



Ben Franklin Herald

May 2010

Mr. Michael Minnick, Principal
Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

Office: 724 465-5637
Fax: 724 465-1070

From the Principal-Mr. Michael Minnick

Greetings Ben Franklin parents and guardians! The month of May is upon us, so that must mean that we all survived PSSA week! I offer many thanks to our teachers and parents for preparing the kids and making sure that they were in school and focused on doing their best work! I also want to thank everyone that provided snacks throughout the week as well.

Looking ahead, we have a number of big events approaching. Beginning with the County Spelling Bee (5/3 @ Marion Center High School, 7:00 p.m.), the last 6 weeks of school will be intense in terms of meeting our instruction and learning goals for the year and fun in regard to spring/year-end activities. Congratulations to our building bee top 3: Rachel Park (2nd runner-up), Brianna James (1st runner-up), and Jennifer Han (winner)!

Please peruse the blurbs from each grade level under the heading of "Classroom News" for grade specific events.

As we prepare for the month of May and all the events come along with it, please know that you are all valued and welcomed partners in your child's education.

Happy spring!

Mr. Minnick, Principal
Ben Franklin Elementary

LUNCH ACCOUNTS... Attention Students:

Cafeteria Accounts

If you have received a notice that your account has a negative balance you will need to bring your account to a positive balance before the last day of school.

Attention 6th Graders: If you have money left in your lunch account at the end of the school year, this money will be transferred to the Junior High and ready for use the first day of school 2010-11.

MONEY OWED

If your child owes money to the school for lunches, fundraisers, library, lost books, or any school property, **it must be paid in full before report cards will be issued.**

Are you moving, or is there a new family in your neighborhood?

If you have moved or are planning to move before the school year begins, please notify the office (724) 465-5637, so we can prepare your child's records to be sent to his/her new school. If you have moved but remain in the Ben Franklin attendance area, please inform us so we can change your child's records. Please encourage new families with school age children to register for school as soon as possible. Prompt registration of new students means a smoother start to the school year.

CLASSROOM NEWS

KINDERGARTEN

It's hard to believe that our kindergarten year is drawing to an end! For the remainder of the year we will be learning about plants and animal life on the farm. Look for information about our field trip to the dairy farm. Also, each class will have a program for parents to attend. Our last days together will definitely fly by!

FIRST GRADE

First grade welcomes spring as we enjoy our science unit, "Organisms." We will be studying a variety of living things, including plants, freshwater organisms, and woodland creatures. In Reading we will be in our fifth unit, Adventures All Around. We continue to work on basic addition and subtraction facts. Practicing with flashcards at home is a wonderful way to practice these important facts. In second grade, the students will be expected to show knowledge of the basic math facts. Please continue to listen to your child read at home. We will again

test his/her reading level in May. We are working to make our last quarter in first grade a good one!

SECOND GRADE

Summer is quickly approaching. Your 2nd grade child will participate in a variety of activities in the upcoming month.

For the children, the field trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium is the main event in May. Some children have participated in a simulation in which they tried to save their local zoo, called Zooland, from destruction. The students had to learn a great deal and pass an exam in order to become an official zookeeper. Children received a particular animal that they cared for over the weeks of the study. They read non-fiction books and researched facts about their animal. The children showcased their knowledge during a Grand Re-Opening of Zooland. I'm sure you will hear about the fun activities that went on during that unit.

The students will be writing a photo essay book as a follow-up to the zoo trip. It should be completed by the end of May. Be sure to ask your child to share it with you.

Since this is our final note for the year, the 2nd grade teachers want to state how important it is to read over the summer months. So many children have made great gains this year that it's important for the students to keep their skills honed by daily reading. Just ten minutes a day of reading will help keep your child on track. It is also important for the students to practice their cursive writing, too. Since this is such a new concept the added practice, at various times throughout the summer, will help them reinforce their skills.

THIRD GRADE

As the school year begins to wind down, third grade is as busy as ever! This month we will be starting our sixth theme in language arts. We will focus on achievements and the fact that people can achieve great things when working together or alone. In math class we will continue investigating probability. We will also begin exploring tangrams and various logic activities to help students learn to apply the skills that we have worked on this year. Our health units are in full swing as well. Students will be learning about ways to stay healthy and develop healthy life-long habits.

FOURTH GRADE

Now that PSSA testing is complete we are settling back into a normal routine. In Reading class the students will be reading a novel and completing related activities. We will also be finishing up stories from the Signature series. Students are working with fractions in Math. In addition to finding equivalent fractions, ordering and comparing fractions, and finding simplest form, the students will be adding

and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators. Customary measurement with length, weight, and capacity will also be explored. In science, the students will be finishing up the solar system unit, complete with a solar system model project. In social studies, the students will continue to work on the state location and capital recognition for the western part of the USA. They will have to think back to the beginning of the year for the complete US capital and location test!

FIFTH GRADE

As we finish the 5th grade math course of study, students will measure solids and shapes, as well as weight, mass, temperature, volume, and capacity. They will also use nets to construct solids and calculate surface area of a solid.

The final unit in the Treasures Series focuses on the theme of Great Ideas. Students will read a series fiction and nonfiction selections related to this theme. During this unit students will sequence, make judgments, identify homophones, words with multiple meanings, symbolism, figurative language, and word parts.

Students are continuing to learn about various concepts regarding our environment such as insects, genetic engineering, soil, and pollination as we wrap up our Living Off the Land unit. We will then be finishing the year with a few remaining chapters in our health books

SIXTH GRADE

May is bringing us closer to the end of the year and is another month packed with adventure and expectation. On Friday, May 7th, the PTA has planned the **6th Grade Celebration**. The **Spring Band and Chorus** production is on May 10th. The district *HIV/AIDS* lessons will be presented this month. Finally, the sixth grade teachers will be meeting with the Junior High Counselors and discussing a smooth transition for our students advancing to the Junior High.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Computers and cell phones are quickly becoming a normal part of everyday life for our students. In a recent study conducted by Cyber-bullying Research Center (www.cyberbullying.us) it was found that 83% of 12 to 18 year olds use a cell phone daily. Cyber bullying is defined as bullying through email, instant messaging, in a chat room, on a Web site, or through pictures or texts on a cell phone. Cyber bullying, like traditional bullying, involves a negative action that is often repeated and involves an imbalance of power.

Throughout the month of May, students in grades 4th through 6th will learn about Internet safety and cyber bullying. Various lessons will be presented to students to help identify various types of cyber

bullying as well as safety while exploring the Internet.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In May, students age 8 and above will be eligible to participate in the MLB sponsored Pitch, Hit and Run Competition. It is a baseball and softball skills competition.

On May 7th, we will have All Sports Day. Students will participate in various sports, games and activities on the half day of school. I would like to thank the parents and high school students who are helping to run this fun filled day.

In physical education class, 4th through 6th grade students will be participating in fitness testing. Students in grades K through 3 will be learning baseball skills and playing various games of t-ball and baseball.

GENERAL MUSIC

All fifth and sixth grade students are warming up their singing voices for the annual Spring Concert. Please join us on May 10th at 7:00 PM at East Pike Elementary School. You will get to hear how our choral skills have developed over the course of the school year. You will also have the opportunity to hear the accomplishments of our band students. Hope to see you there!

FROM THE NURSE

Attention 5th Grade Parents

Students who are entering 6th grade next year are required to have a physical examination either with their private physician or the school physician. If you choose to have the exam done with your private physician, this would be a good time to receive any required or recommended immunizations. A private physical examination form will be included in your child's final report card envelope.

Dental Exams

Dental examinations are required for students entering K, 3rd and 7th grade. A private dental examination card will be included in the final report card envelope if your child is entering 3rd or 7th grade next year.

Technology

The students in Mrs. Cribbs' fourth grade keyboarding classes continue to make excellent progress developing their touch-typing skills. It is each student's goal to complete the first 14 lessons that cover the alphabet by the end of the year. Students who have completed 21 lessons at the primary level are now working through the lessons at the intermediate level. Students who would like to continue practicing over the summer months can go to www.iasd.cc/your school/Neat Sites for Students.../Keyboarding Sites.

Parents should encourage their children to keep up the good habits they have developed throughout this school year. Challenge them to keyboard with their eyes focused on the monitor or text, not on their fingers and hands. While accuracy is important, it is also beneficial for them to try to increase their typing speed. Children do not like to make mistakes, but most word processing applications now have Spell Check, so show them how to use it. For more helpful hints, contact Mrs. Cribbs at school or by email at lcribbs@iasd.cc.

Indiana Junior High School Cheerleading Tryouts

Tryouts for the junior high cheerleading squad, for the 2010 fall sports season, will be held May 18 and May 20 (in the junior high gym) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. each evening. This is for all 6th, 7th & 8th graders interested in cheering at the junior high in the fall. Students must attend all tryouts. Candidates will need to wear shorts, t-shirt and tennis shoes. If you have questions please contact Mr. Todd Myers, Athletic Director, at tmyers@iasd.cc. We need students willing to cheer for IJHS teams.

K-Kids



"We Build"

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the 1st Annual School Carnival! It was a HUGE Success! We want to extend our gratitude to everyone who came and everyone who helped make it run smoothly! Especially Dr. Fello, Mrs. Strong, Mr. and Mrs. Angelo, Mrs. Shanshala, Rachael Shanshala, The Kiwanis Club, Circle-K, The Key Club, Miss Slagle, Miss Bleggi, Miss Hower, Miss McCutcheon, Mrs. Werner, Mrs. Leonardo, Ms. Polosky, Miss Tokar, Mrs. Bartolini, Mr. Minnick and anyone else who helped in any way. We also want to thank all of the Ben Franklin Teachers and Staff who donated items for all of our fantastic prizes and the use of some of their rooms. We are looking forward to making it BIGGER and BETTER next year!

Beginning Monday morning, May 3, 2010, the K-Kids will be selling Suns and Moons to raise money for Relay for Life, in the lobby from 8:30-8:50am. A purple form will be sent home on Wednesday, April 28. Please send them in with your donation. The

Suns and Moons will be on display to honor and memorialize your loved ones throughout the month of May in the Ben Franklin Lobby.

Don't forget to collect and bring in your Terra Cycle Items! We have collected over 4,000 items (juice pouches, toasted chip bags, energy bar wrappers, candy bar wrappers, empty glue sticks, etc)! Great Job Ben Franklin!!!! At the end of May we will be drawing 9 winners of an "Up-Cycled" Item!



PTA Joint Board Meeting and Installation of Officers will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 11 in the Library. All those who have served on 2009-2010 committees and those who have volunteered to chair a committee in the coming 2010-2011 school year are invited to attend this meeting. Please bring any folders/files you may have or recaps of your committee's work this year. This will be the last PTA meeting of the school year. Hope to see you there!

REFLECTIONS

Next year's theme will be "Together We Can". Over the summer, while on vacation or in your own backyard, be thinking about ideas for your PTA Reflections Contest art entry. It can be a drawing, poster, collage, photograph, essay, story or poem. More details will come when school starts in the fall, but if you just can't wait, ask Lynn Simmerman for the rules (724) 349-1348 or lynn_simmerman@hotmail.com)

Lynn Simmerman and Dana Smathers
Reflections Co-Chairs

Market Day

The upcoming May sale is the LAST SALE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. After that, the next sale will be in September. Now is the time to stock up on all your favorites, especially those for summer parties and outdoor grilling. Also, those participating in the on-going frequent buyer promotion must spend \$40.00 this sale to earn their free stepstool.

Ben Franklin PTA made a profit of \$152.21 from the April sale and approximately \$1400 total this year from Market Day sales. Thank you to everyone who purchases Market Day and also to all the volunteers who help with delivery every month. If you haven't tried it, please take a minute to look over the order

form. There are many quality items for you and your family. Ordering Market Day is easy. You can order every month or only when you choose to. There is no pressure to buy something every month.

Ways to Order Market Day:

1. Fill out Market Day flier that is sent home with your child & send it back to school.
2. Order on-line (www.marketday.com) and pay on-line.
3. Order on-line (www.marketday.com) and pay in person on the day of the sale. Cash, check, EBT, money order, and VISA/MC accepted.

An advantage to ordering on-line is the ability to order clearance items. Every month Market Day offers many items marked down to great prices as clearance. These items are only available on-line. Anyone having questions about Market Day please call Stacy Kovalchick at 724-354-4629.