



Franklin Focus

News from the Principal
Mr. Stephen Williams
www.franklingusd.net



Parents Work Together to Benefit Franklin

Eleven parents plan festivities in the Parent Center for World Fest. Fifteen additional parents come together to determine how to raise money for Franklin and how to get supplies to teachers at the Benjamin Franklin Elementary Foundation Board meeting. Ten more parents spend an evening preparing for events to help our students during a PTA Board meeting. Meanwhile, another group helps bring donated items inside the auditorium for the Yardsalepalooza event.

Sound like a months worth of parent involvement? Actually, all this took place in one week at Franklin. More and more parents have stepped up and contributed to helping Franklin become a treasure in Glendale.

Parents are taking pride in their school and this shows our students that school is a valuable place to attend. Thanks to the dozens and dozens who attend meetings, build garden planter boxes, read to students, cut paper for teachers and donate supplies to help education.

We love you for what you continue to do for Franklin. The students benefit from your support and involvement.



A few of a growing group of parents helping Franklin.

Before this year, I never knew what a Yardsalepalooza was or even its definition. I do now. It means, "a group of caring parents who will spend endless hours collecting a bunch of cool stuff that they will sell back to their friends and buy tasty tamales just in the name of helping children."

The mix of all our parents with students from English, Spanish, Italian, and German programs creates a joyful and caring environment at Franklin. Thank you!

What's around the Corner?

May 14	Father-Son Night	6:00-8:00PM
May 22	World Fest	12:00PM-6:00PM
June 3	Orchestra Performance	6:30PM-7:15PM
June 11	Drama Performance (Pinocchio)	6:00PM-7:30PM
June 17	6th Grade Promotion 1	10:30AM-12:00PM
June 18	Last Day of School	Minimum Day
June 28	Summer School Begins	
July 22	Summer School Ends	
Aug. 24	Immersion Parent Mtg.	6:30PM
Aug. 26 or 27	Kindergarten "Sneak Peak"	10:30AM
Aug. 30	School Starts	

Distinguished Franklin

At 12:30PM on Wednesday, April 14th, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction picked up his phone and called the Franklin office to personally tell the principal that Franklin School has been earned the California Distinguished School Award again!

This award acknowledges the hard work and dedication of our teachers, students, parents during the past four years. Our teachers have focused on student achievement and how to improve instruction. Congratulations to everyone in the Franklin community.

Franklin Math Team Excels at Big Event



Twelve fourth through sixth grade students invaded La Crescenta Elementary School in April to participate in Math Field Day with more than 200 other students from other Glendale schools. The students competed in Algebra & Functions, Measurement & Geometry, Statistics & Probability, and Individual Problem Solving. The students came home with 4 third place ribbons, 2 second place ribbons and 3 first place trophies.

This is a great honor and displays outstanding teaching and learning. Playing with math is fun and these students love it!

Larger Class Sizes, Less Money...

How will the California Funding Slump Affect Franklin?

We all want to keep class size small, but I haven't heard anyone coming up with a "long-term" plan to do so and be able to avoid a future financial train wreck. California's budget woes run deep.

Glendale Unified has been financially responsible, but even with looming cuts to programs and teachers to save money and keep our heads above the rising water, the GUSD budget is upside down in three years. Naturally, trying to avoid shortfalls in a budget is like navigating a river. If we hit the rocks downstream, the one on rudder takes the blame. If we miss the rocks, many will believe that the rocks were never there.

But is it all doom and gloom? It doesn't have to be all doom and gloom. A group called SOS Glendale is making it known to community members that a parcel tax is in order to give our children funding for the programs they need for success. The Benjamin Franklin Elementary Foundation (BFEF) is seeking funds to help provide teachers with supplies, put language translators in classrooms, beautify the campus and improve learning and playing facilities, and write grants to fund programs.

We have also been writing grants to help fund programs. The German consulate and Fondazione-Italia have awarded the school tens of thousands of dollars for the immersion programs. We have applied for a magnet grant that, if funded, would bring an additional \$500,000 per year for three years to support the school through the development of curriculum, assessments, instructional materials, staff development, and personnel for the immersion programs. None of all this support can still save small class sizes for the long term.

The economic recovery may well be on its way, but it will take until the year 2015 for school funding to reach the levels of funding back in 2005, according to recent projections. Our children do not deserve to be victims of an economic disaster because of their birth date. They deserve a great education with no compromises. Schools account for 40% of the state budget and they recently took 60% of the state's budget cuts. That's just wrong!

Please get involved and let your legislators know that "Enough is enough!" The state must clearly understand that we will not let them bully our kids anymore. I have been raised with very traditional family values, believing that society must protect its "women and children." Just so happens that all my teachers are women and all my students are children. Please help me take care of them by writing to your governor, state senator or assembly representative to let them know your values.

