



### FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL JAMES

Students in grades 3rd thru 6th will take the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) (3-5-2024 to 3-27-2024). During IAR testing, please make sure your child or children are in school and on time daily. Please encourage your child to do their best and not to worry about the test. Also, let him or her know that you have confidence in their ability to do their best. If you have questions about the IAR, please contact your child's teacher.

Please complete the Illinois 5 Essentials Survey. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of our school. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child's school. Our goal is for at least 100 parents to complete the 5 Essentials Survey. If we meet our goal, the students will be rewarded with an ice cream sundae bar. The survey closes on 3-29-2024.

<http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>

Your support is greatly appreciated and needed. We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday, March 28, 2024, for Parent Teacher Conferences.

We have planned several incentive activities for the remainder of the year. Our goal is for all students to participate. Please continue to encourage our students to Be Respectful, Responsible and Safe.

**“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”---Harriet Tubman**

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

March 1st– SIP Day 12:00pm Dismissal

March 4th–No School– Casimir Pulaski Day

March 10th– Daylight Saving Day-Spring Forward.

March 14th–Parent Advisory 5:00pm

March 15th– 3rd Quarter Ends

March 18th– 4th Quarter Begins

March 19th– First Day of Spring

March 22nd– Out of Uniform Day for \$1.00

March 26th– Board of Elections 6:00pm

March 28th– No School- Parent/Teacher Conference 11:30am to 6:00pm

March 29th– No School– Good Friday.

April 1st– April 5th– No School Spring Break.

April 8th–School Resumes



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

Greetings Franklin Families,

On February 2nd, Punxsutawney Phil the groundhog didn't see his shadow, predicting "as the legend goes", that Spring will "March" in earlier. Even though, we had a few e-learning days because of weather our Winter has been fairly mild and believe it or not spring IS near! This year It falls on March 19th. With Spring comes a renewal of things and I think we are all looking forward to all the newness that comes with it.

This month, I will continue to encourage students to display self-control and mindfulness in daily situations, continuing with a growth mindset. Mindfulness is defined as being conscious/aware and self-control is displaying the ability to control oneself, emotions, desires, expressions, and behavior in difficult situations. It is very common to want to react off one's emotions and impulsive thoughts. It is very important that students are aware and understand that every action causes a reaction. Learning to analyze a situation and display self-control is essential in the hopes of creating the best possible outcome in any situation. Students are also continuing their social emotional education through the Suite 360 program. In the month of March, students will be learning about their feelings, showing empathy, identifying their emotions, coping with difficult situations, and practicing safety tips. We encourage weekly conversations with your student in hopes of creating a healthy discussion and addressing any social emotional needs.

As we get closer to the season of Spring and the close out of the school year, there are so many things to look forward to. Not only are there changes on the planet (flowers blooming, trees sprouting new

leaves, grass growing, insects and birds returning and warmer weather), there are changes in our everyday lives. We can look forward to: Daylight Savings Time: more hours of daylight beginning on March 10th (who else hates it when it gets dark by 4pm?). Spring Break begins on Monday, April 1st (we can all use a break, Right?) Then we are back to school after Spring Break with only eight weeks left until the end of the school year. Stay tuned for more information about all our end-of-the-year events and celebrations. Let your countdown for all that's to come, begin!

Franklin is sincerely appreciative for all the effort that our Franklin Families have put forth in ensuring your students' education is a priority. As always, please stay safe, and know we are here to support you in any way we can.

Best,

LaRhonda Lane

Franklin Elementary

C.A.R.E. Facilitator

"It's easier to build strong children, than to repair broken men."--Frederick Douglass



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

Warm Greetings Franklin Family,

It is hard to believe that we are entering the month of March. We hope that the weather will begin to cooperate and Spring weather will arrive. The arrival of Spring means more hours of sunshine and warmer temperature. We are closer to being able to spend more time outside and watch many things grow around us.

While we are waiting for the chance to get outside and burn off that built up winter energy, this is a good time to bake or cook a simple meal. This activity will enhance your math and reading skills. Playing board games, completing crossword puzzles, and writing stories are also great ways to strengthen your skills.

March is National Reading Month. Reading is a great way to go on an adventure without ever leaving your house. Reading is fun and has many great benefits. This month, find a great book, go on a journey, and learn something new.

Let's have a Marvelous March.

Mrs. Giles



## SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

March is a busy month for the support programs department. The students are working hard on their third quarter objectives and preparing for the state standardized test which will take place this month. It is important for students to get adequate sleep and come to school on time during the testing window. Continue to encourage your child to read independently each night. The best way to improve a child's reading performance is through practice. We will be meeting for spring parent/ teacher conferences this month. We look forward to sharing all the great gains the children have made this school year. If you should have any

questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's special education teacher.

Mrs. Costello kindergarten – third grade

Mr. Taylor fourth -sixth grade



### 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

Greetings Kindergarten Families,  
As we move closer towards the school years end, we are delving into blending and sounding out words like never before. Before we move on to geometry in the coming months, we will continue with addition and subtraction, writing and counting to 100 by 1's, 5's, and 10's (this can be practiced at home daily). Continuing with our districts adopted reading program, Magnetic Read-



ing, the kiddos our being exposed to a rigorous curriculum requiring read-

ing and writing in small group. Reading with your kiddo each night and practicing sight words will be beneficial to your Kiddos success as well.

We would like to leave you with a fun and interactive website that we've been using with your Kiddo since day one. Have Fun Teaching ([havefunteaching.com](http://havefunteaching.com)) provides letter and number practice with printable activity sheets and downloadable songs.

Best,

Mrs. Hanno & Mrs. Spratt

## FIRST GRADE NEWS

We are certainly marching on this semester! Three months into the New Year- Time surely flies when we are learning and having fun! There are many exciting things going on this month as well as many great learning opportunities.

During the month of March, we will continue working hard on our reading skills. The main goal for this unit is to support children in realizing that they are, in fact, "big-kid" readers now. They have strategies to be in charge of their own reading, to set their own agenda, and to get through the hard parts all by themselves. Our children will learn a variety of strategies and processes for determining which words are tricky, solving those words and then checking their reading to make corrections on their own.

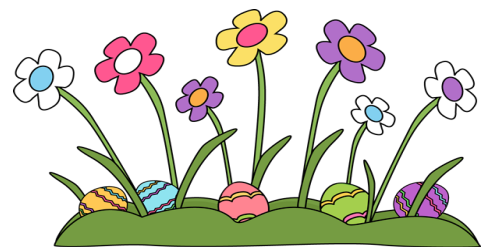
In Social Studies, we are learning about important jobs that people have. We will learn about what makes certain jobs important

and about different responsibilities that people have. At home, talk with your child about what they want to be when they grow up. Ask them why they want that job and talk about why that job is important.

Please make sure your child is completing their homework on a nightly basis and turning it in each day! Many students are turning in late or incomplete homework which greatly affects their Work Habits grade. In addition, please make sure they're completing the Reading Log portion of the homework.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Barnett & Ms. Nicks





## SECOND GRADE

I can't believe we only have three more months left of school. This year flew!

Thank you again for all your support. By now your child should be reading at about 80-90 words per minute. If they are not, that is a signal more practice needs to be occurring at home. Your child should be reading fluently before leaving Second Grade. Make sure they have their addition and subtraction math facts memorized to twenty. We will be going on free field trips soon so watch out for those permission slips. Students who have good attendance and no behavior issues will be allowed to attend.

Parent Teacher conferences will take place on Thursday, March 28, 2024, we are looking forward to meeting with you face to face.

Spring is right around the corner! Let's finish strong!

Mrs. Radcliffe and Mrs. Taff



## THIRD GRADE

Dear Parents, Our students continue to excel in their new learning environment. Here is an outline of what awesome learning is taking place in 3rd grade:

Reading Readers are fully immersed in our Connecting Character, Culture and Community unit. Lessons have focused on our essential question: How do readers use evidence from texts to understand what they read?

Writing- Writers are continuing to work on realistic fiction narrative. Writers will learn how to include character dialogue and actions to make their stories meaningful.

Math Mathematicians have begun learning fraction. Your student should continue to work on memorizing the multiplication tables. Multiplication is the foundation for di-

vision. 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.

Social Studies -Students will learn each week about an unknown but important woman in history.

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

There is an incentive-based field trip for the month of March. This trip is based off the same criteria as the last one. Student must have no behavior problems. **Student must have good attendance.** Students must be passing classes with a C average. Student must be in uniform daily. Student must have good citizenship.

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

Greetings,

**Reading • • •** During the beginning weeks of March, we will use both literary and informational texts to increase their understanding of a topic. We will continue to use evidence from both texts to state and support an opinion. We will work hard to find text evidence to support our thinking and spend time discussing our ideas in break out groups. Students will be taught to preview the text to determine the subject and structure, make a quick reading plan, and break the text into chunks. Then when students read across these chunks, they can use strategies to summarize and synthesize what was read.

**Math • • •** This month students will begin to study the concept of dividing multi-digit numbers and learning all about fractions. After that, students will further their understanding by relating these concepts to real

life situations.

**Science • • •** During the month of March the 4th grade students will explore different types of natural resources and weather. The students will read, investigate, model and explore these concepts throughout the month. We will continue to use Flying Classroom to further their investigations and understanding of these concepts.

**Social Studies • • •** This month we will be continuing to explore our studies of influential African Americans. Since March is Women's History our emphasis will be on some fabulous woman. We will also be learning about immigration and segregation and how it was affected by famous Americans.

Mrs. Wiatrowski &  
Ms. Vasser



## FIFTH GRADE

Hello 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

February was a quick month! Students have been working independently on 5<sup>th</sup> grade skills as well as their MyPath lessons that reinforce skills that may have not been mastered in previous years. Each student is required to pass 2 MyPath Reading lessons and 3 MyPath Math lessons per week. This is a challenge for some of our students because they are struggling with staying focused and on task. Mr. James is planning a party in the near future for students who meet their MyPath goal!

We were able to participate in two in house field trips this month, Magic of Spellbinder and Chicago Crash Dance Company. Both

performances were excellent and Honored Black History Month.

IAR Testing will begin on March 5th. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will have 2 ELA tests, 3 Math tests, and 2 Science tests to take. These tests will be spread over a few weeks. It is very important that your child is at school every day and on time during testing.

Thank you,

Mrs. Mikolainis

Mr. Banks



Greetings Families,

As we move into the month of March, we want to keep the madness to a minimum. With the Illinois Assessment of Readiness and Spring Break quickly approaching, we know that students tend to get a bit anxious. Therefore, it is important that we reinforce our routines. Students should be in school on time and prepared for the day. You get them to bed at night and we'll cover breakfast in the morning! It is our desire that all students perform at their best on the assessment.

Help us encourage students to finish the third quarter strong! With Spring Break so close, it is easy for students to lose focus of what's im-

portant. Remind students that the learning is not over yet and that it is still important to be respectful, responsible, and safe.

-K. Joe

-T. Ware



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Hello and welcome to March! Spring is right around the corner. I'm sure everybody is feeling a bit of increase in energy and better mood with the weather warming up and sun setting later. This is a very natural thing; hopefully you take advantage with some time outside; as this will only improve your mood and energy more. Even a short walk does the trick.

I'm excited for this time of year as we start getting into some fun units; hockey and a combination of tumbling, gymnastics and ninja warrior. Kids will be coming home tired from these for

sure. Some of these skills will be great to practice outdoors on a nice day after school or on a weekend. We also have fitness testing coming up soon for grades 3-6. This will give students a good idea of where there strengths are, as well as areas of fitness to focus on improving going forward.

We're in the home stretch of the school year.

Let's have a strong and fun finish.

Mr. Brannigan



## **February Student of the Month**

Kindergarten Mrs. Spratt ~ Mackenzie Cotton Banks

Kindergarten Mrs. Hanno ~ Kaiden Lockett

1st Grade Ms. Barnett ~ Yhaleria Kizart

1st Grade Ms. Nicks ~ Gracynn Lewis

2nd Grade Mrs. Radcliffe ~ Domovolo McDonald

2nd Grade Mrs. Taff ~ Treasure Miles

3rd Grade Ms. Williams ~ Alanna Perry

3rd Grade Mrs. Wilson ~ Ikee Wade

4th Grade Mrs. Vasser ~ Immanuel Thompson

4th Grade Mrs. Wiatrowski ~ Mason Hurms

5th Grade Mr. Banks ~ Chiya Williams

5th Grade Mrs. Mikolainis ~ Kenneth Love

6th Grade Mrs. Joe ~ Trimijah Esco

6th Grade Mrs. Ware ~ Terrion Plummer



# ART BUZZ

## Greetings Franklin Students and Families!

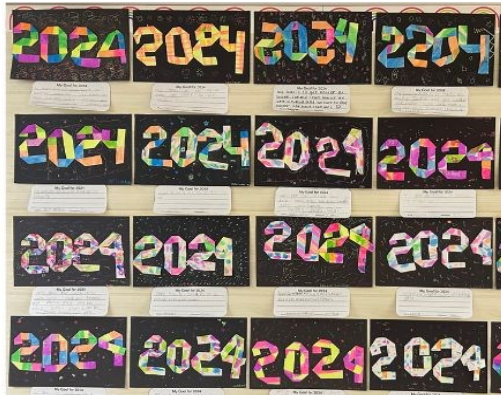
Below, please enjoy the New Year's art that students created when we returned from Winter Break. After discussing the different ways people ring in the new year, students created fireworks, disco balls, balloons, confetti, and wrote about a goal they had for 2024. It was fun seeing all the New Year art hanging in the hall!



Artwork by 3rd Grade



Artwork by Malachi Slayden



Artwork by 4th Grade



Artwork by Kindergarten



Artwork by 2nd Grade



Artwork by Olivia Kroger



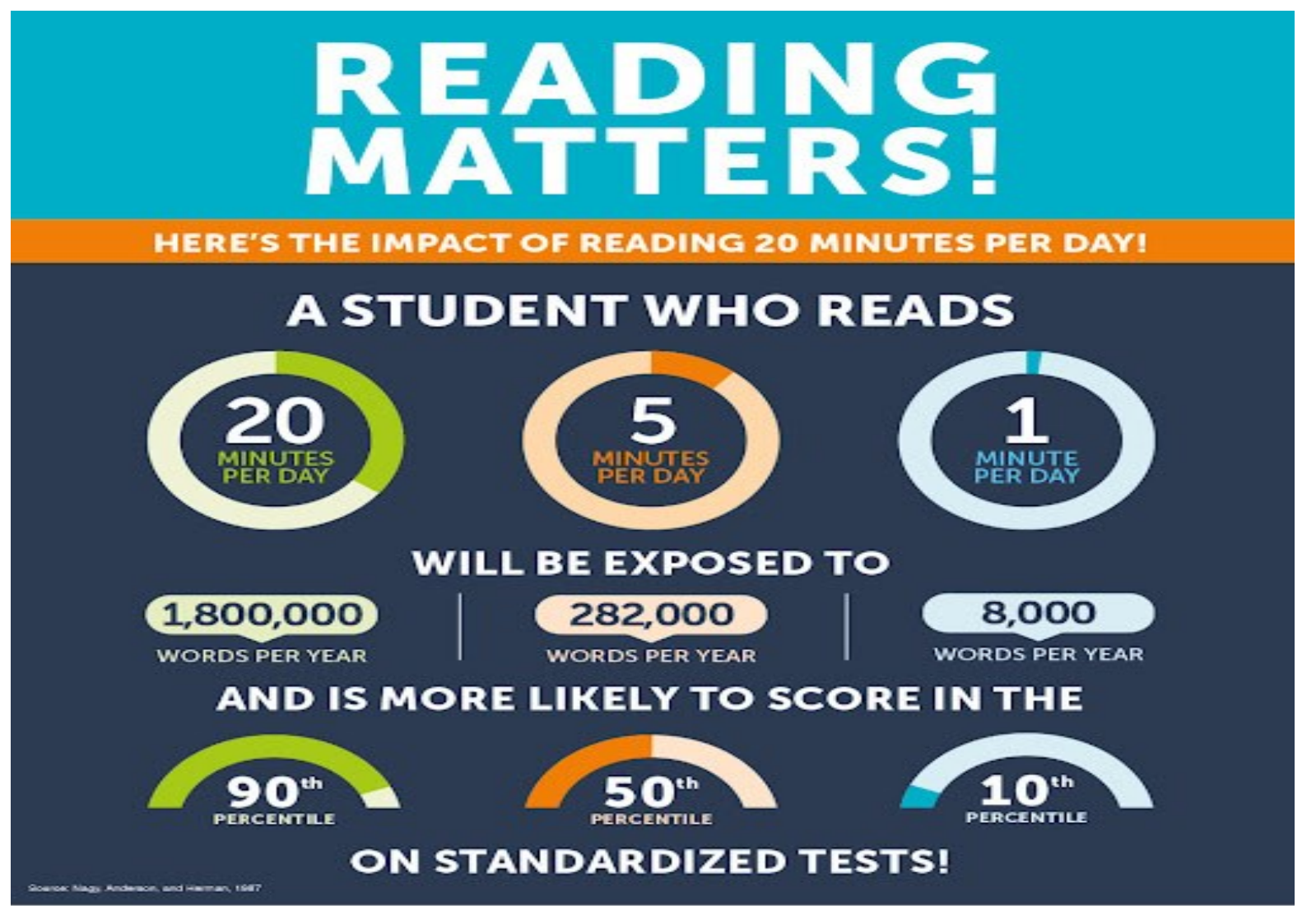


Greetings from the Library,

The year is quickly coming to an end- can you believe it?! I'm letting kids with missing books know that they should be looking around the house, their classrooms, the gym, lost and found, etc. I'll start sending home missing book notices in April.

Here's a heads up that Scholastic Book Fair is coming back to Franklin and will run Monday April 15th-Friday April 19th. More information will come home the closer we get.

Lastly, please encourage your kids to read 15-20 minutes a night. Research shows the impact that reading 20 minutes a day makes:



Yours in Reading,  
Sarah Donnelly



# HAPPY HoliDAYS!

