

March 13, 2023

Dear Franklin Families,

Many of us are watching the weather with curiosity about what this week's storm will bring to our area. Whatever happens with eventual snow, it looks certain that we will have a very rainy Tuesday morning! Stay tuned for any schedule updates from Interim Superintendent Kathy Smith. Also, please remember that we will have voting here in the gym on Tuesday. This Override vote will have an impact on the NPS school budget for next year, and NPS Central Staff presented budget information on Wednesday, March 1st. [Here is a link to their presentation](#). I encourage you to familiarize yourself with this information. For more information regarding the city budget & meeting presentations, please visit the [City of Newton website](#).

We are incredibly grateful for all of our volunteers who help us in the school with classroom events, special programs, and weekly Library responsibilities. Based on a couple of recent conversations, I find it necessary to remind everyone that confidentiality is an expectation in these settings. Volunteers have the privilege of working with many students, and we need to know that information about students' questions, behaviors, and performance will not be shared with others. Thank you to all who so graciously give your time and energy to the life of our learning community. We deeply value our partnership.

On Wednesday, we will launch our 2023 March Madness reading tournament at the All School Meeting. During the four weeks of our March Madness tournament (March 17th-April 13th), students will earn points for their class teams as they read outside of school, and points are awarded for time spent reading (or listening to someone else read) rather than the number of pages read. (For Kindergarten and First Grade, 15 minutes= ten points. For all other grades, 30 minutes=ten points). In an effort to make the competition fair for classes of varied size, we will use the average number of minutes read per student for each class rather than the total minutes per class. The winning class will be announced at our All School Meeting on April 26th and will get an extra PE class with Mr. Wong! Please see more information below.

During the month of May, we will begin working on class lists for the 2023-24 school year. ***We ask that all families please let us know as soon as possible if your children will not be returning to Franklin next year so that we can plan with accuracy.*** If you have any additional information regarding your child's placement that you would like to share with the team, please do so in writing. Your letter should be marked to my attention and delivered to the school office ***no later than Friday, April 28th***. I will review these letters and share them with the grade-level teams. Your letter can include information about your child's friends, learning style,

strengths, special interests, or any information you feel is important to share with the team that we don't already know. ***Please do not request specific teachers as we are unable to honor these requests.*** Also, please do not feel that you must write a letter to ensure that your child's placement will receive careful consideration. All teacher assignments will be available in Aspen in late August.

With best wishes,
Mark Chitty

Kindergarten Registration: Welcome to the Kindergarten Class of 2023! In order to join the kindergarten class in September 2023, your child must turn five years old prior to September 1, 2023. This means that your child must be five years old on or before August 31, 2023.

To assist us with planning for the coming year, we are asking you to complete a short online survey which can be found by clicking [here](#) to let us know the plans you have for your child's school registration.

Our online registration system is now open! While there is no deadline for registration of students in the Newton Public Schools, we are asking families to register your kindergarten-age child by March 20, 2023, so that we can plan staffing and programming for the year ahead.

Individual schools review all student registrations and will communicate with parents about any additional information that is required. In the spring, each school will also host a gathering for parents and children to meet the school principal and teachers and have an opportunity to get to know each other. Information on kindergarten orientation dates will be sent directly from your assigned school at a later date.

For students living in a buffer zone, notification of school placement will be made as close to April 10, 2023 as possible, and parents/guardians will be notified in writing of that decision.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email registration@newton.k12.ma.us.

School Council: Many Thanks to Parent Volunteers **Mike Halle and Rachel Schechter**, who will join Staff Representatives **Alyssa Accorsini and Casey Dolan** and School Nurse **Julia Zaino** on our Franklin School Council. Meetings are scheduled for March 15th and May 3rd at 3:00 in the Franklin Library.

Parent Coffee/PTO Evening Meeting Dates: This year, we have a mixture of morning Parent Coffees and evening PTO Meetings through which we hope to engage all of you in conversation about life and learning in our school community. Please join us on the following dates. Morning Coffees will be in the Cafeteria, and evening meetings will be in the Library.

March 24th 8:30 a.m. (We will be joined by Interim Superintendent Kathy Smith and members of the Newton School Committee on this date.)

May 11th 7:30 p.m.

MCAS Dates:

ELA:

Grade 5: 3/28 and 3/30

Grade 4: 4/4 and 4/6

Grade 3: 4/11 and 4/13

Math:

Grade 5: 5/2 and 5/4

Grade 4: 5/9 and 5/12

Grade 3: 5/16 and 5/18

Science:

Grade 5: 5/22 and 5/23

Absences: If your child will be absent from school for any reason, please call the Student Absence Line at 617-559-9509 before 7:50. Also, please be sure that teachers have accurate information about dismissal routines for your child.

MARCH MADNESS 2023
FRANKLIN SCHOOL READING CELEBRATION

The 2023 Franklin School March Madness Reading Celebration will begin on Friday, March 17th and run through Thursday, April 13th. The kickoff will take place at our All School Meeting on March 15th, where each classroom will be randomly assigned the name of an actual NCAA Women's Basketball team. Students will earn points for their team based on the number of minutes read daily at home during March Madness.

To participate:

- Read a book (or have it read to you) and record your daily minutes onto the March Madness reading log.
- **Once a week on Thursday evening at home, students will enter their TOTAL WEEKLY MINUTES read into a Google Form.**

- To access the Google Form, go to <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/franklin> and look under the “Franklin Pride, News and Special Events” section for March Madness.
 - *We will accept a maximum of 1,260 minutes per week/per child, which is an average of 3 hours per day.*
- Students will hand in the paper copy of their reading log to their classroom teacher every Friday morning.
- Students should begin to log their minutes into the Google Form on Thursday, March 23rd. This should be done every Thursday evening through April 13th.

Point System

Books read in school are not eligible for points. Books read as part of nightly reading can be counted. A weekly reading log will be sent home every Friday. To make it fair for classes that have fewer students, we will base points on the class average for the week. For example, if Ms. Champagne’s 5th grade class reads 7,260 minutes in one week, and there are 22 students in her class, we will divide 7,260 by 22 to get an average of 330 minutes. Ms. Terk’s class would earn 110 points for that week. Team points earned will be tallied and recorded every week by Student Council members on a graph in the front hallway.

There will be a separate point system for grades K-1 and for grades 2-5.

Grades K-1 - Every 15 minutes = 10 points

Grades 2-5 - Every 30 minutes = 10 points

Team Bonus Points

90% class participation = 20 points **each week**

Complete the Team Research form (1 per class) = 10 points

Decorate your bulletin board = 10 points

If NCAA team makes it to Sweet 16 = 10 points

If NCAA team makes it to Elite 8 = 20 points

If NCAA teams makes it to Final 4 = 30 points