
THE CONNECTION

Published by the Franklin School PTO

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Attendance Line 617-559-9509

The Connection is Going Electronic

***** THIS IS THE LAST PAPER ISSUE *****

We are all for saving money and saving the environment. Therefore, as of the October 6th edition, here's how you'll receive The Connection:

1. Directly to your email account via the Franklin PTO Announcement email service. If you are not receiving PTO announcements through this service, or are not sure you're properly enrolled in the list-service, you can send an email to Paul Rensing.
2. You can access the current issue anytime on the PTO website at www.franklinpto.org.
3. Paper copies will be available in the school office. Stop by to pick one up, or ask your child's teacher for assistance.

YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED SEPT 8th CONNECTION BY EMAIL IF YOU WERE SIGNED UP!

NEWS FROM THE PTO

Have you noticed how quickly Franklin School becomes a bee hive of excitement, right from the first day of school? Last week, families filled the playground for a Back to School Picnic to say hello to old friends and new, and we donated and shopped on Saturday at the Tag Sale.

The **Innisbrook** sale is underway – catalogues went home last week. This fundraiser is one of the most important for the Franklin PTO, typically raising one quarter of our annual budget. So many of us find value in the quality and selection of Innisbrook products that we hope you'll enjoy participating!

Also last week you received from the PTO a package of all the events and volunteer opportunities in the planning stages. If you find an activity that calls to your interests, please return the **Volunteer Sheet**. A committee chairperson will give you a call to discuss how you can get involved. Remember, it's an interest survey, not a contract!

Coming up soon are two important events at Franklin! At **School Appreciation Day**, you might paint some shelves, copy some worksheets, or drop off lunch for the crew. At the **Halloween Bash**, you might run a game, set up the Haunted House, or contribute decorations. Both events need your time or your donations. Please respond to the emails or notices in the backpacks to help.

If you would like your volunteering to get you closer to your child's classroom experience, please consider two programs that do just that: **Room Parents** and **Library Volunteers**. You'll get to know your teachers, and you'll see lessons in action.

Did you know that the PTO sponsors \$40,000 in classroom enrichment programs and school support? Monies generated by our fundraisers need also be supplemented by dues paid by all of us. You may have seen notices around for the **Franklin Fun Pass**. In one easy payment, you have tickets for our most popular events, and your dues are paid, a gift book donated to the library, and your duty is fulfilled. Of course, if the Fun Pass is more than your family needs, please consider making an appropriate payment towards PTO dues.

If your email inbox seems to be overflowing with PTO notices for all these programs, we beg your patience while so much is going on. By October, we'll settle into a quieter schedule, and that subscription to the list serve won't seem like such a bad idea. Remember, to keep the Connection coming to you, make sure you're subscribed to the PTO Announcements list serve.

Sept 28	PTO Meeting 7:30 pm
Oct 2	No School—Yom Kippur
Oct 3	End of Innisbrook Fundraiser
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

See you at the PTO Meeting on Thursday, September 28th!

Elizabeth and Kim

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IMPORTANT DATES

Early Release Dates - School Dismissed at 12:30

Oct. 19

Dec. 14

Feb. 8

March 29

June 7

Franklin School Picture Day is Friday, October 13th.

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Join us and help support our school!

Use Innisbrook Wraps Fundraiser to buy gifts you'll use throughout the year for kids, teachers, friends and relatives while supporting our school.

Sell 5 items from the catalogue and return the coupon found inside your packet during our fundraiser and you will get a cool sports bottle. Your sports bottle may be a lucky winner if it contains a gift certificate for an additional prize!

Orders due: October 3, 2006

Out-of-town family and friends can help our school by ordering online at www.innisbrook.com. Remember to register your student and use our school number: 101615

Any questions, please contact Ellen Bradley

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Introducing the FRANKLIN FUN PASS

Does your family love Franklin school events? Well, don't miss out on the convenience of a **Franklin Fun Pass!**

In one easy payment, you can reserve access to the best fun the Franklin PTO has to offer: Passes to the Halloween Bash, the Family Movie Night, and the Midwinter Coffeehouse. Your dues are paid, a gift book reserved for the library, and your conscience is cleared. All for \$100.

Look for fliers from the PTO at welcome back events and coming home in the students' backpacks.

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, please call Melanie Adler or Ellen Bradley or send an email to Melanie.

(If you've already signed up or spoken with one of us – thanks! We'll be contacting you to confirm over the next few weeks.)

We look forward to hearing from you!

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The next Connection will be published on Oct 6th. To submit something, send by email or leave it in the Connection mailbox in the school office. The deadline is Monday, Oct 2nd, 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

School Appreciation Day VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**SATURDAY, October 14, 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 14th? 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.

If you plan to participate on October 14th:
--Tools (such as power drills and drivers) are needed. Any that you can bring would be helpful. (Please put your name on everything!)
--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 14th.

Subject: FOOD for Franklin School Appreciation Day

What is the event?

Franklin School Appreciation Day will be held on Saturday, October 14, from 8:30 AM until 4 PM.

What is the mission of the Food Committee?

TO FEED the volunteers as they build shelves, paint walls, and otherwise spruce up our school.

What food is needed?

We will provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

How can I help?

Bring muffins, bagels, sandwiches, chips, energy bars, beverages, fruit, desserts, or supplies like disposable cups, plates, utensils or napkins to the event at any time starting from 8 AM.

Or stop by any time during the day to help us keep the tables stocked.

Or help us pick up food donated by local businesses.

I'm busy on October 14, what else can I do?

Drop off donations of non-perishable food, bottles of water or Gatorade, or other supplies at the Franklin School main office during school hours.

Who do I contact?

The Food Committee welcomes your help. To give us some idea of what you will be bringing or how you would like to join in the effort, please contact:

Katherine Lee
Greer Swiston



Halloween Bash!!!!

Saturday, October 28,
2006

5PM – 7PM

Join our Halloween Team!



The Halloween Bash is a tradition at Franklin, and fun was had by all last year. There will be games, crafts, and of course, everyone's favorite, the HAUNTED HOUSE (new and improved with shorter lines and MORE FUN!!!!).

In order to make this event a fabulous success and a memorable evening for the Franklin community, **we need lots of volunteers.** Anyone can help – parents, friends and relatives, Franklin alumni at Day or Newton North, and teachers – even for just an hour.

You can do anything – from being on the committee, to just volunteering for an hour, to asking for a task that suits your own time schedule if you can't come to meetings.

First informal get-together will be after school on the playground for just half an hour this Friday 9/22.

Or, please return the volunteer form that comes home in your child's folder, or simply email or call Cindy Shechtman or Terri Romanelli or Jocelyn Scheirer.

CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION PROGRAM (CAP)

Seeking Volunteers

Each year CAP volunteer Prevention Specialists present 125 workshops to students in Newton elementary schools in grades K, 2 and 5. The CAP Prevention Specialists work in three-person teams to deliver the CAP curriculum during school hours.

The curriculum teaches children simple strategies to reduce vulnerability to assault and violence by presenting basic, age-appropriate, skill-oriented workshops that focus on bullying, stranger safety and assault by known persons.

The curriculum consists of discussion and role-plays for each of the topics. It ends with Review Time when the children have the opportunity to talk 1:1 with a Prevention Specialist.

Skills:

- Lead discussions with children 5-11 and respond to their questions and comments
- Participate in simple, short, scripted role-plays
- Listen non-judgmentally to children in Review Time and support their problem solving skills
- Work as part of a team under the direction of the designated team leader and the Director of the CAP program, giving and receiving feedback

Time Commitment:

- Attend all 7 sessions of the training, 22 hours over 4 week period
- One school year, October – May, presenting three 2-hour classroom workshops each month, based on school schedule and your availability

The next training will begin in mid-October, 2006.

For more information, call Gail Sommer at 617 969-5906, ext. 143 or email gsommer@ncscweb.org

Instrumental and Vocal Music Lessons

The Fine Arts Department is currently signing students up for the 2006-7 school year instrumental and vocal music lessons under our Music Lesson extension program. This is the program that matches our instrumental and advanced vocal students in grades 5-12 with outstanding professional instrumental music and vocal teachers. Each teacher works only in the areas of their performance expertise. This year all lessons are going to be given in central locations. The elementary schools will not be used due to the unavailability of space. The yearly charge for lessons is \$675 that includes

28 lessons and a registration fee. Applications are being sent to each school office, school instrumental teachers or you can call the Fine Arts Department 617-559-6151 for an application.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Learn More About Temple Sinai at Erev Shabbat Service, Friday, September 15, 7:30 pm, & Open House, Sunday, September 17, 9:45 am: Temple Sinai of Brookline invites the community to attend several events to learn more about Temple Sinai and its religious school. On Friday evening, September 15 at 7:30 pm, join us for a special Prospective Members Erev Shabbat Service. On Sunday, September 17, beginning at 9:45 a.m., Temple Sinai will host an Open House. Prospective members are invited to learn about Temple Sinai in an informal way, tour the religious school, discover exciting programs in Jewish learning, and meet Rabbi Andy Vogel and members of the Sinai community.

The Kumon Math and Reading Center, an afterschool Math and Reading Program (K-12th grade) announces a new program for pre-school reading. For free testing and informational interview, please contact Dr. Winston and Jane Chiong at 617-244-9540 or at view our website at www.newtonkumon.com

Huge Children's Tag Sale – The West Suburban Massachusetts Mothers of Twins Ass'n invites you to their Fall Tag Sale on Saturday, Sept 30, 2006 from 10-1 at the Congr. Church of Needham, 1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham. Tons of high quality, low priced kids/baby clothing, toys, equipment, books, videos, Halloween costumes & more! For more information, visit www.wscmmota.org.

Crystal Lake is an incredible resource to all Newton residents. A group of concerned citizens have come together seeking to secure and improve this precious community asset for the future. Go to www.betterlake.com for more information. Let the Mayor and The Board of Aldermen know how you feel! Join us! www.betterlake.com (ALSO: For the month of September- You can catch a "Live- On the Lake"... panel discussion of all things Crystal Lake on NEWTV- Ken Parker's show: "Common Ground" on Channel Blue, check <http://www.commongroundtv.com> and NEWTV for dates and times.)

Spanish for students in grades K-8 at Linx in Wellesley. Learn Spanish while exploring science and nature. All classes are taught using games, songs, hands-on activities, and more. For additional information go to linx-usa.com

"Kids Night Out" at the YMCA The West Suburban YMCA is currently hosting the popular "Kids Night Out" program. "KNO" take place on Friday nights between 6pm and 10pm. All activities are held at the Y's facilities, 276 Church Street, Newton Corner. Kids between the ages of 7-13 are invited to spend Friday nights at the Y participating in supervised nighttime activities such as use of the pool, gym, Live Y'ers room (arts and crafts, board games) and Teen center for 11-13 year olds. There will also be movies, special events and a pizza dinner. Cost is \$20 a night for members and \$25 a night for non-members. Parents will be required to sign their children in and out each night. For more information or to register, contact Jeremy Lewis at 617-244-6050 ext 3006. Additional information on other programs can be found in the program guide available at the front desk at the Y or online at www.ymcainnewton.org.

Energy for Education, State Ed Funding to be Addressed at Stand for Children Meetings In September and October, Stand for Children action teams will meet to discuss the progress of our Energy for Education campaign to improve the learning environment in our public schools by ensuring the city prioritizes long-term energy efficiency in the Newton school facilities and puts any cost savings back into the schools. We'll also address upcoming statewide programs and actions regarding education funding. You may attend any action team meeting regardless of school affiliation or neighborhood of residence. **Newton West— Mon., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Kurt Kusiak, 22 Ardmore Rd., W. Newton.** Contact Kurt Kusiak at ksk@sally-fitch.com or Marcia Tabenken at mtabenken@rcn.com

Wheelock Family Theatre: HOLES Oct 27-Nov 26. Adapted for the stage by Louis Sachar from his award-winning novel. 200 The Riverway, Boston, 617-879-2147, www.wheelock.edu/wft

Scouting

Brownie Troop Forming at Franklin: Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls—all girls—where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. Brownies are typically in first grade through third grade. Any first grade girls interested in joining a Franklin Brownie troop, please contact Elaine Bradley (617 795-1621, eljobradley@yahoo.com) or Carmen Pancerella (carmenpancerella@comcast.net, 617 630-0316). Second grade girls are welcome to join, as well. We are planning to meet on Friday afternoons, 3:00PM-4:30PM, at the Franklin School. Meetings or activities will typically occur twice a month. Tentative fall dates for meetings include Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17, and

Dec. 15. We will be able to return girls to Plowshares. There is a \$10 registration fee, plus some funds (yet to be determined) to cover uniforms/badges/supplies, and we will sell cookies in the spring to help with troop finances. However, financial assistance is available, so if your girl wants to participate, we will not turn her down due to financial constraints.

JOIN THE FUN OF SCOUTING !!! Boys are invited to join Newton Cub Scout Pack 247. Cub Scouting is an excellent program for boys in the first through fifth grades who enjoy the outdoors and want to learn more about the world around them. Highlights of our year include day trips, overnight camping and community service. Meetings are held twice a month during the school year on Sundays from 4:30-6 PM at Temple Reyim in Newton. Our first meeting is September 17. The pack welcomes all boys regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please call David Carlen at 617-969-0846 or visit our web page at <http://www.reyim.org/cubscouts>.

Calling all Cub Scouts ! Cub Scouts is an exciting adventure for boys grades 1-5. Cub Pack 315 welcomes all boys from Newton For further info please come to the City-wide registration at Newton Free Library, Sept.28, 1-8pm. Or join us at our Pack 315 meeting, Sept 21, 6:45pm at Newton Elks. For further info contact Daniel Fagan at pack315@comcast.net

Girl Scouts Registration: Calling all girls interested in outdoor fun and camping, community service, art, hands-on science, music, history, and more! Newton Girl Scouts announces open registration: Thurs Sept 28 at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St. Drop in 2-8 pm. Open to all girls in grades K-12. Parent or guardian signature required for registration. If you cannot attend but would like to join or volunteer as an adult, contact Newton Girl Scouts at netwon@ptgirlscouts.org or leave a message at 617-671-1223.

For boys in Middle and High School, Boy Scout Troop 355 scales new heights each month. All boys, aged 11-17, are welcome to experience the great outdoors in new, exciting ways. Last year, the boys hiked the White Mountains, climbed through waterfalls, skied NH slopes, canoed & sailed rivers/lakes, camped at our year-round cabin, and received national recognition for their community service initiatives. So check us out next Tuesday night at Trinity Catholic High School auditorium. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. For questions call, Scoutmaster, Karl Kaltenbach @ 617-965-3970, or email him at pat22@comcast.net

Sports & Dance

ALTERNATIVE BASKETBALL CLASS for girls in grades 3-6 who like a quieter pace. Three openings left beginning Sept. 26th. Fun, upbeat class (taught by a physical therapist and coach duo) for those girls who may need support on motor-planning or who have been too timid to try regular basketball. Tuesdays 6-7. Call Susan immediately 617-527-0663

Let the games begin! It's time to register for the upcoming **Newton Girls Basketball** (NGBA) season. Join the more than 600 players (from second graders through high school level) who play NGBA basketball. This is a recreational league for Newton girls with fun for beginners and experienced players alike! Games are played on Saturdays, starting December 3rd and continuing into March; for Grades 3-8 practices are for 1-hour on one evening during the week (Mon-Thurs). To register or to find out more about the league, please visit our website at www.NGBA.net (a late fee applies for registrations after 10/9 and the final deadline is 11/1). Scholarships are available based on need by contacting cliffu@gmail.com. A special intro to NGBA basketball for new players in grades 2-4 will be held on Oct. 22nd from 2-4 pm at Oak Hill Middle School.

Fall Youth Basketball Association (YBA) The West Suburban YMCA is now accepting registrations for the winter season of the Youth Basketball Association (YBA) for kids ages 4-12. All games and practices take place at the Y's facility, 276 Church Street, Newton Corner. The YBA provides a fun introduction to basketball and team play in a progressive environment for boys and girls. The program is divided into five groups as follows: YBA Mini Basketball, ages 4, YBA Bidy Basketball, ages 5 and 6, YBA Rookie League, ages 7 and 8, YBA College Level, 9 and 10 years old and YBA Professional League, ages 11 and 12. Parents may also volunteer to be coaches. YBA programs will begin Saturday, November 11 or Sunday, November 12 and run for 12 weeks. The cost for each session is \$125 for YMCA members and \$175 for non-members. For more information contact the Sports Department at 617-244-6050, ext. 3651. Additional information on all West Suburban YMCA programs is available in the program guide available at the front desk or online at www.ymcainnewton.org.

Now in its 4th year, **Ashtanga yoga** is being offered at the Windsor Club by registered and licensed yoga instructor Karen Aaronson. Classes are held Mondays at 9:30AM and Fridays at 9AM starting September 18th. If you are interested and/or would like more information, please visit www.wabanplayground.com and contact Chris Pitts cpitts@wabanplayground.com or 617 558-9393.

Kids' Karate Free Trial Beginners Class Sat Nov 4, 10-11 am. Girls and boys. Entry ages—1st-4th grades. \$79 per 7-

week session. Beautiful space at Trinity High School, Newton. For more information please leave message for Rich Jacobs, KIDS' KARATE directory 617-527-8052 or see www.kids-karate.org

Ice Skating Classes At Bay State Skating School. www.baystateskatingschool.org. Children 4 ½ and up & adults at Greater Boston Rings. Separate groups for children and adults. Bring figure or hockey skates. Lesson & practice time. Helmets mandatory for ages 4 ½-7. 781-890-8480. Cleveland Circle Rink, Sun 12 noon, Sun 1 pm, Thurs 4 pm, Fri 4 pm start late Oct. Newton Daly Rink Sat 1 pm, Sun 1 pm, start late Nov Mon 4&7 pm, Tue 3 pm start late Oct. Waltham Rink Sun 4 pm, Sat 1 pm, start Oct 7/8th.

Music & Arts

Creation Nation AFTER SCHOOL ART LESSONS IN NEWTON CENTER Open House Sunday, October 15th, 10:00-11:00 *We offer art classes for preschoolers and elementary aged children *Taught by two experienced art teachers and mothers *Enrolling now for classes beginning in October *Please visit our website at www.cnnewton.com or call Macy at (617)969-1339 for more information.

The New Art Center in Newton has been voted the Best Gallery in Metrowest Boston 2006 and we are thrilled to invite any Newton school groups to visit our exhibitions free of charge. Simply contact our exhibitions director, Ceci Mendez, at 617-964-3424. Fall art classes for children and adults begin September 18th and early registration ends September 1st. Please register online at www.newartcenter.org or by phone at 617-964-3424.

Art For Kids: Instruction in Fine Arts Age: for children age 8 and up; most classes will cover an age span of a few years. Focus of classes: Instruction in fine arts. (this is not a crafts class) We learn basic principals such as perspective, shading, measuring, foreshortening through exercises and work toward more complete projects. We will choose from a variety of media : graphite pencil, watercolor, acrylics, oil pastel and collage. Class Composition: Beginners as well as experienced students are welcome. One requirement is that all students are sincerely interested in art and are not taking the class as primarily a social opportunity. The class does have its social/interactive components, especially around critiquing and sharing work. My Qualifications: I love teaching art! I'm an exhibiting artist and a certified art teacher . I have taught children, teenagers and adults in small to not-so small group settings, though prefer the small classes in order to give individual attention. I have been teaching home school classes for years. References can be provided. Cost: Each course runs 6 weeks, 1 ½ hours per class and costs \$ 95. Each child is asked to provide her/his own sketchbook, graphite pencil and eraser. All other materials (paint brushes, paints, appropriate paper, canvas

board, etc.) are supplied. Where: At my home studio in West Newton; minutes from Waltham and Watertown. Create your own class or join one that is forming. Please contact me if interested. Thanks! Susan Axe-Bronk (617) 558-7071 axebronk@aol.com

November 20th, and Wednesday November 29th. All are from 9:30-10:30am. RSVP to Johanna Perlin 617-969-5521

CLASSIFIED

Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.

PIANO LESSONS available in the Newton area: locally established teacher with many years of experience teaching students of all ages and levels. Adjudicator of Massachusetts Piano Teachers' Association Competitions. In my home or through the Music School. Call Jane Wanger at 617-965-2305 or e-mail: thewangers@prodigy.net

Piano teacher with Harvard master's degree has openings for new students. Over twenty years experience including accompanying in the Newton Public Schools. Active member of the New England Piano Teacher's Association. Beginners especially welcome. Call Anne Hartman at 617-332-5092 or email: annehartman@comcast.net.

GUITAR AND DRUM LESSONS - I will teach your child or adolescent how to play the rock songs of their choice (without having to read music). Newton South High School senior can teach in his home recording studio (drums, guitar, keyboard, vocals) or at your home. All types of learners welcome. Nate Stein 617-527-0663

Wanted: Seeing dependable supplier of cut/stacked/dried **fire wood** delivered to W. Newton home. Contact: Karen, 617/527-6684

MA certified Elementary teacher available to tutor all subjects K-5. Email Meredith_Andrews@att.net or call Meredith at 617-332-2752

Buttons & bows playgroup-"come join the fun"-fall openings opened all day tuesdays, wednesdays, and fridays. A four hour minimum is required, age group 16 months and up. A warm, comfortable and creative atmosphere provided. I have my pre-school teaching certificate and 20 years experience. Lic# 621724, please call Diane at 617-332-4422 or cell 617-894-0019

Just moved to the area or looking for a Nursery School program for this year? Temple Shalom of Newton Nursery School has one opening in its 3 and 4 year old class and one opening in its Transition to Kindergarten class for this year 06-07. For more information, call Director Johanna Perlin 617-969-5521 Temple Shalom of Newton Nursery School will also be holding four Open Houses for parents interested in learning about our programs for 2007-2008, on Thursday October 19th, Wednesday November 7th, Tuesday