

Franklin School April 2009 News

Where doors and minds are open to learning



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



REMINDERS...

BOARD ELECTION AND BUDGET VOTE

On April 21, 2009, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., all registered voters are urged to participate in the annual school elections. Franklin School, Districts 16 and 17, will vote in Room 112. Voters will be asked to vote on the Annual School Budget and two seats on the Board. **PLEASE** exercise your right.

**Support Franklin School
By Voting on April 21st.
YOUR VOTE COUNTS**

**Feel free to drop in when you
come in to vote.**

YOU ARE INVITED! PLEASE COME TO FRANKLIN SCHOOL'S Curriculum Showcase on April 16th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Please try to attend. Teachers and students will be conducting learning activities, introducing you to the curriculum and demonstrating different techniques in the learning process.

Beginning at 8:00 p.m., the Franklin School Parents Association will host an explanation of the 2009-2010 School Budget presented by Dr. Kuchar, our Superintendent of Schools. Please attend.

**GRADES 3, 4 & 5 STUDENTS TAKE
NEW JERSEY ASSESSMENT OF
SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE – NJASK**

The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) is New Jersey's assessment for Grades 3, 4 & 5. It will be administered beginning May 4 and will continue until May 18.

There will be make-up testing for the NJASK May 18th.

The NJASK4 program launches New Jersey's effort to assess 3, 4 & 5 graders and continues the state's compliance of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The testing times and test formats will include calculator use and open-ended items for mathematics, and open-ended items and writing tasks for language arts literacy (LAL) at all three grade levels. Science will be tested in grade 4 only.

I'm asking the parents to speak to the children to allay any fears or apprehensions that they may have. Please see that the boys and girls get a good night's sleep and a good night's sleep and a good breakfast. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

ENTRY AND WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS

If you plan to enroll your child in Franklin School for the 2009-2010 school year, please call the school office for information. **This applies especially to students entering kindergarten and first grade.**

The school should be notified at least two days in advance of a student's impending withdrawal. The student will receive in-

structions from the office. The office will need to know the new home and school address. All textbooks, library books, rental instruments and fines must be cleared before the student secures a transfer card to another school.



Franklin Schools Centennial Celebration begins!

In September of 1909, the first classes of Franklin School entered its hallways and classrooms. Franklin School has provided excellence in education for thousands of children over the past 100 years. Many of the people in our community either as a student, parent, or teacher have shared in Franklin School's history. We are inviting you to be part of our centennial celebration. We kicked off the Centennial in January with Franklin School Pride Month, in February the students learned about Benjamin Franklin and his famous proverbs and in March we were busy planning for the Centennial ceremony. We have a year worth of activities and events planned to view more details please visit our website at

<http://www.bergenfield.org/schools/franklin/index.html>.

In this spirit of community and history, we are collecting stories that describe the special moments in your life in which Franklin School has played an important role. In addition we are collecting pictures or other artifacts to be displayed in the

building and on our school website. Please take a moment to tell us about your own favorite Franklin School stories. Stories and images can be emailed to: rlagamma@bergenfield.org, djones-chmidt@bergenfield.org, sent to Franklin School 2 N. Franklin Avenue Bergenfield, NJ 07621 or dropped off in the school's main office between 8:00 am and 4 pm.

HERE'S WHAT'S NEW!

KINDERGARTEN - Ms. Jones-Schmidt

Ms. Jones-Schmidt's class welcomed spring by cracking open activities for some sunny-side up learning fun. The students spent the first days of spring learning about eggs. The largest eggs today are made from ostriches and the smallest eggs are from hummingbirds. The students created their own chicks hatching from eggs. Many animals' bedside birds hatch from eggs. The students created *What Is In The Egg?* Lift and flap booklets. Can you balance an egg on end during the spring equinox? On March 21st, Erin, Donavan, Jalyssa, Isaiah and Joshua stood an egg on end in front of the whole class. The class enjoyed participating in this first day of spring tradition. St. Patrick's Day was celebrated by wearing green, eating Irish soda bread, reading books, graphing Lucky Charms, listening to Irish music, playing Irish Hot Potato and Leprechaun, Leprechaun Who Stole You Gold.

A special thanks to all the kindergarten parents for making Healthy Snack Day a wonderful success.

Congratulations to all students who celebrated their Special Week in the month of March.

KINDERGARTEN - Ms. Neats

March came in like a lion with our last snow day and went out like a lamb with some beautiful spring days. The Kindergartners are hoping that the warm spring weather is here to stay. They have been talking about activities that they like to do in the spring and have written some wonderful sentences about springtime. They learned about capitals and punctuation and why they are important in our sentences. They are continuing to learn more sight words and blending words together, which is helping their reading skills to improve.

In Math, they have been working on counting money and adding the coins together. They have also been practicing counting by twos, fives and tens. They have also been working hard to add and subtract numbers.

In March, the Kindergartners celebrated Dr. Suess's birthday with some special guest readers, including our very own principal Mrs. LaGamma. The Kindergartners would like to thank everyone who came to read with us and made our day special. They also celebrated healthy snack day where they ate a variety of healthy foods and talked about why it is good to eat healthy.

GRADE ONE – Mrs. LaMotta

In Unit 4 of our reading series, we read several stories about fossils. We learned how fossils are discovered and the steps taken before a fossil is displayed in a museum. After reading the story Finding a Dinosaur Named Sue, we used the Smartboard to take a virtual field trip to the Field Museum in Chicago where Sue is a

very special and important exhibit. On March 20th, the class celebrated the beginning of spring by reading stories, writing descriptive paragraphs and participating in the spring equinox tradition of getting an egg to be balanced on end.

GRADE ONE - Mrs. Lucas

1-Lu students have been observing the changes from winter to spring. They have also been writing about spring and using their 5 senses. March certainly came in like a lion (snowstorm on March 2nd) and went out like a lamb.

There was lots of green on St. Patrick's Day in Room 104. Mrs. Lucas shared her love of Irish music while Kaleigh taught the class Irish dancing. It was a lively day with lots of exercise and fun.

The students have been learning about the importance of voting and how each person **CAN** make a positive difference. It is my hope that parents will take their children with them when they vote on April 21st. The children will understand the process first hand.

1-Lu students wish everyone a very happy springtime and don't forget to **VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!**

GRADE ONE/TWO - Mrs. Sokolowski

Mrs. Sokolowski's students have been busy authors and illustrators these past few weeks. They completed their first book of Haikus and also finished an "opposites" book. The children typed their Haikus on Microsoft Word, illustrated them and watched as their page for the book was laminated. Some of the children collaborated with each other to write and illustrate silent "e" flap books. Working together as a large group and having a

fine finished product at the end, has been a very rewarding experience for the class. Please come and view our endeavors.

GRADE TWO - Ms. Foglio

March was an exciting month for the students in Miss Foglio's class. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by doing activities and reading Dr. Seuss books. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day by learning about the holiday and reading books as well as doing some fun activities.

We welcomed spring at the end of the month by having Pajama Day! The students really enjoyed this day because they came to school in their pajamas!

In Math, we finished up Unit 7 and now we will head into Unit 5 in April.

We did a Science experiment on magnets and created a book on the Presidents in Social Studies!

Congratulations to all Star Students for the month of March.

More to come in April!

GRADE TWO - Ms. Joseph

Our snow day on March 2nd certainly supported the old saying that March comes in like a lion! To help determine if March would go out like a lamb and thus further support of this famous March proverb, the students graphed the daily weather and temperature. Although the weather in March was fickle, the students all agreed that this month did indeed go out like a lamb!

To celebrate Read Across America week, the students participated in many special reading activities. We read numerous Dr. Seuss books, created Dr. Seuss self-descriptive adjective hats, buddy read with our pen pals in Ms. Foglio's class and

took turns reading books aloud to the class, just to name a few of our activities. Mr. O'Hanlon even joined our class to read The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss. Thank you Mr. O'Hanlon!

"We're going to do a little rapping about the continents, so geography finally makes sense." In Social Studies, the students have begun their study of the continents and oceans. To help us remember all seven continents from largest to smallest, as well as to learn the names of the oceans, the students learned a "Continent Rap." We have even renamed our tables to that of the oceans to help further reinforce our study.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the parents who so generously donated food for our Healthy Snack Day as well as a special thank you to Mrs. Zucca for preparing and serving our healthy treats. The students enjoyed all of our "brain food" and hopefully this will inspire them to continue to eat in a healthy manner.

GRADE THREE - Mrs. Manning

As you read our acrostic poem, see if you can spot our use of figurative language.

We used alliteration and a simile.

Springtime flowers and April showers

Playing in pretty puddles

Roses are red, violets are blue...

I love the springtime, how bout you?

Nose to smell the fragrant flowers

Growing gorgeous gardens

Time for Easter egg hunts

I tricked my teacher on April Fools'

My friends and I ride bikes after school

Everyone hops like the Easter Bunny.

Love,

Mrs. Manning's Class

GRADE THREE - Mrs. McQuillen

March was a busy month for 3-Mc. The children completed their research on an endangered animal. After getting information from a variety of resources, the children wrote a three paragraph essay. The boys and girls included information on the animal's description, habitat, food preference and enemies. In addition, the children drew an illustration to go along with their written work.

We enjoyed the visit from the storyteller. The stories were very exciting to hear. We are looking forward to sharing our own stories with our peers.

Healthy Snack Day was awesome. We would like to thank our families for their contributions.

GRADE THREE - Mrs. Porter

The students of 3-P have really stepped it up this month. We are building our vocabularies to not only help us speak in a more mature manner, but to also make our writings more interesting to read.

We started the month off by celebrating Dr. Seuss Day. We read a biography on him and created hats that included adjectives about ourselves.

In Social Studies, we learned about European explorers and used the laptops to research information about a chosen explorer. The students will assemble that research into a report.

In Science, we began our studies on landforms. The students worked together to create a landform diagram out of clay & painted it accordingly.

In Math, we have completed our geometry unit and have begun revisiting multiplication and division in Unit 7.

We're continuing to build our grammar

and comprehension skills every day and we're using these skills across the curriculum.

On St. Patrick's Day, we were revisited by a leprechaun who left us gold coins and four leaf clovers.

On March 27th, we enjoyed a feast of healthy snacks. Thanks to the PA for all their hard work this month with the Tricky Tray and Healthy Snack Day.

GRADE FOUR - Mrs. Butler

Whew! March was an awesome month. In 4-B, we did many fun activities. Everyone was going green crazy. Speaking of green, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day. Mr. Dore played an awesome Scottish song on his bagpipes for the whole 4th grade. Everyone enjoyed it and applauded at the end of his performance. In Spanish, we made Mi Casa Es Su Casa booklets and as a Science project, we worked on a power point presentation about animals we wanted to learn about. 4-B also finished reading the book The Cricket in Times Square. It was an amazing book! It was sad that Chester had to leave so soon, but we all loved it! Lastly, we had Healthy Snack Day. We had a lot of healthy snacks such as bagels, celery and carrots. Everything was delicious!

By: 4-B Student

GRADE FOUR - Mrs. Garella

April is National Poetry Month! To celebrate, we will be selecting a favorite poem that we LOVE and carry it in our pocket to share with everyone on April 30th, Poem in Your Pocket Day. Stop by to enjoy our pocket sized verses.

The Cricket in Times Square novel study

has begun. We are in the process of reading this heartwarming novel about friendship. Students will be working on a group activities across the curriculum throughout April.

After our "Spring Break," we will be preparing for NJASK so that we can show what we know!

GRADE FOUR - Ms. Villone

March madness has begun in 4-V. We are busy prepping for NJASK in Math, Literacy and Science.

In Reading, we read an interesting biography about magician, Harry Houdini. We even tried some optical illusions from a book.

Math was challenging this month! We have been learning about fractions and we decided to develop a character, Action Fraction Man, to help us. He is a Fraction Action Hero.

In Science, we just finished our unit on animals and we are now learning about weather and the water cycle.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Dore for coming in before the St. Patrick's Day parade to play the bagpipes. Also, thank you to the FSPA for a delicious Healthy Snack Day.

GRADE FIVE - Mr. Chiossi

The 5th graders are working on their Science projects that were due April 15th.

This year they will be doing experiments that are controlled. Through observations, they will record their conclusions. Good luck to all 4th and 5th graders.

In Social Studies, we will be starting the Industrial Revolution as well as the women's rights movement. We are also awaiting a visit from area Superintendents

to see our writing program in Social Studies.

GRADE FIVE - Mrs. Hipshman

We have been writing many different writing samples during the month. We have described many objects and places. The students have even written a children's book. This book is their creation and is illustrated. We will be reading these stories to different classes in the near future.

Reading skills and strategies are still being implemented. The students applied the skill of predicting on March 20th. They predicted if an uncooked egg could balance. Many of the predictions were correct.

GRADE FIVE - Mrs. Rogers

This month, the fifth grade explored volume. The students developed a formula for the volume of a rectangular prism by building open boxes from flat patterns and filling them with cubes. Volume, they learned, is the measure of how much a container will hold. To practice measuring the capacity of objects, the students made B.O.B., a character from the movie *Monsters vs. Aliens*. Each student followed the instructions to make their own B.O.B. (ooze) and figured out how much space he would take up if he was squished in different containers.

To make your own ooze, combine 1/2 cup cornstarch with 1/4 cup water. A few drops of food coloring can also be added.

ROOM 211 – Mrs. Humiston

In Science, the children will learn about ladybugs. They will learn about the im-

portance of ladybugs to farmers and plant growers. They will also learn about the life cycle of a ladybug.

ROOM 201 – Mrs. O'Neill

Mrs. O'Neill's class is jumping for joy that Spring is here! The class cannot wait to play outside in the warm weather. We are graphing this month's weather days to see if "April showers bring May flowers" is true. Let's count how many raining days we have this month.

In April, we will be celebrating Earth Day. It is important to remember to Reduce, Recycle, Reuse! The students are great at recycling and sorting paper, plastic bottles and cans. Have your child help with recycling at home. We will also learn in Social Studies about Earth's natural resources and how to be a "good citizen and caretaker" by cleaning up our garbage. We can all make a difference.

HEALTH OFFICE - Mrs. Carney, RN

The Health Office is starting to see an increase in children being affected by seasonal allergies. If your child experiences allergy discomfort and needs medication, please contact the Health Office for the proper procedures regarding medication. District policy requires a physician's order as well as parental permission in order to administer medication to your child.

All 5th Grade parents – if your child's birthday is approaching, please schedule their appointment for the necessary immunizations required for 6th grade. If their birthday is during July or August, please call the Health Office.

F.S.P.A.

The FSPA Executive Board would like to send a special THANK YOU to all of the families and staff for their generous donations and contributions towards our Annual Tricky Tray Fundraiser held at Bergenfield High School on March 13th! Special thanks to Mrs. LaGamma for helping call prizes and to Debbie Sullivan for printing our programs and helping to direct baskets!! Special heartfelt thanks to all of the special families that helped us set up, bake desserts and solicit gifts. Our Tricky Tray event could not run without your help and support!

April 16th immediately following the Curriculum Showcase we invite you to attend the 2009-2010 Bergenfield School District Budget Presentation presented by Dr. Kuchar.

Ice Cream Day is set for April 24th. Please make sure to use exact change in envelopes and are turned in on time!

Special thanks to Debbie Podwin for planning the FSPA sponsored assembly by Ms. Della Torre the Storyteller. The children really enjoyed her visit!

THE FSPA REMINDS ALL PARENTS TO VOTE ON APRIL 21st!!!!

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Practice Makes Perfect

What do the names of state capitals, basketball free throws and respectful behavior have in common? They all take practice to master.

You can help your child learn to show respect for himself and others. How? One way is to explore the difference between

respectful and disrespectful behavior. Share the examples below.

WORDS

Let your child know that using respectful language will often cause other people to respond positively to her.

Disrespectful: "You stole my pencil."

"Give me the milk." "It's not your turn."

Respectful: "Please don't take my pencil without asking me first." "Would you please pass the milk?" "I think it's my turn now."

ACTIONS

Explain that if your youngster treats others with respect, chances are they'll act the same way toward him.

Disrespectful: Kicking the back of a classmate's chair, interrupting while someone else is speaking, throwing down a bat after striking out.

Respectful: Keeping your feet on the floor, waiting until the other person stops talking, calmly passing the bat to the next batter.

THOUGHTS

Encourage your child to think respectful thoughts. They can help her feel better about herself and others.

Disrespectful: "She looks so ugly in that color." "He always messes up." "I'm better than they are."

Respectful: "The red shirt looks better on her than the yellow one." "Everyone makes mistakes." "We're all good at different things."