



The Backpack Bulletin

December 2010

“WRAP” it up

Beginning this year the High School cafeteria is now serving special “make your own wraps” during lunch time. What a success it has been! Offerings include a choice of whole wheat, spinach, or tomato wraps with various protein choices including turkey, chicken fajita, chicken salad, egg salad, tuna, cheese, etc. Students can then add their own choice of vegetable offerings such as lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, etc., as well as a fruit and milk for a complete meal. Wraps are custom prepared at the students’ request. Our Thanksgiving ‘Gobbler’ Wrap has been a popular choice consisting of turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce, with the added vegetables chosen by the student. Ask your high school student about it! Additionally, due to the current popularity, we are looking to expand our wrap offerings as a menu choice at the elementary and middle levels. Look for it on the menu in the months to come!



Common Core State Standards & MCAS

Massachusetts played a key leadership role in the development of the new national Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Mathematics. While the bulk of the frameworks include common standards for all, the design process allows states to personalize them by including additional learning standards in priority areas not covered in the common core. Currently, 44 states and two territories (District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands) have adopted the Common Core State Standards. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) anticipates that the new state frameworks in ELA and Math will be available on their website in January 2011 so districts may begin the process of curriculum and instructional alignment with related professional development.

The DESE expects districts to complete their alignment of the CCSS by the end of the 2012-2013 school year. Franklin has a plan in place and is confident that the work will be completed in time for the revised MCAS test administration in 2013.

- Middle and high school teacher leaders have begun reviewing the 6-12 Literacy in History/Social Sciences, Science and Math/Technical Subjects learning standards for reading and writing in the content areas – a new feature of the ELA Common Core document. These documents will be shared and discussed at department meetings.
- Literacy professional development will continue in K-8 schools to support teachers in the content areas. High School literacy professional development is being planned to support them in their role as teachers of reading and writing in the content areas.
- The current science curriculum team will include the 6-12 literacy standards within their revised documents.
- K-12 Mathematics revisions will take place during the 2011-2012 school year.
- K-12 ELA revisions will begin during the 2011-2012 school year with standards analysis across the district. An ELA curriculum team will finalize curriculum revisions during the 2012-2013 school year.
- ELA and Math MCAS tests will remain the same for the spring of 2011.
- 2012 MCAS tests will reflect an intersection of the current and new frameworks.
- The 2013 MCAS ELA and Math tests will fully reflect the new standards.

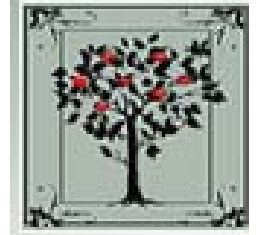


Did you know?...

- **In 2009, 150 million students are enrolled in educational programs beyond high school. This is a 53% increase since 1999 (UNESCO Report, 2009)**
- **Laughter lowers levels of stress, hormones and strengthens the immune system. A six-year-old laughs over 300 times a day. Adults laugh on an average of 15-100 times per day. Find your inner child and laugh!**

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning is a year-round program and as such, we are continually working, preparing programs for the future, as well as supporting the programs of the present. This year's programs are underway and doing well. The **String School of Franklin**, as well as the **After School Band** have both increased in membership. Monday and Tuesday afternoons at the Horace Mann complex are a time for musicians from across the town to learn, practice and review instrumental music. Led by Diane Plouffe and Kevin Donegan, these programs are thriving. This spring, these after school music programs, will be joined by the all town **5th Grade Honors Chorus**, which will be conducted by Mary MacMurray and Alison Wroe. Registration is ongoing.



MCAS Academic Support courses in **Biology and Math** began in November. These courses are taught by high school faculty members and are well received by the participating students and their families.

Adult Education is offering its second year of one-night workshops/classes for **Child Care Providers**. These courses focus on a different aspect of child care and furthermore, two contact hours will be awarded to each participant upon completion of each workshop.

Adult Ed. is also offering two *mommy and me* courses: **Learning Together for Toddlers 24 to 36 months of age**, and **Mommy and Me Yoga**. These classes begin the week of January 3, 2011. Classes will be held in an appropriate classroom for toddlers at the Early Childhood Development Center. Registration is ongoing through our website.

Adult Ed. is also supporting a **trial Community Walking initiative**. With the leadership of the Superintendent, Maureen Sabolinski, and support from the Principal, Peter Light, as well as the high school facilities team, the high school is been open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM for walkers. People are able to walk in a safe, well-lit, and warm facility. We ask people to sign-in at the Adult Ed. office, so we know who is in the building. The walkers meet other walkers, make new friends and feel part of the school community. Walkers also enjoy seeing student work, such as art pieces on the hallway bulletin boards. The trial period ends December 15. At that time we will review the program and identify a walking program for the remainder of the school year.

In other areas LLL is working with Kristin Cerce and Kristy Yankee as we prepare for the **High School Experience (HSE)** for the Class of 2015. The HSE is scheduled for the week of August 15, 2011. This program has been well-received by each incoming grade 9 class and their families; we anticipated attendance by at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the freshman class.

There are many additional aspects of Lifelong Learning. Check out our website at www.franklin.k12.ma.us and select Lifelong. If you have any questions about these or other LLL programs email us: lifelong@franklin.k12.ma.us or telephone: 508-553-4814.

FPS Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan



The Franklin Public Schools' Anti-Bullying Task Force presented its Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan at the October 26th meeting of the Franklin School Committee. Members of the Anti-Bullying Committee Task Force included School Committee members, parents, interested community members, local law enforcement, School Administrators, teachers, representatives from the Hockomock YMCA and an FHS student representative. This task force began meeting in summer 2010, and developed a comprehensive plan based upon a thorough review of bullying literature and research and in accordance with the Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Legislation and DESE regulations.

Franklin Public Schools has taken a proactive approach in developing its Prevention and Intervention Plan and has been ahead of the curve in terms of the timeliness and the comprehensiveness of its plan. Under the statute, the school district is required to submit its plan to the DESE by December 31, 2010.

As is required by the DESE, the school district opened up a period of public comment regarding its proposed Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. The period of public comment began following the School Committee meeting on November 16th and was open until December 9, 2010. We received many comments and suggestions by community members during this period. You may view the Franklin Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan on line at www.nomorebullies.wordpress.com or at any of the school offices in town.

The Committee discussed and voted to approve its Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan at its December 14th meeting. Now that the plan is approved, the Policy Sub-Committee will begin developing an anti-bullying policy which must be completed under the statute by June 30, 2011.

On a related note, there was a recent presentation on cyber-bullying for parents, community members and students held at Dean College, sponsored by the Franklin Wired Teens Club, Franklin Community Health Council and the Franklin Anti-Bullying Task Force. Guest speakers included State Representative Jim Vallee as well as nationally recognized cyber-bullying expert and founder of the Teen Angels, Parry Aftab.

We were especially proud of our student members of the Teen Angels and the Wired Teens Club, who worked under the guidance of advisor Lisa Keohane to develop an agenda and program that was informative, interactive, creative and geared to reach all participants. The students in these groups, who attend Franklin High School or one of the three middle schools, are to be commended for the commitment, passion, leadership and positive message which they communicate simply by how they conduct themselves with others on a daily basis.

Acknowledgements

- **Congratulations to Samantha White and Daniel Nulton on their selection as Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's Academic Excellence scholars**
- **Congratulations to the staff of Annie Sullivan Middle School for winning a Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan Mini grant.**



Holidays Wishes

The Franklin community has much to celebrate this season. Despite continued reductions in finances, student achievement continues to excel and our students achieve at high levels in athletics, music, art, theater, and community service initiatives. Our teachers, staff and coaches deserve the gratitude of our town for the work they engage in.

It takes the commitment of a community to create a place where children can thrive intellectually, athletically and socially. As 2010 comes to an end we want to acknowledge the commitment of our faculty, parents/guardians, volunteers and School Committee for supporting our mission of educating the students of Franklin. The collaboration, engagement and commitment to working together continues to make this community a special place to live and work.

A special thank you is extended to the elected and appointed officials who serve the community. They give of their time and talent to support our local government. We also want to acknowledge the commitment of the Town Council in supporting the school district capital budget. By providing financial support for facilities and technology they realize the value of investing in the community infrastructure. This investment saves future tax dollars and supports the implementation of efficiencies across the system.

All our warmest wishes for a prosperous, healthy and joyous 2011. The

administration of the Franklin Public Schools wishes our community happiness and peace for the holiday season.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Child Nutrition Act

Federal legislation was enacted to improve the quality of school lunches was passed last week. The Franklin School Committee will assemble a district wide task force to update policies and make recommendations to the School Committee to implement the changes.

Sports Related Head Injury and Concussions: An Act Relative to Safety Regulations for School Athletic Programs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts enacted legislation aimed at informing students and parents about the consequences of head injuries and concussion which may result from engagement in athletic programs and sports. Students will be required to participate in awareness training on the dangers of head injuries. Also screening by school health professional will be required before the start of each athletic season. For additional information:

www.cdc.gov/concussion/Parents_Fact_Sheet-a.pdf

Inclement Weather Information
Please see the Franklin Public School website for information on school closings and how we arrive at making decisions about school closings during inclement weather.

