

November 21, 2022

Dear Franklin Families,

As the weather turns colder and we enter this season of holidays, vacations, travel, and diverse forms of celebration, I am glad that we start with a day dedicated to the act of giving Thanks. I am grateful for the opportunity to be your principal, the chance to know your children and be a part of their growth through six exciting childhood years, and the honor of collaborating with all of you in this life-changing work. Whether you are staying near or traveling far this week, I wish you a time of joy and laughter with your loved ones.

Before you head out for your Thanksgiving adventures, I hope you will join us for our fall **Franklin Friendship Walk**, in which buddy classes will walk together, side by side, through our school's neighborhood. Our walk will start at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning (11/23) and proceed along the following route: *Start in the driveway between the school and field; West on Derby; Right on Parmenter; Right on Falmouth; Right on Arlington/Arbor; Right on Cherry; Right on Russell; Through the back gate into the field and back to the school.* We invite families to be spectators along the route!

We are currently seeking **two Parent Representatives** for the Franklin School Council, which is reforming after a hiatus of several years. The council will include two parents, two teachers, a community representative, and the principal, and will meet several times a year from 3:00-4:00 p.m. to advise and assist the principal in the following matters:

- Determine educational goals and objectives for the school as part of the School Improvement Plan;
- Review, revise and update the School Improvement Plan;
- Actively advocate for the school in accordance with the goals and objectives of the School Improvement Plan;
- Participate in about 4 School Council meetings (dates to be determined by the membership) per year and any related subcommittees to ensure the successful implementation of the goals and objectives of the School Improvement Plan.

This is an important volunteer role in our school community, and we are welcoming statements of interest through December 9th. In accordance with state regulations, parent representatives must be chosen in an election conducted by the PTO. If you are interested, please let me know at chittym@newton.k12.ma.us.

With best wishes,
Mark Chitty

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.

December 9th	8:30 a.m.
February 2nd	7:30 p.m.
March 24th	8:30 a.m.
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.