 p.m.
Boys 5th grade - Thursdays 10/11 and 10/18, 6:00 p.m.
Any questions, please go to www.metrowestbball.com or <http://eteamz.active.com/NewtonTravelBB/>.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER IS DOING AFTER SCHOOL?? Giroux Bros. Martial Arts is one of the only places that offer extended day programs for your middle school age children. Call or email Steve or Nicole at (617) 641-2992 or you can email us at steve@girouxbros martialarts.com, nicole@girouxbros martialarts.com for more information.

MUSIC

KEYS FOR KIDS piano lessons. Small groups organized by age (4-11). Outstanding methodology. Experienced, certified instructor. Proven success. Keys for Kids goes beyond ordinary piano lessons: it teaches well-rounded musicianship. Fall registration. Free sample lesson. Contact Marina Gorny: MDGorny@comcast.net or (617)527-4942 www.NewtonKidsLoveMusic.com

The School Of Rock: You've seen the movie, now you can experience the real thing, the school that inspired the film. The Paul Green School of Rock Music is the nations premier performance based rock music program. Since 1998 the Paul Green School of Rock has been taking students ages 7-18 and turning them into genuine rock stars. We are now accepting students for the new location in Watertown, Massachusetts. For more info on the school or to sign up call 617-923-3434 ... email amar@schoolofrock.com. The School of Rock (www.schoolofrock.com), located at 120 Elm Street in Watertown, MA. Our current hours of operation are 3-8 on weeknights, and 11 am-5pm on Saturdays.

CLASSIFIED

Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.

Tutor Available- Newton Teacher with 20+ years experience has openings to tutor students K-5 in Reading, Writing and Math. Organizational skills also taught. Dual teaching certificates in early childhood as well as elementary ed.. Can come to your home. Very competitive rates. Call Elaine (617) 795-1621