



Winter 2011-2012
Ben Franklin Elementary

412-854-8741
Principal: Dr. Shirley Dickinson
Secretary: Leah Nagel

President's Message

Hello Franklin Family,

The trees are bare and the winds have changed, it's that time of year again ... time for our early morning phone calls from Vicki Flotta! If you are not receiving the Alert Now emails and phone calls, or if you need to update or change any information, please contact our school secretary, Mrs. Nagle at 412-854-8741.

Fall was a busy time for our school. Halloween parties, Fall book fair, and a visit from the Pittsburgh Zoo (SEEDS Program) were enjoyed by all! Many thanks to our generous families. Our students learn and grow with each assembly, they would not be possible without our volunteers and fundraisers. The PTO is working to add more assemblies and events to our calendar. Please check your email and PTO website for additional information.

Here are a few of our upcoming events:

December 21 - (10 am and 2pm) - The Sadecky Puppets. It is a wonderful program enjoyed by all.

December 23 - Classroom Holiday Party. Contact your Homeroom Coordinator if you would like to help. The holiday parties are not very long. Please consider giving your time with a craft or game, taking pictures or reading a story. A few hours with your child will make a memory that will last forever.

February 11 - Ben Franklin and William Penn Elementary are co-hosting this year's Calendar Party fundraiser. Join us for a delicious dinner, great prizes and a night out with friends. Remember this event is adult only! Get your sitter now! Check the website for more info. Contact Jeanie Slater with any questions and ticket/table information.

Also, on the calendar is the Elementary Make-A-Wish Change Drive. This will run from January 30th through February 3rd. Each year, our elementary schools come together to help this great cause. Please consider donating your loose change. Additional information will be available on our website.

Don't forget that our students can earn assemblies and other great things like play ground equipment and board games from our daily grocery shopping! Our children benefit from Market Day orders, Box Tops, Campbell Soup Labels and Shop n' Save receipts. We are purchasing new recess items (both indoor and outdoor) with the donations already received! Every little bit helps! To assure the receipts and labels go to the correct place, please make sure your items are in an envelope marked "PTO Mailbox" with the fundraiser clearly marked!

Ben Franklin
PTO BOARD

PTO Board Members:

President

Leslie Rutherford
412-835-1022

Vice President

Bob McCormick
412-628-6639

Treasurer

Shelley DiGiorno
412-854-4471

Secretary

Shana Winterhalter
412-760-2131

benpto@gmail.com

Franklin Flyer

For submissions, please contact:

Jeanie Clayton Slater
claytonslater@comcast.net
412-310-4087

www.benpto.com



PTO Meetings: Tuesday, January 10 at 7 p.m., Tuesday, February 14 at 1:30 p.m.

PTO Notes

2011-2012 PTO Events

December 21	Sadecky Puppets 10am/2pm
December 23	Christmas Party
Tuesday, January 10	PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
Saturday, February 11	Calendar Party at Comm. Ctr.
Tuesday, February 14	PTO Meeting at 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 14	Valentine Party
Tuesday, March 13	PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 30	Spring Bingo
Tuesday, April 10	PTO Meeting ELECTIONS, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 13	Art Show/Ice Cream Social
Tuesday, May 8	PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
Friday, June 1	End of the year Party
June 14	Olympic Day

PTO Committee Notes

- ◆ Any committee chair or Home Room Coordinator who is in need of the PTO camera, cash box or cash register, please contact the PTO Board.
- ◆ Any papers to be sent home by either a committee chairperson or Home Room Coordinator, must be approved by Dr. Dickinson. All papers must be sent to Central Duplicating for copying. Please try to submit original document 1 month prior to date needed. You must submit 2 originals and fill out a copy form which is located in the PTO Mailbox. Please be sure to put the date your document is needed back on the copy form. Any cost of copies done outside of Central Duplicating will not be reimbursed.
- ◆ Committee chairs and Coordinators should be aware that all PTO requests for reimbursement must be accompanied by a receipt and a reimbursement form. No reimbursement can be made without a receipt.
- ◆ For all events, fundraisers or Book Fairs that are sponsored by the PTO, any applicable payment by check should be made payable to "Ben Franklin PTO" unless directed otherwise.
- ◆ As a reminder to all Ben Franklin families ... any person whose check is returned to the PTO will be held liable for all bank fees applied to the PTO account related to this transaction. The current fees are \$14 for NSF and \$5 for each attempt at re-deposit by our bank. These fees and the original check amount must be repaid to the PTO within 30 days. No new check may be collected by the PTO until this matter has been resolved.

PTO Sponsored Events and Activities

- All Field Trips
- Spring Bingo
- Book Fairs
- Assemblies
- Playground Equipment
- Ice Cream Social
- End of the Year Party
- All Holiday Parties
- Family Cook outs
- Calendar Party
- Olympic Day
- Santa Breakfast
- School Spirit Days
- Open House

Snow Delay

Please note that if Bethel Park School District is delayed or closed due to inclement weather or any other type of emergency, the information will be announced on the following T.V. and radio stations: **KDKA-TV, WTAE-TV, WPXI-TV, KDKA-AM RADIO, KQV-AM RADIO, FROGGY-FM RADIO 98.3**



Yearbook Photos Wanted

We are gathering pictures for the yearbook for these events:

- Olympic Day (last spring)
- First Day of School
- Open House
- Halloween Parade and Parties
- Christmas Parties
- Any Classroom-specific events

Please email digital photos to claytonslater@comcast.net or send photos to school in an envelope marked "PTO mailbox - Yearbook." Please make sure to include your child's name and room number so we can identify and return the photos.

The 2 hours of power program is still in effect. Join the PTO, volunteer 2 hours of time to any PTO event and your child receives a free yearbook. Thank you for your help in making the 2011-2012 yearbook a success!

Jeanie Clayton Slater and Tiffane Gealey
PTO Yearbook Coordinators



Winter Skills Practice!

Over the winter recess from December 24th – January 2nd, it is important that children keep their academic skills sharp! The old saying “Practice makes perfect” also applies to the basic skills learned in the classroom. Often, if the children don’t practice over vacation breaks, snow days, etc. in our school schedule, their skills may regress and present challenges upon return.

Our staff and I would like to wish you a wonderful winter break, sprinkled with learning activities that can help to keep our students thinking and learning throughout the days of winter recess. Here is a list of some of the skills that we believe will prove helpful:

Reading

- ✓ Read aloud to your child & ask comprehension questions,
- ✓ Ask your child(ren) to read aloud to you everyday and identify the main characters and setting. You may even want them to predict the story’s ending midway before reading it!
- ✓ Write notes for your children to read to follow directions,
- ✓ Use previous and current vocabulary/spelling words as flashcards.

Math

- ✓ Practice patterning of numbers
- ✓ Use flashcards for mathematics (addition, subtraction, multiplication)
- ✓ Review math facts aloud when traveling in the car.

Writing

- ✓ Ask your child to write journal entries about their days off (including holidays and weekends),
- ✓ Ask your child to write you a letter asking for permission,
- ✓ Ask your child to write a letter to a pen pal (family or friend).

Please remember to keep learning fun. These activities should not be presented as assignments, but as opportunities to have quality time between children and their parents. As partners in learning, we appreciate your support of our school, and your cooperation with suggestions that will strengthen academic skills, and help children to maintain progress – even during vacation breaks, and winter snow days! Enjoy!

Yours in Educational Excellence,
Dr. Shirley A. Dickinson

You're invited to the
Fourth Annual Ben-Penn
Calendar Party
February 11, 2012

Bethel Park Community Center
6:30-9:30 p.m.

A Calendar Party is a dinner with themed tables, sponsored and decorated by Ben Franklin and William Penn moms, with a centerpiece on each table. If you sponsor a table, you are required to provide cups, small plates if needed, napkins, and a favor for each of the 8 guests at your table along with a themed centerpiece/basket (\$25 value). The centerpieces are auctioned off later in the evening along with other HUGE prizes in the Chinese Auction. You may also provide appetizers, cookies, cakes, candy or wine for your guests at the table. All of the items should coordinate with the theme you have selected. You can be as creative as you like. You may also choose to share a table with someone. We ask that you try to sell the seats at your table.

Tickets are \$20 per person, each sponsor will receive one free ticket per table. Includes a catered dinner and dessert by Tim Cassidy Catering, pop, water, mixers, door prizes, and music. B.Y.O.B. Bring money for the Chinese auction and 50/50 raffle. Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, or co workers to this fun night out! This is an opportunity to spend time with our friends who were redistricted to William Penn.

All proceeds go to the Ben Franklin and William Penn PTO's. The PTO pays for ALL field trips, assemblies, classroom parties, playground equipment, interactive whiteboards, etc.

If you are interested in sponsoring a table or would like tickets to this event, please contact Jeanie Slater at claytonslater@comcast.net or 412-851-1043.



Have you wanted to try Market Day ... but didn't know what it is ... or how to get started? Here are some answers!

What is Market Day?

Market Day is a food cooperative fundraiser. It is a monthly food program where customers purchase quality products and our school profits at least 10% of every purchase.

Is Market Day a fundraiser for Ben Franklin school, or simply a service to the school community?

Market Day is a fundraiser at our school. This means that we are able to supply funds to the PTO for field trips, educational assemblies, homeroom parties, student planners, classroom supplies, playground equipment and more.

Is Market Day more expensive than food at my local grocery store?

Market Day strives to be competitive with current grocery store prices. They will often adjust a price if it is found to be higher than the current store price.

Are there other ways to save on my Market Day orders?

Yes! You can find items on sale and valuable coupons that can be used at various times throughout the school year at www.marketday.com. Go to the "clearance" tab.

The people I cook for have specific dietary needs. What does Market Day have for special diets?

Market Day offers peanut free, gluten free, dairy free, sugar free, low calorie and low fat products. The company is also pleased to offer Market Day Naturals. These products have no preservatives, artificial flavors, colors and 0 grams trans fat.

Market Day products. How do I know if what I choose is a healthy selection?

Market Day offers many healthy choices for you and your family. The product guide features a nutritional guide for

every product, so you can check the nutritional values prior to purchase. Additionally, both the product guide and the monthly order form have easy to use icons that indicate a product that is designated as "taste for health" (contains no more than 300 calories and 30% calories from fat per serving), and "Market day Naturals" (products that have no preservatives, artificial flavors or colors and have 0 grams trans fat).

I don't know what the procedure is for ordering Market Day. What do I need to do?

Ordering is simple! The fastest way is to visit www.market-day.com and order directly from the site. If you've never ordered from the site before, you will need to register with a few easy steps and choose Ben Franklin Elementary as your pick-up location. Ben Franklin's account number is 11597. You may choose to pay online via credit/debit card or pay by cash, check, or PA Access card at the sale. You may also send your order form to school with your child. Pay by check made payable to "Market Day" or pay at the sale as above. Your order will be ready for pick-up on the sale date listed online and on the back of your order form. Just come to the cafeteria on the sale date and time and check in with the Market Day representative at the location and your order will be ready to go!

If you prefer to use the PA access card, please contact our Market Day Rep for prior approval.

Thanks you for your support of this worthwhile fundraiser for your PTO!

Any questions feel free to contact your Market Day representatives: **Tara McGuire at 412-831-2605 or tarahocker@hotmail.com.**

Label Collection Program Tyson Project A+™

Dear Parents:

We have an exciting opportunity to share with you. We are taking part in a national fundraising program sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc. called Tyson Project A+™. Through this program, we can raise as much as \$12,000 for our school this year! The money we raise can go towards the many activities that the Ben Franklin PTO sponsors throughout the year.



Let's support our school! Clip and save Tyson Project A+™ labels today. If you would like more information about the Tyson Project A+™ program, visit <http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com> or contact **Beth Scarlett** at 412-835-4343 or at e.scarlett@gmail.com.

Thanks for your support!

What to look for:



On a Bag



On a Box

All we have to do to participate is clip and save the entire Project A+™ label from participating Tyson products. Each label we collect is worth 24¢ for our school. Please send in any labels to school marked "Ben Franklin PTO - Tyson labels."

Giant Eagle "Apples for the Students" Program

Ben Franklin PTO is encouraging its supporters to enroll their Giant Eagle Advantage Cards® in the Apples for the Students program. The program begins October 1, 2011 and runs through March 14, 2012. The school earns points toward educational awards such as technology, playground equipment and classroom supplies with every purchase made with an enrolled Giant Eagle Advantage Card®.



Apples
for the
Students

Call toll-free 1-800-474-4777 and follow the simple voice response prompts. You will need to provide their Giant Eagle Advantage Card® number and your School ID number (Ben Franklin's Number is 0069).

Two Ways Supporters Can Register

Visit www.gianteagle.com/schools and Click on the Apples for the Students icon then simply follow the onscreen instructions, enter the required information, including your Giant Eagle Advantage Card® number and your School ID number (Ben Franklin's Number is 0069).

Please take a moment to register your Giant Eagle Advantage Card® today! If you have children in multiple schools, you can give them the school code for each child's school. Encourage family, friends, and neighbors to register their cards as well so we can maximize our earnings.

Please contact **Beth Scarlett** at 412-835-4343 with any questions.

Shop 'n Save Receipts - SEEDs Program

Save your Shop 'n Save receipts for the SEED School Assembly Program. Ben Franklin needs to collect \$250 worth of receipts per student to host a free science assembly. Please send all receipts to school in an envelope marked "PTO Mailbox - SEEDs." If you have any questions, please contact **Gina Conroy**. Thanks for your help!

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Ford and Box Tops 4 Education

Ford is offering up to 35 eBoxTops for watching videos and requesting a brochure. All you have to do is go to Forddriveboxtops.com and it will ask you to log in using your BoxTops account login. You can watch the videos and request a brochure and our school will receive 35 Bonus Box Tops which equals \$3.50 for our school!



If you do not have a Box Tops account you can create one at the link above and it will also work at BTFE.com.

And if by chance you have purchased a Ford vehicle between 10/1/11 and 12/1/11, you will get a post card in the mail worth 250 Bonus Box Tops! Please contact Beth Scarlett at e.scarlett@gmail.com if you get one of these to help redeem it.

Box Tops is an easy and very profitable fundraiser for our school - we get 10 cents for each Box Top that you cut out on the products you already buy at the grocery store! Box Tops offers three easy ways to earn cash for our school:

Clip - Clip Box Top coupons from hundreds of participating products and send them to school. Box Tops coupons are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. You can also ask grandparents, friends, and neighbors to collect them as well.

Shop - Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops MarketplaceSM (www.btfe.com/marketplace). You can earn up to 15 eBoxTops per \$10 you spend. There is no additional cost to your purchase and many exclusive deals and discounts can be found!

Buy books - Purchase books online at Barnes & Noble through the Box Tops Reading Room. Our school will receive 6 Box Tops per \$10 spent.

Sign Up - One of the easiest ways you can help is to sign up to support our school at www.btfe.com. You will learn about new and easy ways to help our school earn the extra cash it needs. Plus, you can sign up for email newsletters to receive new product updates, and Box Tops members-only deals, grocery coupons, and discounts at Box Tops Marketplace retail stores.

To encourage the kids to collect and turn in the box tops we will have several Box Tops contests this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Beth Scarlett** at 412-835-4343 or e.scarlett@gmail.com.

FranklinBoxTops.Weebly.com

Campbells Labels for Education

The Labels for Education program is a great way to get FREE merchandise for our school, and Campbell makes it easy to redeem labels. To meet our goals, we need to collect 1000 labels. With your help, our School can make this year the best ever.

Participating in the program is easy – simply save labels from Campbell products and send them to school. Some of the products eligible for label redemption in the program include:

Campbell's® soups
Campbell's Supper Bakes® meal kits
Campbell's® or Franco-American® SpaghettiOs® pasta
Campbell's® beans, gravies, and canned pasta
Prego® pasta sauces
Swanson® broths and canned poultry
Pace® salsa and picante sauces
V8® vegetable juices and V8 Splash® juice drinks
Campbell's® tomato juice
Pepperidge Farm® breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products
Pepperidge Farm® Goldfish® crackers
Campbell's® Foodservice products

Triple your efforts by asking your friends and family to collect labels on behalf of our school. Community members can pledge their support by making a Community Label Pledge at labelsforeducation.com. Simply invite friends and family to visit the website, and click into the "Community Label Pledge" link. Here they can make a voluntary pledge to donate Campbell product labels to our school.

Please visit labelsforeducation.com for a complete listing of participating products and more information about the program.

Here's an additional way to receive points is by registering your Giant Eagle card:

1. **CLICK:** Visit www.eLabelsForEducation.com/gianteagle to register and learn more.
2. **REGISTER:** Enter your Giant Eagle Advantage CardAR and select the school of your choice.
3. **EARN:** Every time you purchase participating Labels for Education products with your Giant Eagle Advantage CardsAR, your school will automatically receive 1 point for each item purchased. Remember, you can still clip and redeem UPCs to earn face value of Labels for Education points to earn even more free stuff for your school.

Thanks so much for your support. Together with Campbell's Labels for Education – we can build a better school for our children – one label at a time. If you have any questions please contact **Polly McCracken** at pollymac1@verizon.net or 412-854-5537.