

# STARBURST

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

## Letter from the Principal



Dear Families,

It seems as if this year flew by in a blink of an eye. Almost yesterday, the children were getting off the bus for the first day of school. Now I am hearing the fourth graders practice for their promotion celebration.

As summer vacation approaches, I wish you and your family many long and unstructured days. Try to look for ways to ensure that your children are reading across July and August. Reading with younger children before bedtime is always precious time spent together. You might consider reading the same titles as your older children and enjoying rich discussions together. Lastly, our Pearl River Library Program provides incentives for students to read many books across the summer.

One way to enhance children's math acumen is to have them work with money. When my boys were little, I would give them a budget for the snack bar at the swim club. They had to figure out how much they would spend on snacks in a week, do the calculations, and ensure that they received the correct change.

Whether you travel abroad, go to the beach, visit the lake, or have a Staycation, I hope you enjoy the time with family and friends. See you in September!

My best,

*Maureen Aláimo*





## Life at Franklin Avenue







The children actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding. They have been practicing reading for meaning and monitoring whether or not a word looks right and sounds right while reading. The Kindergarteners will continue to retell stories in sequence using appropriate language, vocabulary and character names.

The Kindergarteners have been working so hard on their handwriting and it shows! The children use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic. It is encouraged that children continue to phonetically sound out words when writing.

Students have begun to harness their practiced counting abilities, knowledge of the value of numbers, and work with embedded numbers to reason about and solve addition and subtraction expressions and equations. The culminating task asks students to demonstrate their understanding of addition as *putting together*, *adding to* and subtraction as *taking apart*, or *taking from*. Students use mathematical models and equations to show an understanding about composition and decomposition to 20.

**Have a great summer!!**

*The Kindergarten Team*  
Mrs. Imperati, Mrs. Quinn, and Mrs. Harris



It's hard to believe that the school year has come to an end. We are extremely proud of all the hard work and progress the first graders have made this year. It has been exciting watching them develop into such wonderful readers and writers. It is hard to get most of the children to put a book down.

As the year winds down, we have the students engaged in reading books with more text and substance like the series of chapter books about Poppleton. You will notice these books contain many of the trick words we have learned throughout the year. We also use these stories to help strengthen the student's other reading strategies as well as their comprehension. Remember, our goal is to develop reading for meaning!

In math, we are ending the year with a review of addition and subtraction strategies we have learned and applying them to story problems. Please be sure to review addition and subtraction facts as well as counting coins over the summer.

We would like to thank all of you for your continued support throughout the year. You have helped your child meet success in First Grade. Have a wonderful and safe summer vacation! But don't forget to READ, WRITE and TIE your SHOES!!

*The First Grade Team*  
Mrs. Mealy, Mrs. Reekie, and Mrs. Fishman

# Makerspace

This past month has been very exciting for the Makerspace at Franklin Avenue. We introduced the new room with its wonderful projects and gadgets to all the classes at Franklin Avenue. The Makerspace is a new classroom in the school that provides an environment where students can **Create, Invent, Make and Do**. It is a place where students can explore **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math**.

The Makerspace is equipped with many activities. Some are guided and some are open-ended. It includes items such as Lego Robotics, Dash Robots, Little Bits Circuits, Snap Circuits, sewing machines, Keva blocks, Marble Run, Broadcasting equipment, carving machine, 3D Printer, hand tools and many supplies for amazing and educational projects.

The Makerspace will officially launch next September and will be visited by students during the school day. Students will sometimes visit the classroom when the school curriculum lends itself for this environment, during flex time, and at other teacher designated times.

For our soft opening, all the grades started with the Gigantic Bubble Machine project. The students designed a net between two sticks then dipped it in a bubble solution to make gigantic bubbles. They learned what designs make bigger bubbles, and how wind conditions affect the size and shape of the bubbles.

The 4th graders also did a Lego Robotics project at the Makerspace. They built a robot arm that would pick up objects detected from the robot's sensors. They worked in teams where they planned what they were going to do. They then collaborated with each other and adjusted their robot when things did not go according to plan.

We look forward to many more amazing projects in the coming academic year.

Without the PTA and the endless hard work of our principal, teachers and parents, this endeavor would not have been possible! A BIG thank you to them for raising \$21,000 through PTA efforts and grants to fund the Makerspace! A very special thank you to the Makerspace committee! This exciting room will be appreciated and used by our children for many years to come.

Also, a very special thank you to:

Kahori and Leon Offengenden, Alicia Vonderhorst, Alyson Fishman, Kim Mealy, Heather Reekie, Stephanie King, Rose Cooke, Allison Tarsnane, Jackie McGee, Trisha Lanese, Neil Fabella, Dolores & Mike Sullivan, Jodi Bergin, Brianna Reale, Tara Borucinski, Douglas Dupas, Peggy Lynch, and Eric Coronado.

**Irene D'Anna**  
**Makerspace Committee Chairperson**





## Goodbye and Good Wishes from Grade Two

It has been a great year in second grade! The second graders have been focusing on reading informational text, gathering facts, and using the information to write non-fiction pieces on a variety of topics.

In our favorite science unit, living things, we learned about life cycles and even hatched chicks right in our classroom! In our last science unit, another favorite, the children explored space.

In mathematics the children have been working on measurement, fractions and geometry. There were many hands-on activities throughout these units as well as the use of manipulatives.

Over the summer please encourage your child to keep on reading. The Pearl River Public Library has a free program that rewards students for reading over the summer with prizes and activities. Be sure to visit and explore this library program. Remind your children to keep practicing their math facts and studying their trick words. This will enable the children to be properly prepared for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Thank you for all your support this year!

***Enjoy your summer break!!***

***The Second Grade Team***  
***Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Calise, & Ms. Patchoros***



## Third Grade News

With the warmer weather, the kids are sprouting upward and seem to be getting taller each day. Our learning and development also continue at a rapid pace.

While we don't have many days left, there is still plenty to do. For the last part of the year, we will be reviewing problem solving using all the topics covered this year. Please continue to practice multiplication facts each day at home. In social studies, the children have worked hard on the country projects. We hope you were able to join us on June 9th for our presentations. We know you would have been dazzled. In science, we've finished up our unit on buoyancy and have moved on to butterflies. The caterpillars grow almost as quickly as the students. Each class is solidifying reading comprehension and writing skills through a variety of novels. Please be sure the children are reading daily at home to reinforce skills and strategies taught in class.

We look forward to a strong end to third grade together.

***The Third Grade Team***  
***Ms. Mulligan, Ms. Lewis, & Mrs. Zito***

## Father Daughter Barn Dance



Thank you to all our “Father Daughter Barn Dance” Volunteers who helped make this year’s dance so much fun for our girls!

The Father Daughter Barn Dance was held on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cowgirls and their Cowguys swung their partners to and fro to both country music and pop music.

The girls enjoyed taking photos in the two photo booths as well at the front entrance. BBQ food was provided by AJs and the girls were each given a souvenir tumbler to take home.

A fun time was had by all!

We wish everyone a safe and fun-filled summer!

***Kerry Moakley and Jodi Bergin***  
***Committee Co-Chairs***





## Franklin Avenue PTA Star Scholarship

The "Franklin Avenue School PTA Star Scholarship" is a \$500 scholarship that is awarded to a graduate of Franklin Avenue.

Students submit a 300-600 word essay describing how their experiences at Franklin Avenue relates to the school mission statement and has contributed to the student and young adult that they have become. This year the committee chose Teresa Glynn as the 2017 recipient.

Congratulations to Teresa Glynn!

**Stephanie Whelan**  
Franklin Avenue Scholarship Committee  
Chairperson



phillipmartin.com

## Yearbook

We would like to thank our Yearbook Committee for all the hard work that was done to make this year's book such a success. It is a wonderful momento for the kids filled with fun memories of the school year.

Committee Co-Chairs:

**Marion O'Sullivan & Hedi Han**

Photographers and Committee Members:

**Melissa Anselmi, Patricia Downes,  
Meredith Dupas, Dolores Hackett,  
Bill Horan, Kathleen Hurley,  
Jenny Javonovic, Melissa Larenas,  
Laura Mulvany, Margo Richards,  
Maria Saparata and Diane Sirakovsky**

## MUSIC MATTERS!



### Goings on in Music

What a great season of music-making we're having here at Franklin Avenue!! Just after the spring concert concluded, we put together a wonderful Memorial Day assembly to honor veterans past and present in a variety of ways.

In general music, we are now learning about how songs tell a story in a very special form that's dear to my heart - the musical. Simultaneously, both the Kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup> grade is preparing their final performance pieces for the year. Kindergarten Celebration is set for June 9<sup>th</sup>, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade promotion is going to be on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be full of music - just the way we like it here at Franklin Avenue!!

Here's to music in all of our lives,

**Mr. Louis**



### News from the Gym

## Field Day

Field Day was a success. I want to thank Mrs. Calise and the PTA for all of their help. We couldn't do it without them. The students were well prepared for the day. Leading up to field day we played all of the games in P.E.

After field day, the PTA ran Jump Rope for Heart. It was a huge success. We raised over \$1,500. All students who participated will receive a jump rope.

This year has gone so fast and all of the students have grown, taller and stronger. Continue to get your 60 minutes of exercise a day.

Have a great summer!!!

STAY FIT,  
**Mr. Donnelly**  
**Mr. Driscoll**







## Mother's Day Tea

What a lovely morning was had by all who were able to attend our Mother's Day Tea, which was held before school on May 11<sup>th</sup>!

As they entered the building, the Mom's had a chance to take a picture with their children in front of the special photo back-drop created just for the Tea in the front hallway. After this, they had a chance to enjoy some tea, coffee, and quality time with each other while creating a butterfly craft with a special poem attached and then filling in the blanks on an *All About My Mom* handout.

A special Thank You to those who helped set up for the event including Whitney Hennessey, Trisha Lanese, Barbara Seidel, Rosalie Tobacco, Margie Killeen, Kerry Moakley, Tara O'Brien and Alicia Vonderhorst.

I would also like to thank the teachers who came in early to be volunteers at the event so that the Moms could enjoy some time with their children. Ms. Mulligan, Mrs. King, Mr. Price, Mrs. McConeghy, Mrs. McGee, Mrs. Acunto, and Mrs. Fishman- we thank you so much for this thoughtful gesture and we hope you know how much it meant to us!

**Allison Tarsnane**  
**PTA Co-President**



## Greetings from the Art Room!

The art room was certainly buzzing with activity this year. The students made so many things and I have to say I learned a thing or two from them!

I look forward to working on the new art room webpage which will allow viewers to see art work, photos of the art room and other cool things.

Remember to stay active and use your imagination. Practicing art only makes you better!

**Mr. Price**



Student council worked really hard this year and I am so proud of the things they accomplished.

We worked on fundraisers, amazing assemblies and honored our veterans.

I wish the students in fourth grade who participated the best of the luck in the middle school.

If your child is entering fourth grade next year, considering running for this great opportunity to develop public speaking skills and work on civic activities!

**Mr. Price**





## Used Book Sale

Franklin Avenue celebrated Earth Day with our Annual Used Book Fair. Again, this year we received a record amount of books, games, puzzles, cds and dvds and the sale ran for 2 weeks!!

Thank you to those that cleaned out their bookcases and game rooms and donated items to our sale. We also appreciate all the support of those that shopped and found some new items for their summer reading and games to keep you busy on those rainy days!

We broke our record again this year—and raised \$390!! Way to Go Franklin Avenue Stars!!! You have saved items from going into a landfill and in turn have raised money for programs and assemblies at school!

This event could not have taken place without the help of some wonderful people who donated many hours setting up, collecting money & boxing up the leftovers (which were all donated to people in need) over the course of our 2 week sale. I would like to send out a HUGE thank you to Stephanie Whelan, Alice Tom & Margo Richards who were all my right hand ladies! I would also like to thank Sheila Colbert and Tricia Sutton who stepped in when needed and volunteered to help with sales after school.

My journey at Franklin Avenue has ended and as hard as it is to say goodbye, I have many fond memories that I will take with me. I look forward to the tradition of the Used Book Sale being continued over the coming years! If you are interested in assisting next year with the sale, please contact the PTA.

***Maureen Damon***  
***Used Book Sale Committee Chairperson***





## Franklin Avenue School Library

We have had a great second half of the school year! Everyone was busy taking out books and magazines. Since reading, The Lemonade War, I have added the other books from the series to the library. I have also been able to purchase some new books. All the children were excited when they see new books.

Please make sure your children are reading this summer. Listed below are some books and/or authors by grade that the children have told me about!

Grade K = Llama, Llama books, by Anna Dewdney; anything by Dr. Seuss

Grade 1 = Broke my Trunk, by Mo Willems; Fancy Nancy, by Jane O'Connor

Grade 2 = Mercy Watson, by Kate DiCamillo; Anything by Dan Gutman

Grade 3 = I Survive, by Lauren Tarshis; Clementine, by Sara Pennypacker

Grade 4 = Judy Moody and Stink, by Megan McDonald

These are strictly suggestions. As long as the kids are reading that keeps the brain going!!! Happy Summer!!!!

**Ms. Betsey McConeghy**  
**Library Clerk**



## Kids Clubs

What a fun and exciting year for Kids Clubs! We started off the year with "vendor run clubs" then decided to try something new. This spring with the help of our Fantastic Franklin teachers we were able to offer many more clubs in both the morning and afternoon. In the fall of 2017 we are looking forward to combining the two for something spectacular! What a wonderful way for your child to learn something new and help your PTA at the same time!

Thank you to all our generous vendors Bricks4Kids, The Academy of Martial Arts, Dance Central, Mad Science, KidzArt, Mrs. Damon and our Fantastic Franklin teachers! With everyones help Kids Clubs was able to raise over **\$3,000!**

See you in the fall!

*Lindsay Crouch & Danielle Murray*  
Kids Clubs Co-Chairs



## Plant Sale

We would like to thank the Franklin Avenue faculty, staff, and families for supporting the spring plant sale which was even more successful this year.

Scenic Valley Greenhouses provided especially amazing plants for us this season.

We hope you are all enjoying the Mother's Day flowers that went home with your children care of the PTA and the beautiful blooms that you purchased.

Thank you also to the parent volunteers who helped set up and sell. We couldn't have done it without you!

*Brandy Reilly*  
&  
*Margaret Dowling-Murphy*

*Plant Sale Committee Co-Chairs*

# Fourth Grade News

- ELA:** For the remainder of the school year, the students are working on reading texts that connect to our social studies units. We are also using books by Andrew Clements in small group book clubs. The students are enjoying the new titles and look forward to ELA each day.
- Math:** The fourth graders are ending the year with Module 7. It is important that the children continue to bring their math book back and forth to school each day and complete daily homework assignments. We encourage the students to continue practicing their math facts over the summer.
- Social Studies:** This year has been busy with many adventures back in time. We have learned about the geography of New York State, we studied the Native Americans, Colonial Times, government and the Revolutionary War. We were lucky to visit Philipsburg Manor and Albany which gave us amazing hands on experiences and a first look back in time and through history.
- Science:** The fourth grade students are finishing up the year with our study of plants. The students grew plants and are learning about the life cycle, growth and development of the flowers. Again, the students worked very hard to explore many scientific concepts this year including measurement, water, electricity and magnetism.
- Maker Space:** Before our 4<sup>th</sup> graders leave Franklin Avenue, they will be visiting the Maker Space. Each child will have the opportunity to be creative while thinking critically to work on a hands-on project or experiment.

## Important Dates:

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion: Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

Noon Dismissal: Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Last Day of School: Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> (10:30 dismissal)

## Reminders:

- \*Students should continue to read on a daily basis over the summer. Try to read both fiction and non-fiction texts.
- \*Continue to practice multiplication and division facts over the summer!

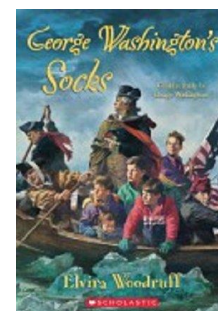
## THANK YOU!!

To the Class Moms and Parent Volunteers for a great school year! We truly appreciate all of the work you have done for our classes and the students.

*Enjoy your summer break!! ☺*

**The Fourth Grade Team**

**Ms. Toledo, Mrs. Nicholson and Mrs. Reale**





# Good Times...





## *Mrs. Zielinski's Page*

### Preventing Summer Slide

Now that the school year is coming to an end, your children are being reassessed by their classroom teachers to determine their independent reading levels at year-end. Find out that level from the teachers and use this guided reading level chart to determine where your child falls.

Many children, especially struggling readers, forget some of what they've learned during the summer months. Scholastic.com suggests three simple strategies to help your child improve his/her reading during the summer:

[www.yourkidcanread.com](http://www.yourkidcanread.com)

Grade Level	Fountas-Pinnell Guided Reading Level
Kindergarten	A, B, C*
Grade 1	C*, D, E, F, G, H*, I*
Grade 2	J, K, L*, M*
Grade 3	N, O*, P*
Grade 4	Q, R, S*, T*
Grade 5	U, V*
Grade 6	W, X, Y
Grade 7	Z
Grade 8	Z

\* transitional to next grade

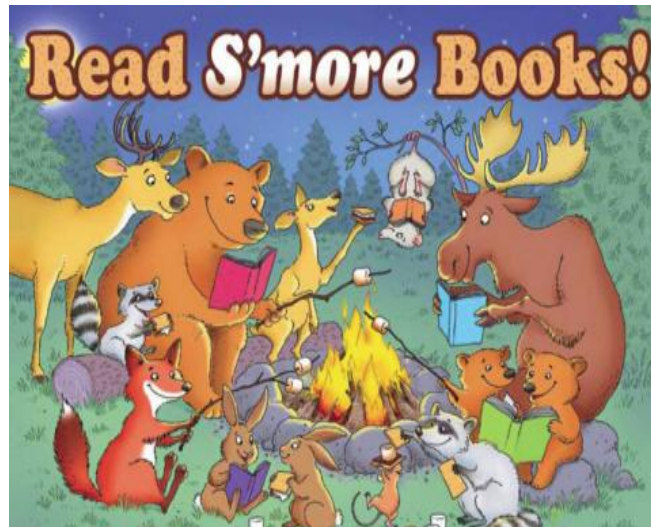
1. **Six books to summer success:** Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right — not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of your local library. Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities. Libraries often run summer reading programs that motivate kids to read, so find out what's available in your area.
2. **Read something every day:** Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find them throughout the day: comics, schedules, menus, maps, magazines, online resources, [Storiaschool.com](http://Storiaschool.com), along with their book reading.
3. **Keep reading aloud to your child:** Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so he/she will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase his/her knowledge and expand his/her experience with text, so that he/she will do better when she reads on her own.

**Can 20 minutes of daily reading make a difference?** Research shows that students who scored 90% better than their peers on reading tests, read for more than **20 minutes a day – exposing them to 1.8 million words a year.**

On a final note, children need free time in the summer to relax and enjoy the pleasures of childhood. So, summer reading should be fun!

Happy Reading and have a safe and memorable summer with your children!

~ Mrs. Zielinski



## THANK YOU!!!

*Thank you to the Book Fair Committee Members who volunteered their time and energy to help make the **2017 BOGO Book Fair** a successful event!*

Melissa Anselmi, Lindsay Bongi, Jenn Coleman, Lindsay Crouch, Whitney Hennessey, Kathy Hurley, Margaret Murphy, Margo Richards, Rosalie Tobacco, Barbara Seidel, Stephanie Whelan and Maureen Wynne

*Thank you to Mrs. Alaimo for her support, encouragement and flexibility with adjusting our book fair schedule.*

*Thank you to Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Meehan for all of your assistance. Thank you to Ms. Toledo for translating our flyer. Thank you to Ms. Tobin and all of the staff for your support and for being flexible with sharing the media room for the book fair.*

*Thank you to Mr. Santiago and Mr. Roman for always lending a helping hand. And special thanks to Mrs. Vonderhorst for helping us learn the ropes of organizing the Book Fair!*

*Thank you to all of the staff, students and parents who visited the Book Fair. We hope you enjoy the books you selected. Have a great summer and remember to **Read S'more Books!***

**Meredith Dupas, Tara O'Brien & Alice Tom**  
**Book Fair Chairpersons**





The summer season is approaching quickly, and while that tends to inspire a carefree lifestyle in all of us, we shouldn't forget our health in the process.

### **1. Use sunscreen—but not just any sunscreen.**

Wearing sunscreen, especially when the sun is at its peak between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., is an important first step. But choosing the right sunscreen makes a big difference. Opt for a "broad spectrum" sunscreen that protects from both UVB and UVA rays. Try to plan ahead by applying sunscreen before you leave the house (at least 15 minutes before you go outside). It takes this long to absorb into your skin and to provide full protection.

### **2. Drink plenty of water and avoid dehydrating foods.**

It's a common question: Just how much water should I be drinking? The answer varies for each person, depending on your diet, weight, level of exercise, and a variety of other factors. In regular temperatures, the general consensus is at least three liters per day. This number goes up during hot months when you are losing more water through perspiration. While water is an excellent baseline, you can also incorporate other hydrating liquids that are low in sugar and high in electrolytes and eat water-rich foods like fruits and veggies.

### **3. Choose your timing wisely.**

During the summer months, the height of the day is the hardest on your body. With solar rays at their peak, you are more susceptible to dehydration, sunburns, and fatigue. If possible, plan your outdoor activities for the morning (before 11:00 a.m.) or later in the afternoon (after 2:00 p.m.). This practice will help you avoid long-term sun exposure when the sun is at its peak.

### **4. Avoid direct sun exposure when possible.**

When it's hot out, we tend to pull out tank tops, shorts, and anything else that gives our skin some breathing room. But light, breathable clothing that covers more can often keep you cooler while protecting your skin from the sun. Recommended fabrics for hot days include linen, rayon, and cottons, because they're "breathable" and allow for air circulation but still protect your skin from absorbing heat from the sun. Plan to wear a hat too. It will protect your scalp, and if it has a wider brim, your face and eyes will be covered as well. Listen to your body and look out for signs of overheating or too much sun exposure. Headaches, muscle aches, and general fatigue are all signs that it's time to take a break, drink some water, and rest in the cool shade.

**See you in September!**

**Mrs. Fiona Burke, R.N.**

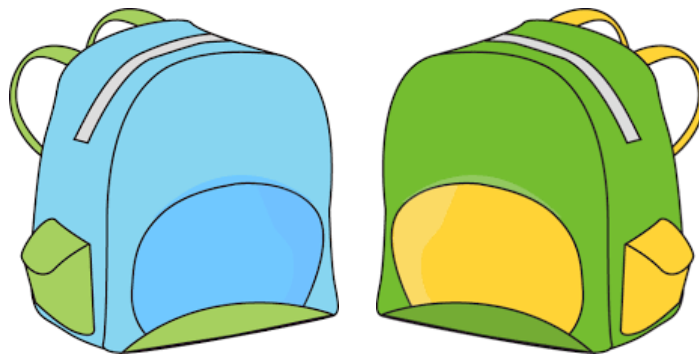


## Student Council Announcement

Student Council will be collecting used backpacks in good condition. We will be Sending the backpacks to kids in need. We will be collecting the backpacks:

**June 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Students can drop off the backpacks in the main lobby. Thank you so much for your help and generosity!



# Franklin Avenue PTA



Dear Families,

As we reflect back on all of the exciting events of the past year, it is quite evident that none of them could have taken place without the support from all of our wonderful, hard-working volunteers. Many of you give your time over and over so that our events, fundraisers and activities can take place. Our fundraising efforts at events such as Plant Sales, Muddy Creek Carnival, Book Fairs, the Tricky Tray, and After-School Clubs are all used to sponsor a wide range of activities for our children, and a few small events for our teachers and parents. Some of these events include the Family Picnic, Father-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Night, Bingo, PARP- One Book, One School, Author visits, assemblies (Animal Embassy , Hudson Vagabond Puppets performed by Snow Queen, Theatreworks performed Seussical and Bureau of Lectures - Laser Science), Thanksgiving Feast, class trips, the Makerspace Room, Fourth Grade T-shirts, Fourth Grade Promotion Ceremony reception, Teacher Appreciation Week and luncheon, and new this year- Mother's Day Tea.

This year a large portion of funds, along with countless hours spent planning, creating, and designing by the extremely talented Irene D'Anna, was used to build our Makerspace. Irene has transformed an ordinary classroom into an extraordinary space for all of the children at Franklin to design, create and build. Irene had help from some very gifted parents and dedicated teachers along the way.

We would like to say a special thank you to our fourth grade parents who will not be returning to Franklin. For those who have continuously volunteered their time and efforts over the past 5 years, we truly appreciate all that you have done. You have paved the way for a supportive, caring, and fun environment that we are proud to be a part of.

We would also like to express our appreciation and gratitude to all of the committee chairs, class parents, and dedicated volunteers that have made this such a fantastic year. We are so lucky to be part of such a fabulous community with amazing parents, dedicated teachers and excellent support staff.

Looking forward to seeing what next year will bring!

The Franklin Avenue PTA Board

**Allison Tarsnane, Trisha Lanese, Alece Ayers, Brandy Reilly,  
Eileen Horan, Jamie Silver, Danielle Murray, Barbara Seidel, & Margo Richards**