



FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Mr. Joel Jocelyn
Principal

February 28, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you have enjoyed your weeklong stay with your children and had the opportunity to relax and to reconnect with them. It was fun listening to the many stories from our students about the places they went and the activities in which they were involved over the school vacation. I had a chance to go away for the last three days of the vacation and I couldn't be any more grateful. We have a long stretch before our next break. This may be the most challenging time of the year as the stamina, resiliency and patience of our staff and students may be tested. As we continue to move forward, this is a time when students need encouragement from their families and their teachers to persevere. We are committed at Franklin to ensuring that our school community is a place where children are not only challenged academically but where learning is fun and our children are nurtured, loved and encouraged on a daily basis.

Some Important School Related Updates

1. *Kindergarten Screening* – We will hold our Kindergarten screening on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. This will be an opportunity for us to meet all our kindergarten students who will start in September. As a reminder, parents of incoming Kindergarten students who are undergoing screening on Wednesday will need to bring their child's birth certificate or passport, immunization records and three proofs of residency. Please note that a child must be five years old on or before August 31, 2017 to enter kindergarten in September 2017. We look forward to meeting our incoming Kindergarten students and their families during screening on Wednesday, March 1st. Our gratitude to the PTO for the support they have provided to us in putting this day together. Lastly, if you know anyone who has a child who will turn five on or before August 31st and who lives within the Franklin district, please let them know to call our office at (617) 559-9500 to schedule a screening appointment for their child.
2. *Read Across America Day* – Thursday, March 2nd is Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America Day. We are doing a few simple things to celebrate at Franklin Elementary School. Throughout the week, every staff member and student will cast a vote for favorite their Dr. Seuss book on our literacy bulletin board. On Friday, we will see which book has the most votes. Classroom teachers and the library teacher are reading many of Dr. Seuss's titles to



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classes throughout the week. On Thursday, all Franklin students and staff are invited to either dress up like a favorite book character or wear a hat for Cat in the Hat.

3. *MCAS Technology Tryout at Franklin on Tuesday, February 28th* – As you may know, 4th grade students across Massachusetts will be taking the Next Generation MCAS on a computer this year. Representatives from the Newton Public School’s Instructional Technology Department came to Franklin on Tuesday, February 28th to do a trial run of the test to ensure that our technology infrastructure is adequate to support the online administration of the MCAS to our 4th grade students in April and May. As a result, our 4th grade students took a practice test online today primarily to gauge our technological readiness. I am happy to report that the initial feedback from the technology department indicates that Franklin’s technology and Wi-Fi infrastructure is robust enough to support the online administration of the Next Generation MCAS.
4. *Upcoming Field Trips* – Our 2nd and 4th grade students will be going on field trips that align with units they are studying. Our 2nd grade students will walk to the Chinese Cultural Center on Friday, March 3rd. We are asking parents to ensure that their children dress according to the weather pattern on Friday and that they also wear appropriate footwear that will enable them to walk comfortably. The 4th grade students in Samantha Rautenberg, Taylor Teixeira and Molly Thomas’ classrooms will travel to the JFK Library on Friday, March 3rd and the students in Jordan Swaim’s classroom will travel to the JFK library on Monday, March 6th. The 4th grade students will depart at 9:00 AM for the JFK library and will return to Franklin at 1:30 PM.
5. *CORI/SORI Requirements for Volunteers and Chaperones* –As we approach the season when our students will go to an increasing number of field trips, I would like to remind families who wish to volunteer or to serve as chaperones during field trips that they must undergo CORI and SORI checks. Parents who wish to volunteer and/or to serve as chaperones may stop by the main office and bring their license to complete the CORI/SORI applications.
6. *Parent/Teacher Conferences* – The window for families to schedule conferences with their children’s teachers opens on Tuesday, March 7th and closes on Friday, March 17th. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss his or her progress to date and what you can do to help your child succeed academically. Teachers will have individual times available and will contact parents to schedule conference times.



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7. *Early Release Day* – Thursday, March 9th is an early release day for students. Staff will use that time for professional development. Students will be released at 12:30 PM on Thursday, March 9th.
8. *Multicultural Day Song and Dance Performances* – Our Multicultural Day Song and Dance performances will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Detailed information about the day is included in the additional document included with these updates.
9. *Franklin PTO Silent Auction and Trivia Night* – Our silent auction and trivia night will be held on April 1st at 7:00 PM at the Post 440 on 495 California Street in Newton. I am encouraging our community to show up at this important event and to show your support not only to our PTO, but ultimately to our children. The PTO has been instrumental in funding projects that teachers use to enrich the instruction that they deliver in their classrooms along with field trips and other activities that benefit our students. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible to this fun and worthwhile event.
10. *Miscellaneous Document* – I have included with this update another document that contains additional detailed information regarding our multicultural day song and dance performances, our MCAS schedules and the PTO silent auction day on April 1st. Please review the document at your convenience.

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