

S P R I N G 2 0 1 9

STARBURST

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

Letter from the Principal

Dear Families,

Great things are happening at Franklin Avenue Elementary School. The children are invigorated by the beginning of spring. In our classrooms, teachers are piquing students critical thinking and creative problem solving.

I see our students as 21st century learners both in and out of the classroom. In kindergarten, students created leprechaun traps with their parents. In math, they are using critical thinking to create number bonds for large numbers. In grade one, students are using critical thinking skills as they partition, classify, and describe 2D and 3D shapes; then they manipulated these shapes to create and build their own animals. They are also researching, with teacher support, to write their own nonfiction books. In second grade, students are writing their own mathematical word problems. They are also analyzing text and writing persuasive letters about why their chosen book should be nominated for a literary award. In third grade, students are going to build hillsides and modify them to prevent water from running downhill. In fourth grade, students used fractional benchmarks to order fractions from least to greatest; then they had to reason which fractions were less than $\frac{1}{2}$ and explain their rationale in writing. In science, fourth graders worked in pairs recording data and observing the relationship of surface area/evaporation and temperature/evaporation. Then they drew conclusions and wrote about their findings.

It is no surprise that our makerspace continues to excite the imaginations of our Franklin Stars. To commemorate March Madness, students in many grades built a basketball game and a catapult to hurl a ping pong ball into the net. When students visit the makerspace, they can often select to sew pillows, build a marble run, make something with keva planks or write a code for a computer program using Scratch or Scratch Junior. This year, our third graders are working collaboratively in groups of four to design and create a machine to do a specific job using a simple machine – pulley, lever, and a wheel and axle. They are making very impressive machines.

Our third and fourth graders will take the state ELA tests next week and will sit for the math state tests during the first week in May. These assessments are different from past years in that they last two, not three, days and they are untimed. Typically, students take 60- 90 minutes, but the child who wishes to check his or her work and reread passages can have as much time as he needs. Our stars always take the test very seriously. The assessments provide an opportunity to show what students have mastered; they also give educators the opportunity to look for gaps in the curriculum so we can adjust our instruction accordingly.

We are in the home stretch; these are the busiest of times for elementary schools. As always, I look forward to seeing you at Franklin Avenue School. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call, email, or just stop in to chat.

My best,

Margaret O'Connor



Save the date!

Noon Dismissal

April 12

Daughter/Special Guy

April 13

Spring Class Parties

April 16

Spring Break

April 19-29

PTA Budget

May 6, 9:30am

Staff Appreciation

May 7

Moms' Night Out

May 9

Mother's Tea/Field Day

May 10

Spring Concert

May 16

PJ & Crazy Hair Day





THANK YOU!!

Thank you to the Book Fair Committee Members who volunteered their time and energy to help make the 2019 Winter Book Fair a successful event!

Pete Bellhouse, Kim Crispino, Lindsay Crouch, Christy Goldsmith, Hedi Han, Kathy Hurley, Rebeca Kim, Christy MacMaster, Kathleen McKay, Regina Neubauer, Sean O'Brien, Miranda Pellumbi, and Margo Richards

Thank you to Mrs. Alaimo for her support and help organizing our new location.

Thank you to Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Meehan for all your assistance. Thank you to Mr. Santiago and Mr. Roman for always lending a helping hand.

Thank you to all of the staff, students, and parents who visited the book fair. We hope you had a **DINO-MITE** experience. Please visit us again at our BOGO fair the week of June 3rd.



Colds and allergies are two common conditions that affect both children and adults

Although the symptoms of colds and allergies may be similar, there are also key differences. Variations in the history of the illness and duration of symptoms often offer clues as to which condition is present.

People should consider the following differences when trying to identify whether they have a cold or an allergy:

- Itchy and watery eyes are often telltale signs that the symptoms are due to an allergy
- A fever can occur with a severe cold, especially in children, but is not an allergy symptom
- A sore throat can occur with allergies but is more common with a cold
- Body aches also do not occur with allergies while they may be common with a cold
- Some people with allergies also develop eczema, which is not a symptom of a cold

Colds and allergies do share similar symptoms. For example, both conditions can affect the respiratory system. Common symptoms that can occur with either a cold or allergy include:

- Painful sinuses
- Nasal congestion may be a symptom of both colds and allergies
- Runny nose
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Sore throat
- Post-nasal drip
- Conjunctivitis



How to tell the difference

Asking certain questions can help determine whether symptoms are due to an allergy or a cold:

- How quickly did symptoms appear? Symptoms tend to come on gradually over a day or two when a cold is the cause. When symptoms come on suddenly out of nowhere, they are more likely to be caused by an allergy.
- How long have symptoms been present? Symptoms of a cold tend to taper off after a week or two. Allergy symptoms may last while exposure to the triggering allergen is still in the air.
- Do symptoms occur at predictable times? If symptoms tend to occur at the same time every year, they can be due to seasonal allergies.
- Do symptoms include itchy or watery eyes or eczema? Certain symptoms tend to occur more frequently with allergies as opposed to colds.

It is not always easy to tell the difference between a cold and an allergy, so it is important to know when to see a healthcare provider. If symptoms last for more than 2 weeks or if they are severe, it may be a good idea to see a doctor.

Doctors can identify allergy triggers through serum and skin tests. Once a specific allergen has been identified, an appropriate treatment plan is developed.

Mrs. Burke



First Grade News

The excitement in first grade continues to grow. As the students learn the various sounds, their ability to read independently also increases. The children are able to read many of the books in our room on their own. Since part of the children's nightly homework is to read, we encourage the children to be the ones reading each night. Please do not forget to complete and return your reading logs each week.

Our students are working on writing non-fiction informational books. The students are working on adding details and interesting facts to make their books engaging to their readers. They are very excited about becoming authors!

In math, the children are working on partitioning 2-D and 3-D shapes as well as telling time. We ask that the children continue to review their simple addition and subtraction facts on a daily basis.

We also wish everyone a warm and healthy spring!



The First Grade Team



Second Grade News

In math the second grade students are working on laying the conceptual foundation for multiplication and division and for the idea that numbers other than 1, 10, and 100 can serve as units. They are forming equal groups and arrays to demonstrate multiplication.

In science, the children are enjoying our study of Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems. This unit is an introduction for young scientists to explore how plants and animals survive. The essential core ideas in this unit are that plants cannot grow without sunlight water and air. Plants provide shelter, food, and other materials for animals. Plants use animals to disperse seeds and for pollination. There are different habitats in our world and different types of plants/animals live in specific habitats.

In social studies, we will be learning about goods and services and needs and wants. Students will explore these topics and how they relate to their lives.

In writing, the students have been writing about reading. They are in the process of publishing opinion letters about their chosen books. Please keep reading with your children on a nightly basis.

Hopefully our next newsletter will find us enjoying warm, sunny days and a blooming spring!

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation



The Second Grade Team

Academic Support



We are so proud of our first grade literacy students. They continue to use all their strategies (picture clues, tapping out, little words in big word and our skip word strategy) to decode. They practice their individual Foundations words on rings, each day and are all reaching the end of the first grade list. We have reviewed blends, controlled r and vowel teams. The children love Center Time, where they independently participate in word work, word games, listen to books on CD and write! It's so exciting to see our little readers take off!

In second grade, students have reviewed digraphs and blends. They participate in fun, fluency activities with timers, while also practicing their Foundations words. They continue to read picture books from our Fountas & Pinnell literacy intervention program, applying all the strategies they have learned to decode words. They use graphic organizers to aid in writing. The second graders also enjoy Center Time, where they play phonics games and complete word and writing activities.

Our third and fourth graders continue to work on fluency and reading with expression. Students have explored in great detail more comprehension strategies, including compare & contrast, making predictions and finding word meaning in context. The students use graphic organizers to apply those strategies, when reading our Fountas and Pinnell books, in context. The students have really expanded their writing abilities, using RACES, as a format to organize their writing responses.

Our second grade math students have mastered place value, addition & subtraction, with regrouping and have just begun our unit on multiplication, with repeated addition. Practicing their math facts at home is still encouraged.

Our third grade math groups have explored place value, addition and subtraction with regrouping, multiplication and have started a unit on geometry and another on problem solving. Students should continue to practice their math facts. Multiplication.com and fun4thebrain.com are fun websites for the students to practice their facts.

Our fourth grade math students have mastered place value with greater numbers, addition and subtraction of greater numbers, with regrouping, area and perimeter. Of course, problem solving continues to be a strong focus this year. Multiplication.com and fun4thebrain.com are fun websites for

We are wild about learning in AIS this spring!!!

Mrs. Zielinski & Mrs. Vonderhorst



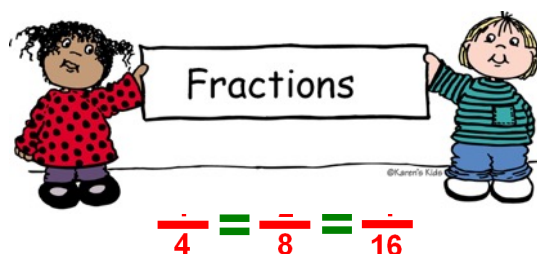
St. Patrick's Assembly

Thank you to all our hardworking students who shared their special talents from playing and singing Irish tunes to dancing, Gaelic Football & Hurling. And to Mr. Hunter for leading us in with those melodious bagpipes! Go raibh maith agat 🍀

Sheila Colbert, Helena McCafferty & Christy Goldsmith

3rd Grade ROCKS

We are progressing nicely through the curriculum. In math, we are deep in our study of fractions. We are developing the concept of what fractions are and how they can be shown differently: on a number line, as parts of geometric shapes, and to show parts of groups. We will spend considerable time learning how to locate fractions on a number line and how to find equivalent fractions. Our next unit is on data and graphing. It is imperative that the children continue to master their basic multiplication facts, so we ask that they continue to practice at home daily.



Reading applies to every subject area and we are applying new skills and strategies daily. In social studies, we learned about the fascinating country of China, including its geography, history, people, and communities. We read nonfiction and fiction texts to support learning in this unit, including a novel called Year of the Panda. We are continuing to support our thinking with text-based evidence. Also, we continue to use strategies for comprehending nonfiction texts. Please point out all different kinds of nonfiction at home: newspapers, magazines, even packaging. Every bit of practice at home helps.



Our most recent unit in science was buoyancy. The children learned about the variables that affect buoyancy and had to modify shape so clay (a material denser than water) would float. Next, we will study motion and design and will be working on a small group project in Makerspace.

Thank you for all you do to support your students!

The Third Grade Team

Wearin' O' the Green



Thank you to all the families who attended the Family Bingo Night on February 1st. We had a great turnout and, as always, the kids enjoyed a fun time playing bingo and winning their prizes!

Thank you to the parent volunteers and the community service student volunteers who helped to make the night run smoothly. Also, thanks so much to all the families who stayed after the games ended to help clean off the tables and fold and stack the chairs; we are always so grateful for your help.

A special thank you to Mrs. Alaimo for emceeing and calling the games. She and Mr. Alaimo did a fantastic job, and we're already looking forward to next year. Also, another special thank you to the night custodians, for always pitching in and assisting with the set-up and the clean-up.

Family Bingo is always looking for new committee members, and we hope you'll join us again next year!

Wendi Rodgers



News from the Gym

Grades k-2 have been doing games that we play on field day. These games include the color game and scavenger hunt. Bombardment is a favorite game to play while working on throwing a ball correctly.

Grades 3-4 just finished up the Volleyball unit. The students learned how to score, rotate, set, bump, dig, and serve. We have been playing with a beach ball to make the games more exciting.

Now that the weather is finally getting nice, we will be having more classes outside. So please have your child wear sunscreen or a hat to protect themselves on those hot days.

The Best way to get in touch with Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Driscoll is through e-mail.

Stay fit and eat healthy...

Mr. Donnelly & Mr. Driscoll



Mets & Yankee Tickets

Discounted ticket packages are available for the May 3, 2019 NY Yankees game and May 10, 2019 NY Mets game. Both are Friday night games and make a GREAT gift for a night of family fun!



Goings on in Music

The 4th grade is now in full swing writing their song for the promotion ceremony in June. We also continue to analyze successful songs to see how they do their job of telling their story.

Meanwhile, the 3rd grade is studying different aspects of music beyond the notes, including tempo (the speed of the music), and dynamics (the volume of the music).

The 1st and 2nd grades have been busy both playing and listening to a variety of instruments, and are now working their way through some famous pieces of music designed to help kids learn about the instruments of the orchestra, including "Carnival of the Animals" and "Peter & The Wolf".

Simultaneously, all grades are preparing their songs for the upcoming spring concert. A great time is being had by all!

Mr. Louis

PARP Update



Thank you to the committee members, library staff, office staff and all of the teachers for helping us make the 2019 PARP a wonderful event. The Kickoff with Kindness Week was a great success and the students put so much effort into their acts of kindness. We hope you all enjoyed reading My Father's Dragon and spending time together. Please return your book to your child's teacher so that we can save the books for a future PARP event.



FANTASTICALLY FOURTH GRADE

It's hard to believe the school year is more than half over. The smells and sounds of spring are all around us. It's a good time to check in with your child to see how his/her supplies are holding up.

In math, we are moving through our study of fractions. This is a natural progression from the unit we've recently completed on division of whole numbers. The students are becoming comfortable using benchmark fractions and noticing them in everyday activities. The children benefit from the use of concrete material to gain understanding of the relationship between the fractional parts to each other and the whole. The children should continue to practice their basic facts at home, as this will enable them to complete extended tasks more easily.



In social studies, we are studying colonial times in New York which will lead to the events of the American Revolution. Throughout this study, the children will be referring to non-fiction text and primary resource documents. Additionally, we have wonderful classroom literature that integrates beautifully with this topic. Much of our reading has been tied to this area of the curriculum. They have read several works of non-fiction written by Jean Fritz and a novel, George Washington's Socks to further their understanding of the sacrifice made by those who formed our nation. After completing this unit, we will move to the birth of our nation.

Know there are many historically significant locations in and around Orangetown, such as the Salyer House in Pearl River, as well as the 76 House, Manse and DeWint House in Tappan. Visiting these would enable the children to make local connections to our nation's history.



In science, we just finished our unit on water. We investigated what makes it ordinary and extraordinary. The hands-on investigations enable the students to slowly uncover the layers to answer to this essential question. Soon we will move into our extended unit on plants.

The Fourth Grade Team



News from the Art Room

The students in art class have been working really hard on projects that illustrate their talents as artists. The past few months have been very productive and exciting.

Since the year began, students have been working and creating a variety of projects that have allowed them to really express their artistic skills.

Kindergarten has worked creating projects that have demonstrated their talents as young artists.

Grade one is working on creating amazing tree frog paintings and grade two worked on landscapes using multi media.

Third grade is creating portraits of people in profile and using pastels to learn about value.

Fourth grade is currently working on three dimensional projects constructed from cardboard. The students are using acrylic paint to add color and design. These amazing projects will be sent home before the break so be on the lookout!

I hope art is as much fun for your child as it is for me! It is a pleasure working with the students at Franklin Avenue.

Mr. Price



Library Happenings

Wonderful things are happening at the Franklin Avenue Library Media Center! During the last week of PARP, the library invited members of the community to read to students in their classrooms. On February 15, Franklin Avenue held its annual Rockland Read-In to celebrate reading and compete against other schools for the most minutes read throughout the day. Students and staff read a total of 37,090 minutes! Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America Day took place soon after. First graders shared how to be respectful, kind, and accepting of ourselves and others after reading Horton Hears a Who! Kindergarteners celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by reading There's a Wocket in My Pocket! and creating their very own Wockets! Second graders explored the life of Dr. Seuss and the writing process while reading Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!

The upper grades continue their journey to become safe and responsible digital citizens. Third graders are exploring Google's Interland to become "internet awesome." Students are determining what is and isn't appropriate to share online. Building on that knowledge, students have been discussing and evaluating emails and websites to decide if they were legitimate or potential phishing attacks requesting information. Students are also protecting themselves online by learning how to create strong passwords and combat cyberbullying by being upstanders. Fourth graders are visiting Common Sense Media's Digital Passport to learn how to create strong passwords, share safely with friends and family only, and prevent cyberbullying. Students are also becoming more digitally literate by learning how to locate information in the library and online.

Happy Reading!

Ms. Muir & Mrs. Nelan

2019 Used Book Sale



Do a little Spring Cleaning and donate your gently used but still loved Children's Books, Puzzles, Games and DVDs to Franklin Avenue. A collection box will be in the school lobby for donations. The sale will go on after school from April 1st through the 5th. [Further details can be found HERE](#)

Margo Richards

Moms' Night Out



We will be having a Sign & Wine with Vintage Butterfly at Rockland GAA on Thursday May 9th 6:30pm - 9pm. \$40 per person includes art supplies and instruction, 2 wines or beers. Cash bar is available and it is BYOS (bring your own snacks). We will have a community table for the snacks. [Further details and payment instructions can be found HERE](#)

Kerry Moakley

Student Council



Student council continues to encourage being a good friend and practicing positive behavior. This month we will focus on the Pillar of Character, Fairness. Every Thursday we will wear orange because when you cut an orange in half it's equal on both sides. Aren't you glad we didn't say kiwi? HAHA! Here are some activities that we have planned to reinforce fairness:

- This month we kicked off the month showing parts of the movie, "Horton Hears a Who". Horton is loyal to the people living on the speck and states, "A person's a person, no matter how small." That's what we're hoping the students will understand in treating all people fairly.
- *Reinforcing the Horton message we have prepared the student council bulletin board with a 3D Horton and have made tissue paper flowers. The class pictures are on each flower as if they are all "a person, no matter how small."
- *Classes will also choose word or phrase for fairness or being fair. This information will be added near their flower with their class pictures.
- *Lastly, we will be collecting items for HiTor Animal Shelter till the end of April. Posters will be displayed round the school to promote donations. We want to be fair to our furry friends!

Mrs. McGee and Mrs. Vonderhorst



We will be hosting our 2nd annual Mother's Day Tea on the morning of May 10th. We hope that many of the Mom's will be able to join us. More info to come soon.



Thank You from Box Tops

Thank you to all submitted Box Tops for the last collection of the school year. For this collection in March, students contributed 3,670 Box Tops, earning a Pajama Day and \$367 for the school. For the 2018-2019 school year, the students (and families) of Franklin Avenue raised more than \$1,300 through our Box Tops collection! **Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts! If you have Box Tops, we kindly ask that you hold onto them until September.**

The ShopRite for Education's program, where Box Tops are collected digitally when shoppers use their PricePlus loyalty card, raised more than \$600. ShopRite will digitally collect Box Tops for this school year until April 26, 2019. Parents and other family members who wish to support Franklin Avenue Elementary can register their ShopRite PricePlus loyalty cards again in late August at shopriteformyschool.com for their purchases of Box Tops products to count digitally for the 2019-2020 school year. **PLEASE NOTE: If you already registered your loyalty card, you will have to register it again in August for the 2019-2020 school year.** They can also download the free Box Tops 4 Education Bonus App (boxtops4education.com/bonusapp). The app is free to download and collects Box Tops digitally while providing access to coupons and bonus offers.

If you have any questions, please email rosemcroke@gmail.com. Thanks for your help and continued support! Happy Spring!

Rose Croke



Muddy Creek

Thank you to everyone who came to Muddy Creek Carnival 2109!! The children seemed to really enjoy all the new games, old favorites, face painting, sand art, spin art, and of course the prize room!!! It was so nice to see the gym and hallways filled with children and families having a great time! While some games have been with the carnival since it first began we have added new games each year over the past few years. Muddy Creek is a long standing tradition at Franklin Avenue School and one that we hope continues. It was clear the children enjoyed the day and of course that is why we continue to run events like this.

We would like to thank our many student volunteers who help run this event and the parents who volunteer. A special THANK YOU to our Committee Members- Donna Wilmoth, Kerry Moakley and Jenny Jovanovic. This is Jenny's last year at Franklin, she has helped run the event for many years and our committee is going to miss her. We appreciate all she has done over the years for Muddy Creek!

Alece Ayers



The Franklin Avenue PTA would like to send a huge THANK YOU to all of our talented faculty, staff and family volunteers. Without you, the Harlem Rockets Fundraiser would not have been such a huge success! We raised a fantastic amount of money for FA, benefitting our numerous class trips and assemblies.

Three cheers to all of our Franklin Avenue families who attended the game. We hope you had as much fun being there cheering the teams on as we did planning the event.



This year's Franklin Avenue Girl and her Favorite Guy Dance will take place on April 13 from 6-9 pm in the school auditorium. [For more information, and to register to attend the event, click here!](#)

Both adult and student volunteers are needed to help run this event. We thank you in advance for your help!

Adult volunteers, [click here](#)
Student volunteers, [click here](#)

Kerry Moakley & Meg O'Brien



The positions of PTA President and Treasurer are now open for the 2019-2020 school year. We need your tie and talents to make our next year of school events and fundraisers another success. [More information can be found HERE](#)

President

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Trish Sutton – tricia1024@gmail.com

Jennifer McCarthy – Jennifer_oreilly@live.com

**THANK
YOU
TEACHERS
AND STAFF**

Teacher and Staff Appreciation is May 7. Stay tuned to see what fun activities and treats we have in store for our fabulous Franklin Ave staff as we thank them for all that they do for our children.

Welcome Spring!