



# January

## FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL JAMES

Greetings Franklin Families,

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! On behalf of the Franklin staff, I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

I want you all to know I love my job because I have the best students and staff in the world. They are all SUPERSTARS! They are **Brilliant, Amazing & Magnificent (BAM)**!

We are excited to start the second semester and continue our exciting educational journey. Please continue to reinforce the need for our students to be respectful, responsible and safe. Let us continue to encourage our students to read daily. Reading and Math can be practiced online using the iReady Reading and Math personal learning path. We practice social skills weekly using Suite 360 Social and Emotional Learning online program.

We need our students to be in school and on time on a daily basis. Our goal is for all students to show 1-year growth in Reading and Math. With your support, we can achieve our goal for all students.

**“Thoughts are mental energy; they're the currency that you have to attract what you desire. Learn to stop spending that currency on thoughts you don't want.”---Wayne Dyer**

If there is anything that I can do to better assist you, please feel free to contact me at (708) 201-2083 (school), 708-878-3162 (cell) or [jamesm@district148.net](mailto:jamesm@district148.net).

Respectfully,

Martez R. James, Principal

### DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1st –5th– Winter Break

January 8th - Classes Resumes

January 12th– 2nd Quarter Ends

January 15th– No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 16th– 3rd Quarter Begins

January 19th– 2nd Quarter Report Cards sent home with students...SIP Day, 12pm Dismissal

January 23rd– Board of Election 6PM

January 26th– Out of Uniform Day for \$1.00



*Happy New Year!*



## FROM THE DESK OF OUR SAFETY AND C.A.R.E FACILITATOR

**Greetings Franklin Families,  
Happy New Year!**

**We have made it through the first half of the 2023-2024 school year! The year 2023 came in like a lion and went out like a lamb! We made it through Franklin Bear strong!**

**During the first half of the school year, we started off with a Bear Buck Store and Red Ribbon Week celebrations including a Spirit Week. We had some good fundraisers (Taffy Apple and Domino's Pizza) that provided funds for our first field trip coming up this month. These fundraisers provided funds to assist with 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades Bowling and Golden Corral field trip on January 18 and K through 2<sup>nd</sup> attending Hollywood Park in Crestwood on January 25. We have many more upcoming field trips, Bear Buck stores and other activities planned to keep students engaged for the remainder of the school year.**

**In keeping with a growth mindset this school year, our character education words for the month of January are Gratitude and Appreciation. Showing GRATITUDE is the quality of being thankful, readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. Similar to gratitude, being APPRECIATIVE and showing appreciation is the act of displaying gratitude. Showing appreciation is recognizing and enjoying the**

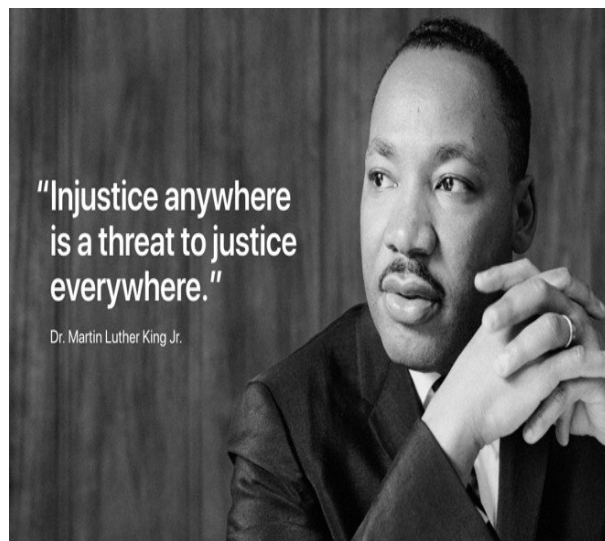
**good qualities of someone or something. Students can display gratitude and appreciation by performing a selfless act, saying thank you, and being kind to others. During the month of January, students will learn how to display these characteristics in their daily actions. Students will also continue to embark on discovering social-emotional skills and strategies through Suite 360.**

**As we make our way through 2024, let us not forget about the past few years, let's not forget the challenges that we've overcome, let's not forget things that made us stronger and most importantly let's not forget each other. Please continue to be safe and healthy.**

**Sincerely,**

**Ms. Lane**

**C.A.R.E. Facilitator**



## MESSAGE FROM OUR M.T.S.S. COORDINATOR

Happy New Year Franklin Family,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful Winter Break. What a great time to refresh and start new goals. January is a great time for reflecting over the past year, as well as looking ahead to the new one. I would encourage parents, guardians and students to discuss how school has been going and make some new goals for the remainder of the school year. This is a great time to set goals for increasing your fluency in reading or even set goals for how many books you plan to read this year. You can also set a goal to learn all your multiplication facts by the end of the year or increase your grade in Math. This is a perfect time to work on improving your punctuality, coming to class prepared, and staying on task. Late or missing assignments can be a huge deterrent to success, now is the time to make sure your student

stays on top of their work and do not get behind. We can all find something we want to improve on. So, let's make a few goals and be intentional in meeting each goal set. We can do this! Remember, we are all in this together.

Mrs. Giles



## SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### December Newsletter

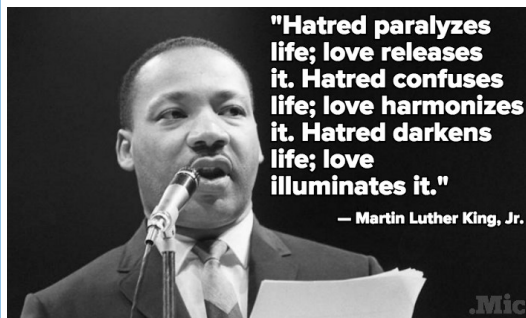
It was great to meet with all of the parents at the November conferences and share the gains and accomplishments your children have made in the first quarter. All students with an Individualized Education Plan should have received a progress report in the mail for first quarter objectives. Please contact your child's special education teacher if

you have any questions. Mrs. Costello is the primary resource teacher for grades kindergarten through third grade and Mr. Taylor is the intermediate teacher for grades fourth through six.

The students have begun working on their objectives for the second quarter. Please continue to encourage your child to complete their daily homework. In order for the children to grow they need daily practice. We look forward to celebrating their continuing success. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns you may have.

Mrs. Costello

Mr. Taylor



### HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF SCHOOL IS IN SESSION?

Ways to know before you go:

Listen for the District's automated phone call. (Call will be made by 6:30 a.m. or earlier, if possible.)

Visit the District's website at [www.district148.net](http://www.district148.net)

Use the Emergency Closing

Center's resources at [www.emergencyclosings.com](http://www.emergencyclosings.com) to

check a specific school. The

ECC also allows visitors to sign up

for e-mail alerts when a school

changes its status.

Watch/listen to the local news media:

WGN-AM 720

WBBM-AM 780

CBS-TV Channel 2

NBC-TV Channel 5

ABC-TV Channel 7

WGN-TV Channel 9

Fox TV Channel 32 CLTV News

\*Please do not call the bus companies.

*"Children learn more from what you are than what you teach" - W.E.B. DuBois*

## KINDERGARTEN

### Greetings Kindergarten Families,

We hope that you enjoyed your Winter break. The last time you heard from the Kindergarten teachers, it was 2023!! In 2024, we will be reviewing but moving on from the old (things we've worked on) and moving forward with some new things (more skills to challenge and enrich)!

Parents we really need your help! It is imperative that your Kiddos practice their sight words at home daily too. They should

be



practicing the decodable words that are in their books that are sent home weekly. Other things that are important and can be practiced at home, which are included in the weekly homework packets; letters A-Z (identifying and sounding out) numbers to 100(counting/identifying).

**Final Reminders:** Please make sure that your Kiddo is dressed properly as the days are getting colder. A uniform sweater can be worn in class during these cold months.

Please replenish your Kiddos school supplies (pencils, crayons, scissors and glue sticks) and **MOST IMPORTANTLY** sign the weekly Reading Logs.

Best,

Mrs. Hanno & Mrs. Spratt

## FIRST GRADE NEWS

### Happy New Year!

Please remember that instruction begins promptly at 9am. Your child needs to be here on time so that they don't miss key instruction. Also, our little ones should be reading EVERY night. I know you are very busy, but I can't stress the importance of reading enough. It is critical that our children are reading books that are at their reading level DAILY!!!! If you need additional reading materials, please let me know. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

In Math students will be continuing their work on addition and subtraction equations. They will be using the strategies they have learned so far to find the unknowns, justifying if an equation is true or false, and adding three addends.

If your child wears boots to school, please send a change of shoes to school with your scholar daily.

Ms. Nicks

Mrs. Barnett



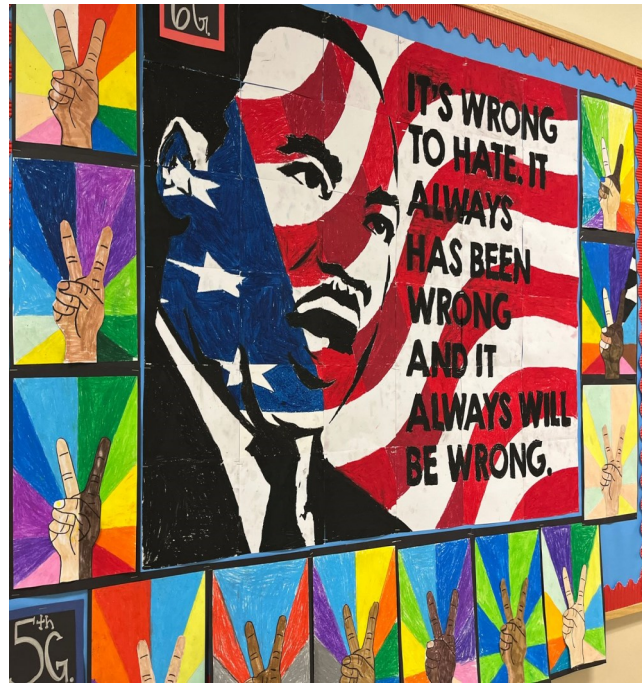


## SECOND GRADE

### Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a restful vacation. As we get back into the swing of things, please complete all homework as well as reading logs. The workload will be more intense, so please make sure to check your child's VIP folder weekly for their graded work. If they are falling behind, make sure to supplement at home. Your child should have all of their addition and subtraction math facts to 20 memorized by now. Every child should be reading at 60-70 wpm by now, if not then supplement please at home. Turn off the tablets and read! Thank you for your partnership!

Ms. Taff & Mrs. Radcliffe



## THIRD GRADE

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. We hope you and your student had a wonderful restful winter break. We have included an overview of what we will be learning this month. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or comments.

Reading Readers are fully immersed in our Connecting Character, Culture and Community unit. Our anchor text we are currently reading, 'The Year Of Miss Agnes'. Readers are reading to understand the essential questions: How do readers use evidence from texts to understand what they read?

Writing Writers are working on realistic fiction narratives. We have been incorporating dialogue, to show character responses, event sequence, using linking words, and providing a sense of closure.

Math Mathematicians will be continuing learning Multiplication. As always, have your children continue to work on memorizing the multiplication tables. It is important that they know them backwards and forwards. This will help make solving

problems much easier, especially as they head into 4th grade. Students should also work on breaking down multi-step problems.

Social Studies Historian will compare how people modify and adapt to the environment and culture in their community to other places.

Testing preparation has begun your student will in additional to any homework have a practice problem in reading or math nightly to complete.

Sincerely,

Third Grade Teachers

Mrs. Wilson and Ms. Williams



### What's new with Fourth Grade?

**Happy New Year and Welcome Back!!** We hope that you and your family enjoyed your time together during Winter Break. Thank you so much to all the students and parents for their hard work during the Science Fair on December 6th! This was an excellent time for our young scientists and engineers to shine and showcase all that they know. We will continue to work hard to explore Physical Science and Engineering Design.

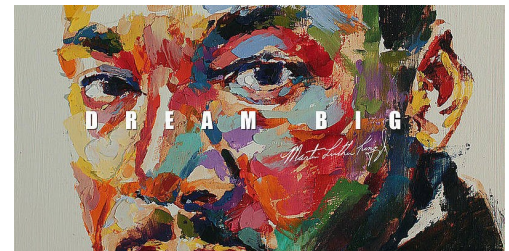
In Magnetic Reading, we are getting ready to progress to Unit 3. We will be reading informational articles about scientists who explore extreme environments to learn more about scientific topics. In Math, fourth grade will begin exploring fractions. Our work with multi-

plication and division has prepared us for manipulating fractions to find equivalent fractions and to adding/subtracting fractions.

Please remember to check Class Dojo and your child's book bag for graded papers as well as important notes that are being sent home.

-Mrs. Wiatrowski

-Ms. Vasser



## FIFTH GRADE

**Happy Holidays 5<sup>th</sup> grade families!**

We have been busy these past few weeks. Students completed MOY (middle of year) testing. We tested in iReady Math, iReady Reading, and Fluency of Reading. Scores will be shared with you when 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report cards are sent home after Winter Break. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns with test scores and/or report card grades.

In math we have been focusing on multi-digit division. We have learned division vocabulary such as divisor, dividend, quotient, and remainder. Some students have mastered 3 digit dividend by 2 digit divisor. After break we will move on to decimals, fractions, and place value. Please continue to work with your child on multiplication and division at home.

In reading we have been reading about The Arts of the People and how the "arts" helped people get through diffi-

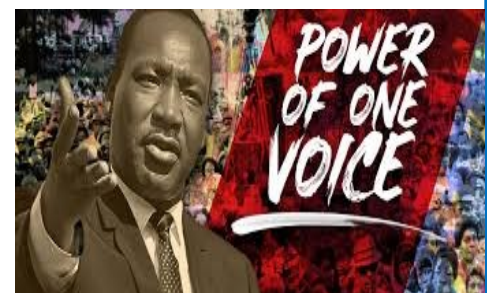
cult times. Students used skills such as cause and effect, using context clues, and determining main idea and key details to better understand what they are reading.

We have some incentive Field Trips coming up in January. Students need to be at school, on time, ready to learn as well as be respectful, responsible, and safe in order to be invited. Please encourage your child to strive for success.

Enjoy every minute with your loved ones over Winter break.

Happy Holidays and see you in 2024!

Mrs. Mikolainis and Mrs. Banks



## SIX GRADE NEWS

Greetings Families,

We are entering the second half of the school year! We want this quarter to be our strongest yet. We want to see growth in all of our students. Students will continue to receive grade level challenges, but they also have the opportunity to work on their grade level. All students should complete at least one AR test every two weeks. They are also expected to work in MyPath reading and math every week. This individualized instruction will help them with their sixth grade work. There are lots of activities and field trips planned and we would love for all students to participate. Please remind them that there are certain criterion that they must meet. They should be in school on time. Assignments need to be completed and turned in on time. Let's start 2024 off right!

-K. Joe

-T. Ware



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Welcome back everybody.

I hope you had an amazing break with some time to relax, spend with family and friends and feel ready to go for the second half.

During the last few weeks of school, students in grades 4-6 were learning about social media safety and its potential mental health effects. We will continue this unit, helping students navigate online in a safe and positive way. All students will be starting basketball this month. Younger grades will focus on dribbling, passing, catching and shooting; while the other

grades focus on these skills as well as some game play concepts and rules.

If you're looking for some ways to stay busy while indoors, YouTube has a lot of great kids activities and great workouts even adults can do. PopSugar Fitness, Yoga with Adrienne, Cosmic Kids Yoga, Dojo Go, Be Well Played and PE with Mr. G are some of our favorites for a great variety of fun and exercise.

Enjoy!

Mr. Brannigan



Greetings from the library,

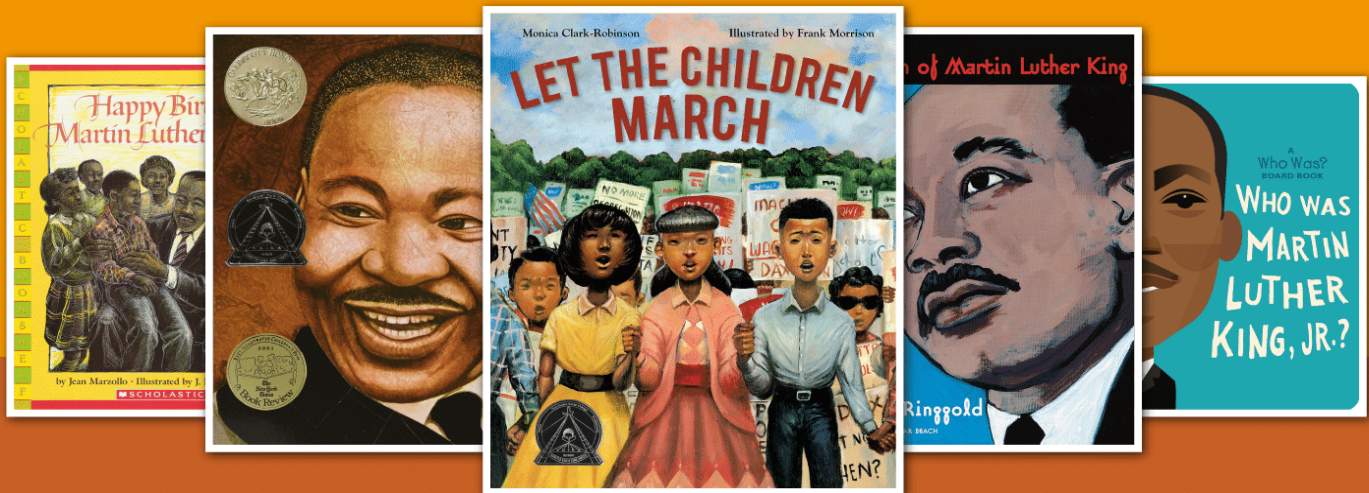
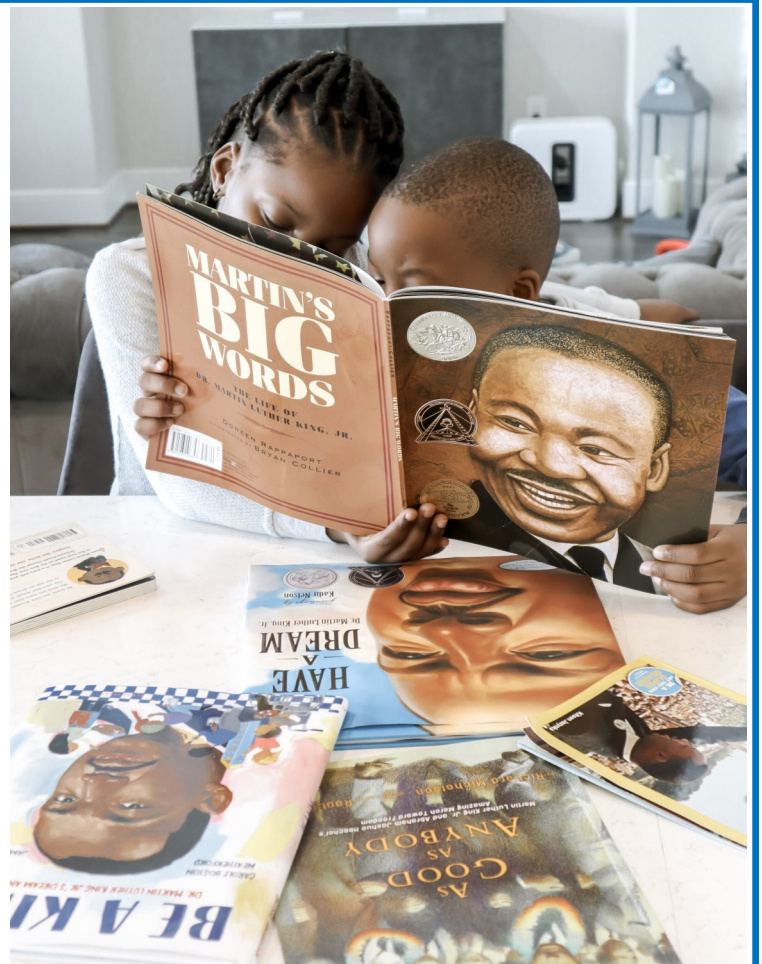
This school year sure is racing! While the kids are home for break, I'd love it if you encouraged them to read. They can visit this website: <https://shell.pebblego.com/modules?product=EBOOKS> to read on Capstone Library. The username is frank-lindrds and the password is read.

Most of the stories read to the kids (who doesn't love being read to??) and when they come back to school, grades 3-6 can take Accelerated Reader tests on those books.

Children are encouraged to read 15 minutes each night. I've told the older ones to turn on Closed Captioning and read along with the dialogue for fluency and vocabulary development.

Have a restful break!

Yours in Reading,  
Sarah Donnelly



5 Virtual Read-Aloud Books to Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.



# ART BUZZ

## Greetings Franklin Students and Families!

This past month, students learned about symmetry, balance, radial design, the art of paper folding, geometric and organic shapes, and much more! We also had some fun “unplugging” in-between projects and playing fun games. Additionally, students had some choice time where they can choose between an array of creative activities to keep them creating when they finish their art work.



Fifth Grade Radial Origami Designs



Second Grade Geometric Shape Robots



Third Grade Symmetry Designs inspired by artist Maya Hayuk



Fourth Grade Ombre Cityscapes



November  
Artists of the  
Month





## **December Student of the Month**

*Kindergarten Mrs. Spratt ~ Acacia Esper*

*Kindergarten Mrs. Hanno ~ Maryauna Brown*

*1st Grade Mrs. Barnett ~ Damarrion Meadows*

*1st Grade Ms. Nicks ~ La'Ron Barnes*

*2nd Grade Mrs. Radcliffe ~ Diamond Myles*

*2nd Grade Mrs. Taff ~ Braelyn Stewart*

*3rd Grade Ms. Williams ~ Daequan Taylor*

*3rd Grade Mrs. Wilson ~ Kamonte Smith*

*4th Grade Ms. Vasser ~ Jacob Tinoco*

*4th Grade Mrs. Wiatrowski ~ Legend Williams*

*5th Grade Mr. Banks ~ Jakeese Dudley*

*5th Grade Mrs. Mikolainis ~ Kairon Greene*

*6th Grade Mrs. Joe ~ Cornisha Stokes*

*6th Grade Ms. Ware ~ -Savannah Nobles*



*If you can't fly*  
RUN  
*If you can't run*  
WALK  
*if you can't walk*  
CRAWL  
*but by all means*  
KEEP MOVING



MUJKA

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.