



Ben Franklin Herald

September 2011

Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

Phone: 724 465-5637 Fax: 724 465-1070

From the Principal

The school year is off to a fantastic start! It is wonderful to see all of the students back in school.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with many positive programs. One program is the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP). This program is researched based and has proven results in reducing the number of bullying incidents. Our OLWEUS core team planned an outstanding kick-off assembly on September 6th. Our students were given a real treat via the guest speaker that we hosted. Each student was given a red "Do the Right Thing" bracelet to wear. More information about our bully prevention program can be found at www.olweus.org.

Once again we will be participating in the Martin's A+ School Rewards Program. If you shop at Martin's and designate your rewards card to Ben Franklin Elementary we will receive money that we use to benefit our students. There are several ways to register your card:

- Online on the Martin's website
- At the customer service desk right at Martin's grocery store
- Or you can pick up a form in our main office, fill it out and return it to the office and we will do the rest!

Even if you have registered your card in the past, each year the registration must be renewed. So please consider helping our school. It's easy and it benefits our kids.

I look forward to a great school year. I encourage you to keep the lines of communication open as we work together to provide an excellent educational experience for your child.

Marilyn Walther, Principal

SCHOOL PICTURES...will be taken on Monday, **September 12**. Purchase of photos will be handled on a pre-pay basis. These traditional school pictures will include a class composite. Additional information will be sent home during the first week of school.

Videotaping/Photographing in School

During the school year we videotape and photograph many school activities such as concerts, plays, and talent shows. In addition, student teachers may videotape themselves teaching a lesson, as part of their professional development. ***If you have any objection to your child being photographed or videotaped in any of these circumstances, please write a letter as soon as possible, stating your objection and providing your child or children's names.*** Thank you.

KidsRead

The Office of Service Learning at IUP in conjunction with the Indiana Free Library is offering the KidsRead literacy program starting September 26th. The program is open to all children in Kindergarten through the fourth grade. This is a great opportunity for your child to

enhance her/his 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 school. 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

It was nice to see so many of you at Open House. The students are adjusting to the daily kindergarten routines and learning about school rules. We are mixing the primary colors to make new ones and watching for a butterfly to come out of its chrysalis. We're getting better at putting numbers in for lunch!

FIRST GRADE

During the first month of school, we will be reinforcing school rules and routines, discussing respect and responsibility and the importance of good listening skills. We are all getting to know one another. In reading we are reviewing high frequency words, letter sound associations, and have begun our new reading series, **Treasures**. In math, we are learning the importance of numbers and their relationships. We are counting, writing and using numbers in our everyday routines.

SECOND GRADE

During the first month of school, second graders are learning important routines and habits to help them become responsible learners. All second graders have a homework folder and a black "Do the Right Thing" assignment book that they are responsible for carrying to and from school each day.

It is very important for the parents to look at the assignment book each evening with their child and help them to read and remember to do their assignments. We are asking parents to please place their initials beside the assignments each day. This lets the teachers know that you are aware of the homework and classroom activities.

Teach your second grader to put finished homework assignments in their folder and then into their bookbag each evening. We are telling your children that it is their responsibility to do this, as they frequently like to blame their parent for not packing the bookbag.

Thank you for working with us to help your child become a responsible student. We are attempting to develop good study skills and organizational habits that will help your child in the coming years in school.

THIRD GRADE

Welcome Back: Things are in "full swing" in the new "third grade wing" of our school! Mrs. Bartolini and Mrs. Petroff have welcomed Mrs. Horvath to the 3rd grade team. She joins with much experience as a 6th

grade teacher. Third graders were introduced to many new ideas about third grade as we focus on responsibility. We're looking forward to getting to know everyone this year. We've been busy reading and writing poetry already in preparation for all of the visitors on back to school night. Hope to see you on September 13th as we introduce you to 3rd grade procedures. It's off to a terrific beginning to the new school year. The following curriculum topics will be introduced: Maps in Social Studies, the water cycle in science and types of graphs in math class. Be on the lookout for assignments related to these subjects in your child's assignment book.

FOURTH GRADE

Fourth grade is a giant step for most students. The children are adjusting to the "Block System" schedule. During reading, the students will be reading stories and completing different projects for that month. Math students will be keeping vocabulary notebooks, developing skills and concepts, and completing written practice. During Social Studies and Science the students will be learning about explorers, nutrition, body systems and person health.

FIFTH GRADE

As we kick off a new math year our fifth grade students will round, compare, order, estimate, add, and subtract whole numbers & decimals. They will also analyze problems & strategies to solve them. Remember that completing homework provides needed practice and allows for the opportunity to discuss any questions that were encountered.

The beginning of the school year is a busy time in reading class. Fifth grade students will be reading stories in Treasures, and working on reading strategies & skills. Reading fluency checks will be administered throughout the school year.

In science, students have been learning about the different body systems. We will continue learning about them for a couple weeks. Then students will learn how to take care of their body and make healthy choices.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES REMINDER:

Students who purchase meals in the cafeteria are expected to have an adequate balance in their account. Children will be informed by the cashier if their balance is low. The food service department will also prepare letters once per week for elementary students whose balance is below ten dollars (\$10.00). These letters will be sent home with the student. Parents should submit funds for their child's account promptly if they receive a letter. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to maintain an adequate balance in their child's account and to pay for all purchases made by their child on an overdrawn account.

NURSE

Medication Policy Reminders:

1. Medication required by students should be given at home by the parent or guardian whenever possible. However, if medication is required during the school day, it must be brought into school in its original package or pharmacy labeled container.
2. All medication **including over the counter medication** must be accompanied by a **Physician Authorization for Administration of Medicine** form as well as a parent authorization form or note specifying the name of the medication, dosage, time and duration for medication administration. Authorization forms may be obtained from the school nurse or downloaded from the school district's website under health services at www.iasd.cc.

Medication should be delivered to the school by the parent, guardian or designated adult. If you are unable to personally deliver the required medication, please contact Mrs. Miller, the school nurse, for alternative arrangements.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

A new school year welcomes many new beginnings and changes. We have welcomed many new students to Ben Franklin. Kindergarten students are adapting to their new schedules and appear to be enjoying the new experience. New students in Grades 1 through 5 are beginning to understand the rules and routines of Ben Franklin.

This year we at Ben Franklin are devoted to the prevention of bullying behaviors within our school. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program has begun within our school community. Guidance lessons will support and enhance the messages covered during classroom meetings. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As we start the new school year, 3rd through 5th grade students will be participating in fitness testing. This will introduce the students to the Presidential Fitness Testing that will occur in the spring. Also, students who are between the ages of 8 and 12 will have an opportunity to participate in the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick competitions, which will occur in September during physical education class. Students in grades K through 2 will be learning and participating in activities that involve locomotor movements, such as walking, running, jumping, galloping and sliding.

MUSIC

Greetings and welcome to another year of music at Ben Franklin School! There are a few minor changes in the teaching of music classes. The teachers are the same, but the teaching assignments are a little different. Mrs. Werner will teach the weekly general/vocal music class to students in grades K - 3 and two of the 4th grade rooms. She is also the director of the 4th and 5th Grade Chorus. Mrs. Werner is in our building on days 1-3 and teaches at Horace Mann on days 4-5. As usual, Mr. Olear is the teacher of instrumental music lessons and band. He will also teach general music classes to all of 5th grade and one 4th grade room. Students in grades K-3 will see him for an extra music enrichment class for one 9 week period. Mr. Olear is at Ben Franklin days 3-5 and at Horace Mann on days 1-2. Students in 3rd grade will have the opportunity at some point during the year to play violin with Ms. Laird who will come to our school from the Indiana Junior High. Look for more information about what happens in Mrs. Werner's classes in upcoming bulletins. - Mrs. Werner

September will bring plenty of rhythm to the music class with the study of drums! We have already discussed what makes a drum unique and the many different kinds that exist. We will also celebrate the Star Spangled Banner (September 14th). We will be discussing its importance, lyrics, and history. **Students will begin lessons starting September 15th (DAY 3).** However, students may join at any time throughout the year. I hope that you all take the opportunity to join our excellent instrumental program. Please take the next few days to secure an instrument and lesson book. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding our instrumental program. Please look for a schedule to be sent home with your young musician! -Mr. Olear

LIBRARY

Welcome back everyone! My name is Mrs. Gayle Devlin. I will be your new librarian at Ben Franklin. For the past 17 years, I have been the

librarian at Eisenhower Elementary. I am very happy and excited to be working with your children. I will continue instructing your children on the use of the library where Mrs. Peterman left off. If for some reason you have a concern or question, please feel free to contact me at school or by email at gdevlin@iasd.cc.

ART

Kindergarten is starting the year with a project which practices many art skills, such as following directions, drawing, coloring, painting, cutting and pasting. First through fifth graders are all becoming familiar with their ongoing projects, which are projects they work on independently throughout the year when they have free time in the art room. First graders search magazine pictures for hidden letters, while second graders weave using the tabby technique (over-under). Third graders are creating a symmetrical design on graph paper (and taking a turn on the Promethean Board!), while fourth graders weave a pocket using several advanced weaving techniques. Fifth graders are creating several paper strip projects based on different color theories.



The first meeting of the Ben Franklin PTA will be held on September 21, 2011 at 6 pm. The meeting will be held in the school library and is open to all PTA members. PTA applications will be distributed in the coming weeks and membership is only \$5.00. Please consider joining this vital group and supporting our children in the upcoming school year.

HOMEROOM PARENT TEA

The Ben Franklin Fall Homeroom Parent Tea will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. (Homeroom parents coordinate Halloween and Valentine's Day parties, as well as one additional party for kindergarten classes.) Join us for refreshments and the opportunity to help plan your child's classroom Halloween party. Membership in PTA is required to be a homeroom parent. For more information, call Andrea Ebeling at (724) 549-3281.

REFLECTIONS

Reflections is a national PTA art program where students can interpret a theme and enter their artwork to be judged by local experts who understand children's artistic abilities and progress to state and national competitions. The favorite categories for Ben Franklin students have been Visual Arts (draw or paint a picture or poster), Photography (student takes a picture), Literature (write a story or poem), and Film Production (make a video), but there are also Musical Composition and Dance Choreography categories.

This year's theme is "Diversity means..."

The contest is open to all Ben Franklin students K-5.

Entries are due Friday, September 30. Everyone is invited to the Art Gallery and Awards Presentation Wednesday, October 19, 6:30pm.

Need another copy of the rules and entry form? Direct any questions to Lynn Simmerman: lynn_simmerman@hotmail.com, 724-349-1348

Reflect on the theme.Create an original work.***Be recognized.**

FUNDRAISER

The all school fundraiser is right around the corner! Every year our students and faculty do a wonderful job raising money for the school with this sale! Money generated from the school fundraiser is used solely for the kids. Parties, field trips, banquets, and school programs are paid for by the money this event raises. With everyone's contribution we can make this another outstanding sale.

Watch for the packets to come home in backpacks on September 8th. The fundraiser kick off is scheduled that day. The students will be excited to sell after hearing about the prizes that they can win! We will be recognizing every student for participating with a prize. Many more prizes will be awarded at the end of the sale. A prize brochure will be included in the packets. If you or your child does not wish to participate in the sale, a donation can be made to the Ben Franklin PTA. The same participation prize will be awarded to those students who send in donations.

The fundraiser will run from September 8th through September 26th. All orders must be turned into the school no later than September 26th. Parents may pre-pay when order forms are turned in, pay on the day of pick up, or send payment into the school no later than November 1st. Orders are tentatively scheduled to be ready for pick up the week of October 24th.

We look forward to another great fundraiser and awarding many great prizes!

Please contact Jaime Kunselman with any questions or offers to help with the fundraiser. Cell 724-712-9489

Email jkunselman@nw-realty.net

Jaime Kunselman
PTA Secretary/Fundraiser Chair

REFUNDING

I hope you have had a wonderful summer. I also hope you have all been saving your BoxTops and Campbell's Labels. PTA will be sending home a refunding packet in the first few weeks of school. It will outline our contests and rules for the year. This packet will also have collection sheets to make it easier for you collect and keep track. I want to thank all of you for all your support of this wonderful program. We are looking forward to another great year.



Market Day is a food program that the Ben Franklin PTA uses as a yearlong fundraiser. Each month quality food products will be available for purchase at competitive prices and our school will earn a profit on all sales. Since its start in 2008 our school has raised \$9,285.95. This money is used by the PTA to fund various activities for the students here at Ben Franklin—class parties, Santa's Workshop, field trips and the Back to School Picnic, just to name a few. The order sheets will be coming home once a month with the students, so please take a few minutes to check out the products and place an order. There is no minimum or maximum order, and orders are not required every month, just order as you need to.

You can find out more about Market Day and even place your order on-line at: www.marketday.com

The cut-off dates for placing an order for the September Market Day sale are as follows: For on-line orders, order deadline is Tuesday, September 6, 2011. All other orders are due on Friday, September 2, 2011. The delivery date of the first Market Day sale will be Monday, September 12, 2011 from 4:45 pm until 5:45 pm in the school cafeteria. All orders must be picked up at this time. Please watch for the order forms sent home with the students. Any questions please call Stacy

Kovalchick, Market Day chairperson, 724-354-4629, or e-mail to josephkovalchick@windstream.net



Back to School Picnic



The Back to School Picnic was held Thursday, August 18th at Mack Park and a fun time was had by all. A total of 388 people came to enjoy desserts and snacks, catch up with old friends, and meet new ones. We welcomed a new principal this year at Ben Franklin, Ms. Marilyn Walther, who besides meeting and greeting all in attendance, bravely handed out snocones the entire evening. Also new this year, classroom assignments and the August edition of the school newsletter were handed out at the picnic. The playground was full of Ben Franklin students having a great time.

Thanks go out to the following people and local businesses that helped with all aspects of the picnic, including setup, serving, clean-up, snocones, and food donations.

A Big Thank You to:

Ms. Walther, Mrs. Bruner, Miss McCutcheon, Ms. Polosky, Mrs. Ott, Mrs. Gatskie, Mrs. Obush, Mrs. Hilliard, Mrs. Leonardo, Mrs. Petroff, Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Matz, Mrs. Horvath, Sara Dillon, Candy Adamson, Penny Zimmerman, Trisha Kessler, Susan Nutter, Kelly Thomas, Jaime and Jake Kunselman, Ronda Amsler, Melissa Townsend-Fisher, Dana Smathers, Andree Petras, Heather Homer, Martin's Grocery Store, Giant Eagle, McDonald's, Sheetz, and Brusters. So many people helped out that we hope we didn't miss naming them all. Thanks to everyone for their help!

Stephanie Drahnak and Stacy Kovalchick, picnic chairpersons