

A U T U M N 2 0 1 7

STARBURST

A Joint Newsletter of the Franklin Avenue PTA and Franklin Avenue School

Dear Families,

Great things are happening at Franklin Avenue School. Our Stars are soaring as they learn the required curriculum as well as how to become responsible citizens and good friends to one another. Our focus continues to be 21st Century Skills: Critical Thinking, Creative Problem Solving, Collaboration, and Communication. Last year, the district's work with our Critical Friends at The Tri-State Consortium helped teachers to tweak and tailor existing lessons to target those 21 Century Skills.

Classes are off to a great start. Students are getting to know the routines and expectations of their new teachers. As I visit each classroom, I witness students who are engaged in their learning. Whether they are studying ELA, math, science or social studies, students are excited about learning. Our students in kindergarten through second grade have a new science resource called Stemsopes. This comprehensive program focuses on inquiry based science instruction. We will grow the program to grades three and four next September. In math, students have become mathematicians as they better understand the concepts that they are exposed to in Engage NY. They can decompose numbers, do a tape diagram, and solve a problem using several strategies.

Great and exciting learning is happening in Franklin's Makerspace. We have a green screen, video editing equipment, a 3-D printer, a carving machine, several sewing machines, tools, circuits, robots, and lego robotics. The children are visiting in small groups during FLEx; they are also having a chance to visit with their full class. As a kick off, students will work in small groups to design, plan, and build the largest tower. The best part of the Makerspace's philosophy is that failure is an opportunity to rethink your project.

We continue to use PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) as our character education program. Rather than focus on rules, we focus on expectations, which teachers and staff establish early on in the school year. Adults give tickets to students who exhibit appropriate behavior. Classrooms and the school set goals for positive school-wide rewards. Early this school year, we had a kick off assembly reviewing the expectations and having students give examples of what those expectations look like. At that time we dedicated our new Buddy Bench, which students can go to if they need a friend with whom to play. We talked about empathy and how our Franklin Stars can reach out to a friend in need.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns about your child. You can reach me your by phone, email, or, of course, in person.

My best,

Maureen Alaimo



Join the



Thank you so much to everyone who signed up to become a member of the PTA. Your dues help to support the many wonderful programs, assemblies, and family events that the children enjoy throughout the year.

If you did not have a chance to sign up it's not too late! Just send in a note with your name, your child(ren), and class(es), and \$10.00 in an envelope marked "PTA membership" (checks payable to Franklin Ave PTA). **ANYONE** can join! Thank you for your support and we look forward to another wonderful year.

Save the Date!

Oct 23 – Picture Retake

Oct 26 – Restaurant Night Out

Oct 27 – Box Tops Due

Oct 30 – Yankee Candle Sale Starts

Oct 31 – Halloween Parade

November 9 – PTA Meeting

Nov 20 – Thanksgiving Feast



Family Picnic

Another year, another successful Franklin Avenue Family Picnic! Our picnic was filled with friends, family and a strong sense of community. Our turnout far exceeded last year's picnic...and we weren't surprised!

Just in case you missed it, or want to relive it, let's recap:

We had FOOD – yummy, scrumptious, delicious burgers, dogs, salads and chips...Luigi O'Grady's did it again! What a fantastic local establishment!

We had FUN – the kids were dancing, enjoying the playground, using the sports bounce house, singing, smiling and overall silliness was at every turn. How about that DJ? We covered it all!

We had TREATS – Cotton Candy (perfectly spun) and yes, an ice cream truck serving cool treats and tons of smiles.

We couldn't have done any of this without the AMAZING number of volunteers we had this year. Thank you to all of the parents, friends, families, students, custodians, principals...your support is much appreciated. Thanks to your help, we had our largest, most profitable turn out to date.

The smiles on the faces of the children said it all. They couldn't have been happier to be at THEIR school, with THEIR friends and THEIR families on a beautiful Friday evening. We truly were all Franklin Stars that night!

We look forward to being even bigger and better next year. So get ready! We can't wait!

Whitney, Erin and Diane

Welcome to Kindergarten

Kindergarten Happenings

The school year is off to a great start! The children have adjusted well to all the routines and procedures in their new learning environment. They enjoy being classroom helpers and making new friends. Everyone is excited to share about themselves and learn about their classmates through STAR of the week.

The Kindergarteners have been busy learning the letters and sounds and using them to begin reading and writing. Reciting nursery rhymes and retelling familiar stories is enjoyed by all. Children will continue to work on sequencing events in a story by identifying the beginning, middle, and end, as well as recognizing the characters and setting.

The children have been exploring their five senses through a variety of books and experiments. They have been using their senses to help sort objects by similar properties. The children are working hard on writing, counting and finding hidden partners using the numbers 0-10.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Kindergarten Team





First Grade Fun

Our First Graders are off to a fabulous start! We are so proud of all the hard work they have done in reading, writing, listening and math. In order to continue this progress, we would like to make you aware of some of the routines we have in first grade.

As you know, the children have been coming home with word cards from our Foundations series. Please be sure your child reviews these words each night as they will help them be more successful with their reading and writing. We have reviewed the sounds and handwriting formations for all of the letters. We are also practicing tapping out consonant-vowel-consonant words and building them on our word boards.

We have been reviewing number sense, and beginning addition and subtraction in math. The children have enjoyed the hands-on aspect of our math program. The children have learned that addition is joining two parts and subtraction is starting with a whole and taking away a part. The answer in subtraction is called the difference and the answer in addition is called the sum.

It was nice to see all of you at Back to School Night. We hope the evening was informative. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call. We look forward to a successful year!

The First Grade Team



Welcome to Second Grade

Our new second graders are off to a great start! The children are reading leveled books through the A to Z Program and Raz-Kids. The students are reading many stories, including fairy tales.

We began our second-grade Foundations Program with a review of the sounds and concepts taught in first grade. This also included the review of recognizing and spelling first-grade trick words. We have now completed our first few Foundations Units which, as you know from first grade, include spelling, phonics and handwriting.

In math, children have learned to use number bonds as a strategy for adding and subtracting. We are now using these strategies to solve word problems in our measurement unit. A great way to make your child feel more confident in their mathematical ability is to help them learn their addition and subtraction number facts. Automatically knowing these facts, will allow your child to focus on the concepts being taught.

We have learned all about maps, continents, and oceans, in our first social studies unit, Where In the World I Live. The children have learned the difference between a map and a globe, as well as how to use a map key and compass rose.

Our first science unit is properties and states of matter. The children will be participating in many hands-on activities to learn about the properties of given objects. The information learned will also be used later in our Weather Unit.

We look forward to working with you and your children throughout the year.

The Second Grade Team

I ♥ THIRD GRADE

Third Grade News

Third grade has gotten off to a great start! The children are ready to learn and eager to share what they know. In ELA, we are working on a variety of stories and novels. The children are writing personal narratives and focusing on telling the heart of the story, not a summary. An important quality of third grade work is the use of proper mechanics across all curriculum areas. In math, we've begun with multiplication and division. Review of basic facts at home is always helpful to the children because it builds automaticity of recall. Fact memorization is key! In social studies, we are learning all about Mexico, our neighbor to the south. Our first science unit will focus on temperature and will begin when we finish our study of Mexico.

For homework, please have your child double-check their work. In math, reviewing the questions to be sure all parts are answered would be beneficial. When answering word problems, they should remember to use read-draw-write (RDW) format. For any reading comprehension work, children should be sure to underline or highlight where they found their answers. We review these in school and hearing it at home would reinforce the expectations.

Thank you for all you do to support learning here and at home. Your support is invaluable!

The Third Grade Team



Fourth Grade News

The new fourth graders have adjusted nicely to the new grade level, classes and routines. They are becoming pros with their new schedules. Making new friends and enjoying time with old ones has been seamless.

We have hit the ground running with the curriculum. In math, we have completed a unit on place value where the students were required to read, write, compose, and compare numbers up to 1,000,000. We are finishing unit two on units of measurements with conversions which is fun and challenging. Next, we'll move on to multi-digit addition and subtraction, weaving problem solving and writing to demonstrate and apply our concept understanding. In social studies, we have reviewed map skills and plan to move into a study of Native Americans who lived in our state. The students are enjoying the new textbook and its online component. In science, we have completed a mini unit on properties and have begun to focus on metric mass measurement before beginning an exciting and in-depth unit on magnetism and electricity. The children will be immersed in hands-on activities designed to deepen and enhance their understanding of these scientific concepts. Reading and writing have focused on comprehension skills which include predicting, identifying main idea and details in both narrative and non-fiction text. We will be writing stories in various genres in the next few weeks.

Please review all math facts at home. Rapid recall of facts will help the children as we move into more sophisticated arithmetic.

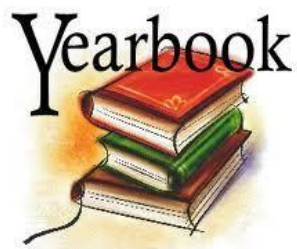
The word study program will address word work through our content area vocabulary as well grade appropriate vocabulary. The students are responsible for the Trick Words/No Excuse Words that they have studied and learned in the prior years through the Foundations program. Each student has his or her personal list to work on.

The students are enthusiastically visiting the new Makerspace where they are engaged in various types of hands on learning. We are looking forward to further our learning of curriculum through projects using this new space.

Enjoy the cooler weather and all that fall has to offer! We are looking forward to Halloween and the parade at Franklin.

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Team



The staff is already hard at work on this year's book! We are looking for volunteers to take photos of school events for the upcoming edition. Please let us know if you can help out!

Marion O'Sullivan
marion1119@optonline.net

Hedi Han
hedi123@gmail.com

Back to School



Welcome Fall!

Pearl River Speech & Language

Dear Parents,

We welcome you back to the 2017-2018 school year in the Pearl River School District! We are very excited to begin speech and language therapy with our students. We are pleased to share some organizational tips to improve your child's executive functioning skills as they get ready for a successful school year. We would also like to share some facilitative prompts when engaging in discussion with your child to reflect upon their school day. We hope you find these tips and prompts to be useful in creating a strong organizational foundation for the academic year and helpful as you engage with your child in everyday conversation.

From,

The Pearl River Speech Department

Executive Functioning Tips to Start the Year Off on the Right Foot

- Pre-plan and talk aloud about projects, goals, and tasks. Utilize growth mind-set while doing so. "I can _____!"
- Utilize visual schedules, calendars, and checklists to help students plan, transition, and visualize tasks they have accomplished.
- Color code tasks into designated categories to stay organized.
- Break down large projects into smaller tasks. This will make a big project less daunting and students will be proud of each accomplishment along the way.
- Use timers and clocks to allow students to monitor themselves and reflect upon their use of time.
- Designate a specific time for tasks.
- Apps for Executive Functioning:
Paperless (checklists), *Time timer* (visual for timing)
- View this great article for more tips: [EF article](#)

Colleen Moore
Moorec@pearlriver.org

Stephanie Hommel
Hommels@pearlriver.org

Stephanie King
Kings@pearlriver.org

Questioning Prompts:

Present open-ended questions to your child to yield more descriptive responses!

- "Tell me your favorite/ least favorite part of the day."
"Why?"
"How come?"
- "What did you do in *Special/ELA/Speech* today?"
- "Tell me about something you learned today?"
- "Tell me about a fun game you played at recess."
- "What are you most/least excited for this week?"
- "What are you excited for in the next few weeks?"

Morning Routine

Breakfast	
Get Dressed	
Get Shoes On	
Lunch box in bag	
Do Hair	
Brush Teeth	
Pack Bag	
Get in Car	

Speech Practice on the Go: 5 Easy and Simple ways to Practice Speech and Language in the Car

Car rides provide a great and convenient time to practice those speech and language skills. Get into the habit of practicing every time you're in the car to establish a routine of consistent practice. Listed below are some enjoyable ways to practice those skills on the go!

1. **Sequencing:** Have your child sequence the events of the day using those transition words (first, next, then).
2. **Describing:** Practice describing items by playing "I Spy" with your child. Make sure to have them include category, function, and parts.
3. **Figurative Language:** Discuss the examples of figurative language that you hear in songs as you listen to the radio.
4. **Wh- questions:** Ask your child a variety of wh- questions (*Who, What, When, Where, Why*) and encourage them to ask you questions as well!
5. **Articulation:** Create a sound book focusing on the target sound your child is working on. A short car ride is the perfect time to practice!



Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year and the newly elected Student Council. The student council is excited to get started on programs that we make our school a more positive and encouraging place to learn and grow. Stay tuned for school wide activities that will help our neighbors and community feel valued.

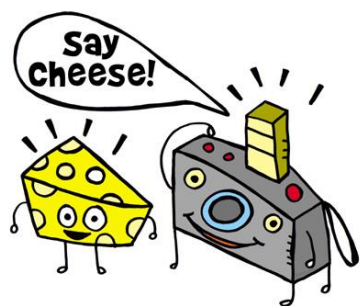
Student Council Officers

Shea Sullivan – President, Klye Lynch - Vice President , Reagan Crouch – Secretary, Chatham White - Public Relations Officer

Student Council Members

Hugh O'Brien, Jenna Wilmoth, Sean Tarsnane, Terence Loughran, Brendan Horan, TJ Lanese, Ethan Han and Matthew Gorman





Thank you for making Picture Day go so smoothly! We hope you all were happy with your pictures. The children looked adorable!

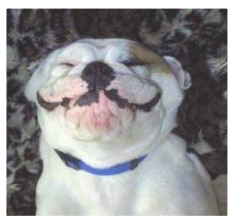
Picture retake day is Monday, October 23rd

A special **Thank You** to the following for helping to make sure everyone's hair was in place and shirts were straight.

*Lindsay Crouch!
Barbara Seidel
Margo Richards
Tara O'Brien
Christine Perone*

Thanks Again!

Jen Mulvey



MUSIC MATTERS!



Goings On In Music

We're busy learning a bunch of songs from various sources, including Halloween songs, Patriotic songs, and have even started the more complicated songs we'll be performing at the winter concert in December.

More specifically, we are learning new rhythms and what they look like when notated, as well as studying the forms of various pieces of music to discover when sections of music change and stay the same.

Add a few games to the mix incorporating all of the above, and you've got yourself the start of a pretty wonderful school year!!

Here's to music in all of our lives,

Mr. Louis



News from the Health Office

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

HALLOWEEN SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters under the blanks to find out what you can do to help stay safe while trick-or-treating.

1. Walk on

E I A S K D W S L

2. Stay in

O S G P R U

3. Avoid

T A E S N R S G R

4. Carry a

G T A H F S I L H L

5. Ask your parents to check your

S E T T A R



ANSWERS: (1) SIDEWALKS (2) GROUPS (3) STRANGERS (4) FLASHLIGHT (5) TREATS

For more health games and tips, visit: www.cdc.gov/family/kids



It's Time To Turn In Your Box Tops!



Check your cupboards and fridge.....

Your school's Box Tops Coordinator needs your clipped Box Tops!! The fall deadline is approaching and we need your box tops by **Friday, October 27th**. Glue your box tops to the sheet that was sent home or place them in a bag and submit to your child's teacher.

Thank you!

Wendi Rogers

Fall Mum Sale

Although it didn't feel like fall when we had our Franklin Ave. Fall Mum Sale! Just wanted to thank you for your support of a beautiful fundraiser.

Thanks for the quick help of 6 amazing volunteers. We would not have been able to unload the truck and fill the orders. Thank you Whitney Hennessey, Tara O'Brien, Holli Wenstrom, Alisha Lloyd, Kim Crispino and Neal Crouch.

In our quick one day pre-sale fundraiser we were able to make \$1,164! Thanks for your support and look for us again next fall!

Lindsay Crouch



CHEDDAR UP

The Franklin Ave. PTA is happy to announce that we have a NEW online payment system called Cheddar Up. We will be slowly integrating it where we can this year. In some cases there will be a nominal fee. You can pay via e-check (\$.45 fee), credit card (3.5% fee) or just fill out the online form and send in cash or check through backpack labeled with event name and your child's name. It automatically sends you an email confirmation. This will help streamline and organize the registration process for everyone, especially the event coordinator. Please try it out and give us your feedback.

Whitney Hennessey and Lindsay Crouch

PTA Executive Board

President

Allison Tarsnane - atarnane@gmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents

Alece Ayers - amdc1212@aol.com

Brandy Reilly - breilly707@yahoo.com

Co-Treasurers

Lindsay Crouch - SydLin214@aol.com

Whitney Hennessey -

Whitneymackey@hotmail.com

Co-Corresponding Secretaries

Danielle Murray - ddm201@optonline.net

Jamie Silver - jtsilver15@gmail.com

Co-Recording Secretaries

Barbara Seidel - bg9337@hotmail.com

Margo Richards - richardsmargo@yahoo.co.uk



In The Art Room

The art room is off and running! This year will be packed with fun and engaging art lessons so please be on the lookout in your child's backpack for finished projects.

Kindergarten students learned about castles and also finished making a beautiful fall sunset painting. We will be moving into the exciting world of Native America.

Grade one students made South American tree frog paintings. The students had a great time making their frogs. Students are now creating artwork for the Mexican holiday of Day of the Dead.

Students in second grade just finished creating adorable elf houses using natural material. Be on the lookout for these miniature scenes!

Third grade is finishing up a 3-d pictures. Students explored scale, proportion, and design. The students did a great job! They are now painting lions with mixed media.

Finally, fourth grade finished working on puppets. Students learned to sew and create an amazing figure using mixed materials. Students are now studying radial designs patterns using simple origami folds.

It is my pleasure to be working with the students at Franklin Avenue. I am looking forward to making lots of art and learning with the kids!

Mr. Price



News from the Gym

Grades K-2: We have been working on gross motor activities: playing tag games, learning to roll a ball correctly and kicking a stationary ball. The children really enjoy the games we play that incorporate these activities.

Grades 3&4: We started off the year familiarizing ourselves with the exercises (that should be done every day). One of the main changes in our exercises is that we have been doing modified pushups. These push ups help us with the correct form for when we get strong enough to do "real" push ups.

The first unit we have been doing is soccer. Passing, dribbling and trapping are some of the skills we learned. With those skills we have been playing lead up games that incorporate whole class activity. We also learned how to throw a football and play many games incorporating throwing and catching a football.

The wrestling Club will be starting in December for grades 2-6. Check out the pearriverwrestling.com web site for more details.

The best way to get in touch with us is through e-mail...donnelyw@pearlriver.org,
Driscollk@pearlriver.org. Eat healthy and stay fit,

Mr. Donnelly & Mr. Driscoll





As we begin our new school year there is something for everyone as we “Fall Into Reading”. Here are some tips for children who are:

Kindergartners: Play with sounds by saying silly tongue twisters, use your child’s name as a link between letters and sounds (John jumps). Trace and say the sounds of letters on paper, in sand or on a plate of sugar, and read books again and again. As you read, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book.

First Graders: Model that there is always time for reading. Never leave home without a book. Read stories more than once, digging deeper into the story asking “*why*” questions. Try the “*I read to you, you read to me*” routine. Help your child pick books that are on his/her level. You want your child to have lots of successful reading experiences. Talk to your child every day about school and remember to sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation to build vocabulary. Write, write, *write*! Ask your child to help write out the grocery list or a thank you note to Grandma.

Second Graders: Create a writing toolbox filled with drawing and writing materials and then find opportunities for your child to write shopping lists, thank you notes or birthday cards. Be your child’s “fan” by being an enthusiastic listener. Ask him/her to read a favorite part of a book aloud to you. When your child sounds out an unfamiliar word, have him/her re-read that sentence so he/she does not lose the meaning of what was just read. When your child learns new words help him/her recognize them automatically by making flash cards or computer drills. During family trips, make up stories together by taking turns adding details and events to make the story funny or spooky.

Third and Fourth Graders: Make books special by taking your child to the library, reading with them and buying them books as gifts. Introduce your child to a series of books like *The Magic Tree House*, *Dear America* or the *Clementine* series for example. Hopefully he/she will get hooked and read, read, read. Talk to your child about what you both see and do. This helps your child build background knowledge, which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension. Remind your child that first drafts of writing are rough and that writing involved several steps. No one does it perfectly the first time. Expose your child to different types of writing by reading many different genres aloud to them.

Some kids prefer nonfiction books. Help your child adopt some “mind tricks” by helping them make predictions about what might happen next in the story or help them summarize a story in a few sentences. Both of these strategies will help your child comprehend and remember.

I hope these ideas will help you encourage and nurture you child(ren) into a bright future through reading.



Thanksgiving Feast



The Franklin Ave Thanksgiving Feast is always a great start to the holiday season!

All of our children do such an incredible job with decorating their tables to enjoy their meal.

We need volunteers to make this holiday tradition a success. **Save the date Monday, November 20th.** Flyer to come out soon.

Please reach out to:

Jen Mulvey at jenmulvey@hotmail.com

This year's holiday boutique will be held on 12/7 & 12/8.

Volunteers are needed to help with the boutique set-up after school on 12/6 in addition to helping run the boutique during school. Please contact us at FAHBCommittee@gmail.com if you are available to join us and spread some holiday cheer!



Support our Fundraisers!

Now when you shop on Amazon Franklin Ave benefits! Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to PTA New York Congress 004-243 Franklin Ave School PTA.



Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com?ch/13-2942265> and support us with every purchase!

Franklin will be running the Yankee candle fundraiser this year. You can get a jump start on holiday shopping! There are two convenient ways of shopping. You can order online through the link and instructions below or you can wait for the paper order sale to begin (which will go home in your child's backpack). Happy Shopping!

www.yankeecandlefundraising.com Enter Group Number 990032889 in the Start Shopping box Online orders will be shipped direct and are taxed Online ordering ends 01/10/2018

Paper order sale is 10/30 - 11/10 and flyers will be sent home prior to 10/30. Paper orders will be shipped to the school and distributed accordingly. Paper orders are not taxed.



Franklin receives 40% of every order! Questions can be sent to **Kerry** (kerrymoakley@gmail.com) or **Jen** (carroje@yahoo.com)



We are off to a wonderful 6 week session of Kids Clubs. Thanks to some amazing teachers and vendors (Dance Central Performing Arts, Mad Science and The Academy for Martial Arts.)

Look for a new flyer coming home soon! **We will start an 8 week session starting January 22nd!** Please also take a look at registering online on our new online payment system, Cheddar Up!

Lindsay Crouch