



## FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL JAMES

Dear Franklin Families,

As the school year ends, we will continue to focus on improving student achievement. We have 20 days left. We will assess the students in reading and math this month. We have set goals for all students to show one year of growth on the end of the year assessments. With your continued support, I know we can achieve our goals. You can contact your child's teacher to find out about their growth rate. We will use the results to plan for the next school year. We want to give our students a strong foundation to be successful in life. Please make sure your child or children are in school and on time on a daily basis. Let's end the school year on a positive note!

Please continue to encourage our students to "Be Safe-Be Respectful & Be Responsible".

**"If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." -Oprah Winfrey**

I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, for our Annual Family BBQ.

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.

Respectfully,

Martez R. James, Principal

### DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1st–School Principals' Day and Advanced Band /Choir Spring Concert 7pm @ ECC Harriet Tubman School

May 2nd–Performing Arts Presentation 7pm@ ECC Harriet Tubman School

May 6th–10th Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

May 3rd– Jayera Griffin Day

May 6th–10th Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

May 9th Band & Chior Award Night 6:15pm @ Lincoln School

May 10h–Franklin Spring Dance & Out of Uniform for \$1.00

May 12th–Mothers Day

May 17th–Sip Day 12pm Dismissal

May 21st–School BBQ

May 24th– Administrative Professionals' Day

May 27th– No School for Memorial Day

May 28th–Board of Education 6pm

May 29th–Last Day of School  
4th Qtr. Report Cards

August 19th–First Day of School



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

Greetings Franklin Elementary Families,

Congratulations Franklin Bears, we did it! We made it to the final full month of the 2023-2024 school year! Even though the end is near, it's not over yet.

We want to remind you of character traits that we've explored all year and to encourage and empower you to finish strong. Continue to persevere by being Respectful, Responsible and Safe. Continue being mindful of your teachers and classmates, as well as mindful and caring towards your family and friends.

This kindness and mindfulness can also trickle down to even strangers that you encounter daily (holding the door for someone, greeting someone with a smile, etc.,)

There are several PBIS activities and celebrations that we will have to close out the school year. We have one more Bear Buck Store, The NED Show will be returning and our Annual Franklin School and Community Barbeque.

As we journey through the month of May, we will be ending our Suite 360 lessons discussing self-control. As students grow and learn, it is important for them to be aware of how to manage and cope with angering situations, what it means to be aware in the present moment, and how to effectively communicate

their thoughts and emotions to others.

It is important that we all understand that "In a world where you can be anything, be kind. In a world full of hate, be the light".

As always be safe!

Best,

Ms. Lane

CARE Facilitator



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

Greeting Franklin Family,

The end of the school year is truly “bittersweet” for all of us. Summer is exciting, but we know that we will miss the faces we have grown accustomed to seeing every day.

The students have shown us what dedication looks like this year. They have worked hard to reach their full potential. Being a learner in today’s world presents a new set of challenges. Not only do they have to learn, they must be able to apply what they know... explain what they know...and restate what they know in a variety of ways. Our students have diligently demonstrated all these expectations and more.

During our summer months, please continue to practice on your Math skills. Listed below are fun activities to reinforce Math skills at home.

1. Teach your child how to balance a checkbook.
2. Estimate the total price of groceries in your shopping cart.
3. Determine how many gallons of gas you can buy with \$20.00.
4. Calculate the price of an item marked 20% off.
5. Teach your child how to measure when cooking a recipe from scratch.



Also, during the summer, find a great author and do an author study on their books. In a journal, write how the author’s books are the same and different. You can take it a step further and start a Book Club with your friends to discuss the books. Whatever you do, make sure you read 30 minutes daily.

Mrs. Giles  
MTSS Facilitator

## SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The elementary special education department is working on fourth quarter objectives. You should have received your

child’s third quarter progress report in the mail.

It was great to meet with parents and share the progress stu-

dents have made this year during parent/teacher conferences last month. If you have any questions don’t hesitate to contact your child’s special education teacher. Please encourage your child to read each night and complete their homework. We are looking forward to a great end to the year.

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 NEWS

### April Showers Bring May Flowers!

Greetings Families! I can't believe that it is May! While our school year will be closing, we still have a lot we would like to get through for the month of May.

Please continue to have your kiddo practice their sight words daily and read our weekly stories. We will continue to practice blending sounds, recognizing digraphs, and trying to practice our pointer power while reading! This month we will be encouraging our kiddos to try to read as much as possible.

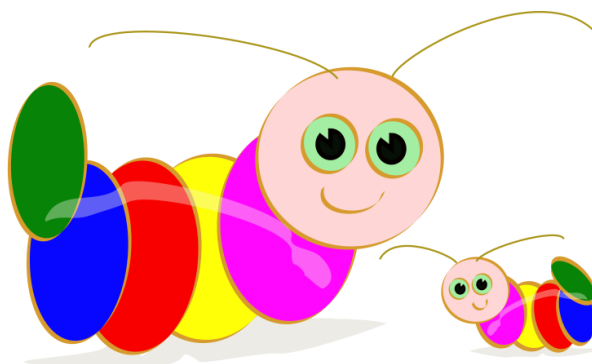
In Math, we will continue learning about 2d

and 3d shapes, addition, and subtraction.

Our Step- Up program for kindergarten will be held on Thursday, May 23rd. More information will be sent home.

Best,

Mrs. Hanno & Mrs. Spratt



## FIRST GRADE NEWS

In Reading During the month of May, we will start a new unit in which we will deepen our comprehension. We will step into the shoes of the characters in our books, thinking about the characters' relationships, actions and feelings. This will strengthen our fluency and smooth storytelling voices to bring out the characters' thoughts and feelings.

In Social Studies, we will continue our study of the community. We are learning about how families get goods and services in their communities. Our focus will also be on how to be a good citizen in our community. We will learn about how our community is similar and different to other communities.

This month, Our students will become storytellers as they write realistic fiction pieces. We will be developing a character, giving that character adventures in more than one booklet, elaborating and revising across books, and creating a collection of their stories. Students will pay close attention to sequencing events, adding details, using temporal words (first, then, next, finally, etc.),

describing actions, thoughts, and feelings, and providing some sense of closure.

Math this month, we will learn how graphs and charts will help us organize, represent, and interpret data. The unit will begin by analyzing and comparing data shown in picture and bar graphs. We will read and compare data shown in tally charts and even learn how to make our own graphs and charts!

Mrs. Barnett & Ms. Nicks





## SECOND GRADE NEWS

It is May and Spring is in full swing!

Please talk to your child about the importance of finishing strong. We just took the end of the year reading test, and we are not thrilled with the results. We noticed that there is a direct correlation between those that read consistently and turn in their reading logs with higher scores, than those who don't. Please have your child reading DAILY. Ask your child about their school supplies. We still have a lot of work to do. Some



need glue, scissors, and crayons. Continue to practice 2-digit subtraction as we are moving on to time, money, and fractions. Speak to them about the importance of keeping their hands and feet to themselves. As the weather gets warmer we will continue to go outside for recess. Our Franklin Rodeo Dance will take place on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8:30pm. Please RSVP by the 30th. We will be doing a Mother's Day Project. The NED show will be coming May 6, 2024. On the 21<sup>st</sup> we will have our annual BBQ. We hope to see everyone attend. If there are any behavior issues, unfortunately your child will not be able to attend. Let's Finish Strong!

Mrs. Taff, and Mrs. Radcliffe

## THIRD GRADE NEWS

Dear Parents,

We are now in the last quarter of your students' 3rd grade year. We would like to thank all parents that attended parent-teacher conference. Here is a snapshot of what will happen in the month of May.

Reading Readers are fully immersed in our Connecting Character, Culture and Community unit. Your student is learning, How do readers use photographs, illustrations, and details to help the understand text?

Writing- Writers are continuing to work on realistic fiction. Writers will learn how to use information and ideas to compare and contrast two different communities .

Math Mathematicians have begun learning fractions, areas, and line plots. Your student should continue to work on memorizing the multiplication and division 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.

Please check in with your child to see if they are completing 20 minutes daily of at home reading. Studies show that an increase in reading skills happens when students read more.

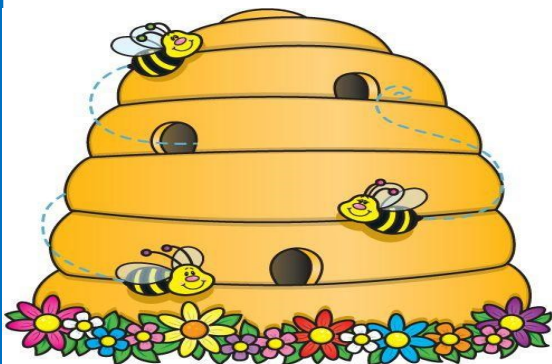
Science-Students will learn each week about weather.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Third Grade Teachers

Mrs. Wilson and Ms. Williams



## FOURTH GRADE NEWS

HELLO Spring!!!

The end of the school year is quickly approaching. It has been such a pleasure and honor to have taught your child this school year. We are still working to prepare your child for their upcoming 5th grade year. We have several topics in all subject areas to complete by the end of the school year. You can help us to make it a smooth transition to 5th grade by continually monitoring Class Dojo and daily assignments. Also, please ensure that your child has the appropriate materials needed for the remainder of the

school year, i.e., pencils, crayons, etc. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. I hope you all have an amazing summer!

Mrs. Wiatrowski & Ms. Vasser



## FIFTH GRADE NEWS

5<sup>th</sup> grade families,  
4<sup>th</sup> quarter is almost over, which means summer is right around the corner. Our students have worked hard this year! We are on the path to 6<sup>th</sup> grade!

Students need to continue to be at school, on time, ready to learn (8:40 students are welcomed into the building). Students need to be in uniform, which is a white colored shirt, navy bottoms, and shoes that cover the heel.

We have a lot of fun activities planned for the end of the year. Please continue to re-

mind your student how important it is to Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Respectful at Franklin School so we can all enjoy the last few weeks of school.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs. Mikolainis

Mr. Banks



## SIX GRADE NEWS

Greetings Families,

IT'S MAY! We have made it to the final month of the 2023-2024 school year! Students and teachers alike can hardly contain their excitement. While we have reached the end of the school year, of course, we have not reached the end of our expectations. May is filled with exciting activities and trips for our



students to participate in, but they have to meet the criteria. As always, we expect our students to be respectful, responsible, and safe. We still have to make it through this fourth quarter, and we are asking that you help us remind the students of the role that they play. We are looking forward to an exciting fun-filled end of the year as we prepare to say farewell to our sixth graders.

Sincerely,

K. Joe

T. Ware

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS



Wow, can you believe it? We are in the last month of school already. This year seems to have gone extremely fast. As we head into the end of the year, we will have some fun surprises for the students to keep them active and learning. There aren't too many big updates for now; so I'd just love to encourage everybody to get outside as much as possible. Ride a bike, play at the park, throw a foot-

ball, shoot hoops, jump rope or even just sit and read in the sunlight will have large positive effects on both the brain and body.

Mr. Brannigan



# ART BUZZ

## Greetings Franklin Students and Families!

The past several weeks we've been focusing on texture and different ways to incorporate it into our artwork. Students created dot art, mosaic sea turtles, patterned lions, hairy bears, pop art sweets and treats, and shoes designed from candy packages. Please enjoy some of the artwork below!



5th Grade Burton Morris Pop Art



2nd Grade Aboriginal Dot Art



3rd Grade Texture Turtles



1st Grade Texture Lions



6th Grade candy inspired shoe designs



Kindergarten Texture Bears  
Artwork by Abrielle Mcdonald







## **April Student of the Month**

*Kindergarten Mrs. Spratt ~ Tomorrow Smith*

*Kindergarten Mrs. Hanno ~ Machiah Slayden*

*1st Grade Ms. Barnett ~ Aaliyah Washington*

*1st Grade Ms. Nicks ~ Akira Kemp McGee*

*2nd Grade Mrs. Radcliffe ~ Brielle Scott*

*2nd Grade Mrs. Taff ~ Taylinn Rubinn*

*3rd Grade Ms. Williams ~ Samanth Mensab*

*3rd Grade Mrs. Wilson ~ Willie Esper*

*4th Grade Mrs. Vasser ~ Julian Washington*

*4th Grade Mrs. Wiatrowski ~ Desmond Meadows*

*5th Grade Mr. Banks ~ Isaiah Moore*

*5th Grade Mrs. Mikolainis ~ Layla McDavid*

*6th Grade Mrs. Joe ~ Sarai Gonzalez Mejias*

*6th Grade Mrs. Ware ~ Cydnee Cox*

## Greetings from the Library,

**We just finished up Scholastic Book Fair! Thank you so much for supporting our library! We made about \$400 in profits that will go to purchase more books for our collection.**

**Just a friendly reminder that the library will close for checkouts on May 8th. ALL books MUST BE RETURNED by Friday May 17th. If your child has lost a book, you are responsible for paying for it or replacing it. Every child with missing books will get a weekly reminder memo- with the book title and cost of that book. If you pay for a book that you find over the summer, you will be refunded. I tell the kids all the time, "I don't want your money. I just want my books."**

**Lastly, Accelerated Reader will close on Wednesday May 15th. Please make sure your children are reading 10-15 minutes each night.**

**Yours in Reading,  
Sarah Donnelly**



Nothing is  
Impossible,  
the word  
itself says  
“I’m possible”!

- Audrey Hepburn