



The Backpack Bulletin

September 2010

Welcome Back!

As the 2010-2011 academic year begins, we welcome our students, families, teachers and staff back. We will continue to offer opportunities for excellence and everyday we will reaffirm the vitality and importance of public education through our work with your children.

We also welcome new administrators: Mr. Michael Levine, Principal at Horace Mann Middle School and Mr. Thomas Morris, our new Principal at Parmenter. We are pleased and honored to have them join our team.

Although we face the challenges of uncertain economic times we have an opportunity to redefine our educational commitment. The reduction to programs and services combined with the increase in class size are evidence of the continued challenge to provide a strong educational program in a climate of reduced financial resources. We are delighted that we are in receipt of "federal jobs funding" and we acknowledge the leadership and commitment to education from Senators Kerry and Brown, Governor Patrick, Congressman McGovern, State Senator Spilka and State Representative Valle for their efforts in bringing federal dollars to our community. We will apply the funds to hiring teachers and providing after school academic support programs to promote student achievement. Our staff will share their commitment, talent and passion to inspire your children to achieve. The administrative team extends warm wishes for a successful school year and we will look forward to working with you.

Did you know?...

- **FHS athletics schedule can be found at:**
www.franklinma.virtualtownhall.net
- **Parents can be tech wise – for tips on keeping your child safe online go to:**
www.wiredsafety.org

What we did over "summer vacation".....



TECHNOLOGY



- Installation of Smartboards in K-12 classrooms
- Replacement of 7-year-old faculty computers
- Wireless installed at JF Kennedy
- Netbooks purchased for use at elementary schools to provide students with home access to computers

Pupil Personnel Services

- Updated Schedules
- Ran ESY
- Attended Workshops
- And with a great sigh...did all that was necessary, as a rule, to get everything set for the start of the school year.

Instructional Services

- K-12 English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum development
- Professional Development planning for K-5 Grade Quick reporting system and expansion of the pilot in all elementary schools
- Middle School Spanish curriculum development
- Plans to redesign the current elementary PE program to include a health component and Anti-Bullying curriculum
- 2010-2011 Professional Development Program
- Grant writing activities
- New Teacher Orientation workshops including district curriculum, instructional and assessment expectations
- Revisions to the K-12 Music curriculum
- High school curriculum development for core content areas (5), the Franklin Arts Academy (7), and for new English 12 elective courses (16)



Transportation

The current School District Budget as approved by the School Committee in June required the reduction of three buses in the 2010-2011 school year, resulting in a savings of \$120,000. With that directive, the business office in conjunction with the Massachusetts



Association of School Business Officials conducted a comprehensive review of our district-wide transportation program. The prime goal was to evaluate the efficiency of our overall busing program and review possible opportunities for additional cost saving measures. While the final report is not yet available, we are confident that we can meet the needs of our students in light of the fiscal constraints with which we are faced. Three buses have been eliminated and routes have been consolidated. We appreciate your patience and support in our efforts to maintain a cost-effective transportation program.

Facilities

- FHS – Alternative Learning Program relocated to FHS; ALP office reconstruction
- FHS – Conversion of maintenance shop to Art/Music space for Franklin Arts Academy
- Keller/Sullivan – Install Security and access control
- Remington/Jefferson – Security System



Acknowledgements

- **Thank you to our facilities staff for their hard work and efforts this summer.**
- **Thank you to our parent and PCC volunteers who assisted in our successful opening of school.**

Food Service

Responding to the nutritional needs of our students has resulted in some changes to our program. At Franklin High School we introduced a wrap station. At Annie Sullivan MS the new salad bar is open. If the salad bar is successful, we plan to expand to the Horace Mann and Remington Middle Schools mid-year.



Coming Attractions: Parent & Student survey! We want feedback on our food service program to inform our decision making.

Central Office

In June a group of Franklin Public Schools' administrators attended a workshop sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC). The purpose of this workshop was to provide guidance and training to school administrators on the new Massachusetts Bullying Law.

As a result of the Bullying Law, school districts across the Commonwealth are required to conduct the following activities:

- Develop a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan by December 31, 2010
- Include a Bullying Policy in age-appropriate language in all school handbooks for the beginning of the 2010-11 school year
- Develop and provide training for all school staff around bullying prevention, intervention and reporting requirements
- Develop and implement a K-12 bullying prevention curriculum

Since attending the DESE/MARC workshop, the Principals have developed a bullying policy addendum to each of their school handbooks which provides the legal definition of bullying and how school officials, school staff, parents, and resource officers should respond to situations which may or may not be bullying.

In addition, the Franklin Public Schools' K-12 Health Wellness Director will be working with the Director of Instructional Services and district Health/PE Teachers to formalize the district's bullying prevention curriculum.

Finally, a Bullying Task Force, whose charge is to develop the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, has been established. This task force, which has been meeting throughout the summer, consists of school administrators, parents, school committee members, police and other interested community members. The task force will seek input from community members on the draft Bullying Prevention Plan before final adoption by the School Committee.

