



Ben Franklin Herald

January 2012

Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

Phone: 724 465-5637

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year to you and your family! It is hard to believe that yet another year is upon us and we are just about half way through this school year. As we work our way through the upcoming winter months, let us focus our attention to reminding and encouraging our children to keep up with homework and strive to do their best in each class.

Congratulations to our school community for raising over \$1800 for the Teddy Bear Fund Drive. Your contributions and everyone's hard work to orchestrate this effort are what the holidays are truly all about.

Dismissal Procedures: Our current dismissal procedures are causing interruptions to the educational process. Therefore, beginning Thursday, January 5th we will be implementing new end-of-the-day pick up procedures. To help with the transition, these procedures will be implemented in phases.

Phase one will begin on Thursday, January 5th. Parents who wish to pick up their child at the end of the school day will enter the building through the front doors and proceed to a table located in the lobby to sign out their child. Parents will continue to wait for their child in the school cafeteria.

We will no longer call students to the office to leave before 3:20pm unless prior arrangements have been made through the office. Students can only be dismissed from school early for "excusable reasons" such as a doctor's appointment. A list of acceptable reasons can be found on page 8 of the district's Attendance, Behavioral Guidelines and Discipline Policy booklet.

A paper outlining the new procedures will be sent home with every child on Tuesday, January 3rd. Please keep this information handy so you can reference it when needed.

As with any change, it will take a little time for everyone to get use to the new procedures. We thank you in advance for your patience and help through this transition. It is our goal to work collaboratively with you to consistently promote the safety and well being of our school community.

Attendance: Please make sure your child attends school on time. Maximizing their instructional time positively impacts their learning! In the event of a tardy or absence, please remember to send an excuse. Thank you!

Inclement Weather: During this blustery time of year, proper coats, shoes, hats, and gloves are encouraged more than ever. Remember to stay tuned to your local news channels for updates on school delays and/or dismissals.

I look forward to the second half of the school year and working with your child in developing the desire to become a lifelong learner and a responsible caring citizen. Thank you for supporting our students and enjoy the remaining months of winter!



Marilyn Walther, Principal

SCHOOL DELAYS OR CANCELLATIONS...In bad weather, or for any emergency when school may be closed, delayed, or dismissed early, announcements will be made on the radio and TV. Radio stations announcing this information are: WCCS (1160 AM) and WDAD (1450 AM). TV stations are: WTAE (Channel 4) and WJAC (Channel 6). If you are connected to the internet, go to www.arin.k12.pa.us and click on "Schoolcast" for the latest information on school closings and delays.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL. We must keep our phone lines open for emergency communications.

DELAY TO CANCELLATION...Sometimes school is cancelled after a delay has been called. Continue to listen to your radio/TV for updates.

2-HOUR DELAYS...Children who ride buses should report to their bus stop 2 hours later than normal. All children should report to school by 10:55 a.m. Breakfast **will not** be served on days with a delay. Dismissal will be at 3:20 p.m., as usual.

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

There are part time openings for workers in food service. This is a good job for those parents who are looking to work only during hours when your children are in school. If interested, contact Eleanor Sherry at 724-463-8713.

KIDS READ

The Office of Service Learning at IUP in conjunction with the Indiana Free Library is offering the KidsRead literacy program starting February 6, 2012. The program is open to all children in kindergarten through fourth grade at no cost. This is a great opportunity for your child to enhance his/her reading skills through weekly one on one tutoring sessions with IUP college students. KidsRead applications will be sent home with your child during the first week of January. If you have any questions regarding the KidsRead program, please feel free to contact the Office of Service Learning at (724) 357-3103.

CLASSROOM NEWS

KINDERGARTEN

December was another busy month in kindergarten! We learned about many different holidays celebrated around the world! We enjoyed participating in the Teddy Bear Fund Drive, and donated many pennies! We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

FIRST GRADE

Happy New Year! New things are happening in First grade. In math we have started a new unit. In Unit 4 we will explore measurement, place value, number scrolls, and continue with addition and subtraction. New readers are appearing every day! We will be assessing your child's individual reading level this month with the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment). We will look at things in new ways as we read our Scholastic News and learn about winter, hibernation, and Martin Luther King in Science and Social Studies.

SECOND GRADE

Second graders will begin a science unit during the second semester called "Changes" and "Energy and Matter". The children will focus on the changes that occur in solids and liquids, learn about temperature and energy, and discover that changes in matter occur all the time in the world around us. The children will enjoy many hands-on explorations. We are sure that your children will share some of their new knowledge after these exciting experiments.

Keep encouraging your child to read their W.E.B. books nightly. Spending ten minutes a day reading aloud from the leveled book your child selects, will greatly increase his or her skills in reading as well as boost their vocabulary. Fluency testing, DRA reading levels, and NWEA testing will take place in January.

In Math we are continuing to work on subtraction strategies and will begin Unit 4 this month. Students will learn to add two digit numbers with and without renaming.



THIRD GRADE

Happy 2012 to all Ben Franklin families from the third grade teachers. This new year and second half of third grade brings some new and interesting topics of study. In math class we will be learning our multiplication and division facts. It will be helpful for your child to practice multiplication facts at home with flashcards or by visiting multiplication.com. We will also be writing more frequently in cursive and, in language arts class, your child will be doing their first book project. Our e-time blocks have been very successful as your child is working to his or her ability and practicing skills in preparation for the upcoming PSSA tests. Also, look for your child to bring home their health textbook as we travel throughout the body systems. We'll also be traveling to the west in social studies to study the Northwest Native Americans and the Plains Indians.

FOURTH GRADE

As the New Year begins students will continue to practice multiplication in Math. Problems will range from basic facts through two-digits times four-digits. The students will then work with different types of graphs and solve problems with information. In Science we just completed our Electricity and Magnetism unit. The students really enjoyed creating their own game using magnets and loved making telegraphs and sending messages to other students. We are now off to Social Studies where we are reviewing map reading skills and freshening up on geography. In Science we are off to being meteorologists by studying weather and weather

instruments. In Reading students will continue to read stories from the anthology and complete related activities. They will also be required to read a Newbery Award Winning book, on their own, and then complete a book report at school.

FIFTH GRADE

To start the New Year fifth grade math students will learn to recognize and classify geometric shapes and angles. They will also explore similarity, congruency, transformations, and line symmetry. Solving problems that involve decision-making will round out the unit. Encourage your student to use the numerous vocabulary words that we will learn in our study of geometry. The students will be working to increase their skills in making inferences, drawing conclusions, identifying facts, and opinions, and recognizing the elements of a story. Various fictional and non-fictional selections will be read. We will continue to use reading strategies to improve reading comprehension.

In science, the students will be learning about nutrition and making healthful decisions. We will be exploring MyPyramid and the different nutrients our bodies need. Students will be learning more about the American Revolution in social studies.

SPECIALISTS NEWS

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Typically the New Year warrants thoughts of a fresh start. Adults make New Year's resolutions ranging from weight loss to eliminating bad habits to exercising more. For our children, mild resolutions may be helpful. Here are some tips to help incorporate a healthier lifestyle into your child's everyday life:

- Move more. Try to get between 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Several 10 to 15 minute sessions of moderate activity each day add up.
- Include regular physical activity into your daily routine. Walk as a family before or after meals.
- Limit TV, computer and video game time to a total of one to two hours per day. Encourage physical activity instead.
- Balance energy calories with activity calories. The energy you get from the foods and beverages should equal the calories you burn in activity every day.
- Increase household activities (e.g., walking the dog, dusting, vacuuming, gardening). These activities are good ways to burn calories.
- Include an activity like hiking or bike riding when you go on vacation.
- Make playtime with your family more active by shooting hoops or walking to the park.
- Start the day with a healthy breakfast. It refuels your body and gives you energy for the day.
- Let kids help plan one meal each week and eat together as often as possible.
- Eat slowly. It takes 20 minutes for your brain to register that you are full.
- Eat more vegetables and fresh fruits. Aim for a total of 2 cups of fruit and 2 1/2 cups of vegetables every day.
- Eat more whole grains (e.g., oats, brown rice, rye, crackers, whole-wheat pasta). Try to eat at least 3 ounces of whole grains every day.
- Drink plenty of fluids. Choose water, low-fat or nonfat milk and low calorie or diet beverages.

Serve a variety of foods.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In January, students in all grade levels will be participating in jump rope activities. We will be doing various jump rope activities that include hula hoop jumping, long jump roping and single jump roping.

ART

Kindergarten has been adding color to their pinch pots, while first graders sculpted their clay bells. Second graders finished their lizards and made a colorful ornament. Third graders sculpted lollipop ornaments, and fourth graders are making a collage self portrait. Fifth graders are starting to draw their self portraits.

NURSE

I would like to wish everyone a happy and **healthy** new year! Please remember the following tips for keeping your children healthy this year:

- Have your children eat breakfast every day and eat breakfast with them. Breakfast will give your children energy to listen and learn in school.
- Plan fun activities to help your children be physically active for at least one hour every day.
- If your children do become sick, keep them home until they are fever free and without vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.

I also want to remind you to send in any updated private physical forms and immunization records for your children.

Free, Come and Get One!

David R. Allen, Ph.D.
District Psychologist

Everyone knows that technology is changing the way we acquire information, socialize, and communicate with others. With these advancements come certain risks for our children. They can be tempted to act or communicate inappropriately online, forgetting they are accountable. Also, there can be individuals online who have bad intentions, including bullies, predators, hackers and scammers. Lastly, children may be exposed to inappropriate content such as violence, pornography, bigotry/prejudice or other hate speech. What is a parent to do?

Technology experts say that the best way to protect our kids online is to "talk to them." Sounds simple enough but, like many parents; I'm not sure what I would say other than, "Be careful." Obviously that's not all that helpful.

Thankfully there are helpful resources available to parents. In the "Parent Help Resources" section of the District website I have posted a few excellent Internet and technology sites such as OnguardOnline.gov. In addition we would like to give you a free copy of a wonderful booklet titled [Net Cetera: Chatting With Kids About Being Online](#). The authors recommend that, "As soon as your child is using a computer, a cell phone or any mobile device, it's time to talk to them about online behavior, safety, and security." This booklets aids parents in having these discussions. Did I say

they are free? Simply pick one up at your child's school office or request that one be sent home with your child.

K-KIDS

Thank you to everyone who helped collect change for Penny Wars! We raised \$1,556.68 for the Teddy Bear Fund Drive! Second grade won the "battle", collecting the most pennies, Fourth grade collected the most money. We are always touched at how generous the students and Ben Franklin families are.

We adopted a family this holiday season, providing gifts and food for the holiday dinner for a family of 6. The Kiwanis club helped us with a monetary donation, the Ben Franklin PTA generously donated items from Santa's Secret Workshop, and several K-Kids families brought in a few items to add to our gifts.

Hold on to those holiday greeting cards and send in the half that is not written on. We give these to the inmates at SCI Pine Grove to send as post cards to their families.

We are really looking forward to 2012 and continuing to serving our school and community.

Recycling Club

Thank you to every family who has been sending in the items we recycle! We have earned over \$500 for TerraCycle items so far this year and we have accumulated over 3,500 points in the Recycle Rally! Please save the items over the holidays and bring them in when we return to school.

Remember we collect non-alcoholic bottles and aluminum cans for beverages only for the Recycle Rally. Terra Cycle items are: Juice pouches, energy bar wrappers, Mars candy wrappers, Nabisco cookie wrappers, Frito Lay chip bags, Scott brand paper product wrappers, Aveno Lotion bottles, empty pens, markers and highlighters, empty Elmer's Glue bottles, and empty Scotch Tape dispensers.

ESL NEWS:

Our students have been using technology purchased by the ESL Department. Little Bridge is a virtual community in which students can interact with the village members of Little Bridge. Students can continue to practice their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills at home on their computers by logging on to www.littlebridge.com. Spelling skills can be improved through www.spellingcity.com. Reading can be improved through www.starfall.com. If you have any questions about logging on to these sites, please contact Mrs. Solarz at asolarz@iasd.cc.



MARKET DAY UPDATE

The order deadline for the January sale is Tuesday, January 3, 2012. This is the first day back from Christmas vacation. Anyone sending in orders to the school, please send them with your child on that day. If you are afraid of missing the deadline to order please call me and I can take your order over the phone. Anyone having questions about Market Day can call Stacy Kovalchick at 724-354-4629.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Santa's workshop was a big success again this year. The students really enjoyed the shopping and we all had a wonderful time. We would like to send a thank you to all the staff and volunteers that helped make this event so wonderful. Thank You to Mrs. Bruner, Mr. Cadile, the custodial staff, the teachers and the 37 PTA volunteers who all helped make this years Santa's Workshop so great! Thank You!

Ronda Amsler
Stephanie Drahnak

PTA HOMEROOM PARENT MEETING

Please join us on January 17 at 6pm for the next PTA Homeroom Parent meeting in the cafeteria. This meeting is a forum for planning of the homeroom valentine parties scheduled for February. You will have the opportunity to meet with other homeroom parents in your child's room and discuss ideas and plans for that day.

FATHER/SON BANQUET

SAVE THE DATE: February 21 at 6pm. More details to follow.

Fourth Grade Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who has purchased Sheetz coupon books. To date we have sold almost 200 books!! There are still some available to be purchased upon request. Anyone who wants to purchase Sheetz coupon books, or has any questions about the fundraiser please contact Stacy Kovalchick..... 724-354-4629.



ATTENTION PARENTS!
DISMISSAL PROCEDURE REVISIONS
BEGINNING JANUARY 5, 2012

Have you ever signed your child out at the end of the day? It can be an overwhelming process if it hasn't been arranged in advanced! Our goal is to get everyone home at the end of the day without disrupting your child's classroom. In order to do this, we are implementing dismissal procedures that will be beneficial to everyone involved.

You will no longer be standing in a line out the door to sign your child out. If you are a daily or day specific pick up, you will simply sign your name at the table in the lobby and continue to wait in the cafeteria for your child as you have done in the past (no slip required). Your child will meet you and you may proceed out the cafeteria doors. If your child is not a daily pick up, it will be very important to **write a note** to your child's teacher so your child's name is added to the list for that particular day. If you do not write a note, your child will be called no sooner than 3:20 to the cafeteria to leave with you.

If your child has an appointment at the end of the day that requires them to leave before 3:20, you must send a note to school that morning. When you pick them up you must also sign them out at the table stating the time and reason/location of the appointment. A slip from the doctor should be turned in to the office the following morning.

Dismissal Procedures:

1. If your child is a daily pick up or specific day pick up, parent/person must sign out at table in lobby and wait for child in cafeteria.
2. If your child is not a daily pick up, then you must write a note that morning and the teacher will make sure your child is sent to the cafeteria at the end of the day to ride home with you.
3. We will no longer call students to the office to leave before 3:20pm unless prior arrangements have been made through the office. Students can only be dismissed from school early for "excusable reasons" such as a doctor's appointment. A list of acceptable reasons can be found on page 8 of the district's Attendance, Behavioral Guidelines and Discipline Policy booklet.
4. Requests to excuse a student for an early dismissal will be granted provided the reason is "excusable" and the written request from the parent or guardian is received stating the time and reason/location of the appointment. This request should be submitted to the office upon arrival to school in the morning.

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</i>	2 <i>School Closed</i>	3 DAY 2 <i>School In Session</i>	4 DAY 3	5 DAY 4	6 DAY 5	7
8	9 DAY 1 <i>Market Day</i>	10 DAY 2	11 DAY 3 <i>Ben Franklin Singers</i>	12 DAY 4 <i>Geo Bee 9:15</i>	13 DAY 5	14
15	16 <i>In Service Day No School for students</i>	17 DAY 1 <i>PTA Parent Tea 6 PM</i>	18 DAY 2	19 DAY 3 <i>Ben Franklin Singers</i>	20 DAY 4 <i>End of Semester</i>	21
22	23 DAY 5	24 DAY 1	25 DAY 2	26 DAY 3 <i>Ben Franklin Singers</i>	27 DAY 4 <i>Report card day</i>	28
29	30 DAY 5	31 DAY 1				

KidShape Winter 2012

➤ Are you looking to have a healthier family?

○ Would you like for your family to be more active?

▪ Do you think you and your family could eat healthier?



If you answered yes to one or all of these questions,
then KidShape is for you and your family!



- KidShape is for children ages 6 to 14 who have a high Body Mass Index (BMI) and are looking to have a healthier lifestyle (BMI 85th-95th percentile)
- The program lasts for 9 weeks and the child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for at least 7 of the weeks
- Two hours once a week is the commitment for the family
- If you have multiple kids to join the class, they are more than welcome to sign up as well
- Classes include eating healthier and cost efficient, being more active and how to do so, and having a positive self esteem and mental well-being
- This program is taught by certified KidShape health professionals including a Registered Dietitian, Family Counselor, and Exercise Specialist
- The entire family can and will benefit from KidShape for a healthier lifestyle
- Earn \$50 worth of prizes at graduation!!!

For more general information, info on fees, or to sign up
please fill out the reverse and bring this form to
Indiana County YMCA or call at **(724)-463-9622**

Classes Start February 8, 2012 @ Indiana Co. YMCA

Space is limited, so call today!!!

To put Christian principals into practice through programs
that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA of Indiana County
60 North Ben Franklin Road
Indiana PA, 15701 • (724)-463-9622

KidShape Information Form

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Child(s) Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Cell Number: _____ Phone Number: _____

Best time to call: _____

Email Address: _____

Child(s) Height: _____

Child(s) Weight: _____

Child(s) Age: _____

Child(s) Grade: _____

Insurance Provider (if any): _____

Location of Interest (circle): **Indiana** **Blairsville** **Saltsburg**

Please bring information to:

**YMCA of Indiana County
60 N. Ben Franklin Road
Indiana PA, 15701**

**Or Call
724-463-9622
To register**

To put Christian principals into practice through programs
that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



Indiana Little League Baseball

P.O. Box 793

Indiana, PA 15701



BASEBALL & GIRLS SOFTBALL **2012 Player Registration**

**When: Wednesday February 8th and Thursday February 9th
Late Registration Wednesday February 15th**

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Delaney Chevrolet in Indiana

- All Players must register and must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian and provide a copy of his or her birth certificate.
- If you are a returning major league division player, you will receive your registration by mail. (If you have not received it please come to registration)
- Softball ages 6 through 12 as of December 31, 2011
- Baseball ages 4 through 12 as of April 30, 2012
- T-Ball and Machine Pitch divisions available!

More information is available at www.indianalittleleague.com

Questions?

Please contact Ted Amick
724-464-4169 / tedamick@hotmail.com

IUP Baseball Winter Camps



Winter Camp I: Saturday, January 21, 2012

Winter Camp II: Saturday, January 28, 2012



Camp 1 and 2 Schedule

Saturday, January 21 and January 28

- 8:30 AM – Check In**
- 9:00 AM – Pitching**
- 10:00 AM – Defense**
- 10:45 AM – Base Running**
- 11:15 AM – Hitting**
- 12:00 Noon – Dismiss**

IUP Baseball Since 2006

- Ranked by Collegiate Baseball**
- Ranked by Ping!Baseball**
- Ranked by NCBWA**
- School Record 36 Regular Season Wins**
- School Record 18 PSAC Wins**
- PSAC Runner-up**
- PSAC West Champions**
- PSAC West Runner-up**
- PSAC Post Season**
- 38 Team / Individual School Records**
- NCAA Best Three Year Improvement**
- 3.04 Cumulative Team GPA**
- 3.31 Semester Team GPA**
- 136 Dean's List Honors**
- 57 PSAC Scholar Awards**
- 2 PSAC Top Ten Scholar Awards**
- 2 IUP Scholar Athletes**
- First Team All-American**
- MLB 20th Round Draft**

The IUP Baseball Skills Camp is for all players age 7 – 15 and is an opportunity to receive instruction from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Baseball coaching staff and current players. The station format camp will be indoors in the IUP Auxiliary Gym, Zink Hall Gym, and the Memorial Field House.

Each year this camp has filled in advance, so early registration is encouraged. We accept 40 participants.

Bring all necessary baseball equipment for your participation including bat, glove, tennis shoes, and catcher's gear (if catching).

For more camp information, questions, and directions to the Auxiliary Gym and Memorial Field House on IUP's Main Campus:

www.iup.edu/camps

www.winwithclass.com

www.iupathletics.com

Walk-up registration is available only if the camp is not full. Early registration for session 1 is prior to January 16, 2012 and session 2 is prior to January 23, 2012. Early registration is \$30. Walk-up registration is \$35. Camp is for ages 7-15.

For registration, questions, and directions to IUP's Memorial Field House:

<http://www.iup.edu/camps>

<http://www.iupathletics.com>

<http://www.winwithclass.com>

jditch@iup.edu

(724) 357-7830