



FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

Joel Jocelyn, Ed.D.
Principal

April 29, 2021

Dear Franklin Families,

Thank you for the warm welcome I received upon my return to Franklin from my family leave. I appreciated your many emails and they meant a lot to me. It feels good to be back and I look forward to a successful and strong finish to the school year. As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, Dana and I want to extend our gratitude and appreciation for the dedication and commitment our staff show our students and their families daily. Teachers, Behavior Therapists, Aides, Counselors, and our other auxiliary education professionals have an incredible impact on our children's lives. I also want to wish a Happy Nursing Week to Nurse Julia. She rocks! We are grateful for her help in keeping all of us and the children safe and guiding us as we navigate schooling during a pandemic.

Some Important School Related Updates

1. *MCAS Administration Dates* - Please find below the dates of MCAS administration by subject for each grade:

MCAS:

Subject	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
ELA	May 13	May 13	May 11
Math	May 27	May 27	May 20
Science	N/A	N/A	May 25
Final DLA MCAS Administration Dates			
ELA	May 12		



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Math	May 19		
Science	N/A	N/A	May 26

2. *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* - May is around the corner and ushers in Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Recent experiences by Asian Americans, including our students, make celebrating AAPI Heritage Month even more important. Below are some resources that we shared with our teachers that you may also find helpful:

- a. BrainPop: <https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/news/aapiheritagemonth/>
- b. PebbleGo, Asian Americans: <https://site.pebblego.com/modules/3/categories/8929>
- c. PebbleGo Next, Asian Americans:
<https://site.pebblego.com/modules/15/categories/9974>
- d. Smithsonian, We are not a stereotype, breaking down Asian Pacific American Bias: <https://smithsonianapa.org/learn/not-a-stereotype/>
- e. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission:
<https://www.aacommission.org/resources/aapi-heritage-month/>
- f. Federal Asian Pacific American Council: <https://www.fapac.org/AAPI-Resources>
- g. Learning for Justice, Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
 Resources: <https://www.learningforjustice.org/the-moment/april-30-2020-celebrate-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month>



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3. *Playground Playdates by Grade Level* - The PTO is facilitating a series of playground playdates to create opportunities for DLA students and those new to Franklin to get to know their in-person peers better and for families to connect with each other. The play dates will start at 2:15pm and go until 3:30pm at the main Franklin school playground. Students in Plowshares will be able to participate in their grade level playdate! The schedule of the playdates is listed below:
 - a. **Kindergarten students:** Thursday, April 29th, 2:15pm - 3:30pm
 - b. **1st Grade students:** Friday, April 30th, 2:15pm - 3:30pm
 - c. **2nd Grade students:** Monday, May 3rd, 2:15pm - 3:30pm
 - d. **3rd Grade students:** Tuesday, May 4th, 2:15pm - 3:30pm
 - e. **4th Grade students:** Thursday, May 6th, 2:15pm - 3:30pm
 - f. **5th Grade students:** Friday, May 7th, 2:15pm - 3:30pm
4. *2021 Virtual Color Day WEEK* - District-Wide Virtual Color Day Week will be similar to last year's plan. As a PEHW department, teachers are creating a slide deck to send to families who will do the activities at their leisure during the week of June 14th-June 21st. Each teacher will modify their slide deck to fit the needs of their home school or DLA, which will include a "kick-off video" and a way for students/families to upload photos or videos. PEHW teachers will also be teaching some favorite activities from Color Day during their general PEHW classes. ***This is a district-wide plan, and it will be consistent across all elementary schools.*** Please click in the following link to access the [2021 Virtual Color Day Week Letter](#). Our PE teacher Nick Wong will also be sending a personalized letter and the slideshow out to families by June 1st:
5. *Kindergarten Info Session and Visiting Day* – Please mark your calendars and spread the word to our new Kindergarten families. Our Kindergarten info session and visiting day will take place on June 2. I will send the plan to our incoming Kindergarten families soon.
6. *Annual Theodore D. Mann Newton Mayor's Community Breakfast* - Will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 8:30 am. Program highlights will include remarks from Mayor Ruthanne Fuller and Keynote Speaker, Rabbi Wellesley R. Gardenswartz (Senior Rabbi at Temple Emmanuel), music, and reflection. Note that full program details will be



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shared with event registrants closer to May 26th. Those wishing to join should use the registration “quick link”: [bit_ly/NewtonBreakfast21](https://bit.ly/NewtonBreakfast21)

Thank you once again for all your support and encouraging emails. It feels really good to be back and see the children. Please feel free to contact our school at your convenience with any questions about any of the items listed above or if you need to discuss any issues related to your child’s progress in school.

Sincerely,

Joel Jocelyn