



# Franklin Focus

News from the Principal  
Mr. Stephen Williams  
[www.franklingusd.net](http://www.franklingusd.net)



## Students to Become Bilingual, Biliterate and Multicultural Immersion Program Continues to Grow

The 2010-2011 school year opens with the highly popular and effective immersion program expanding to more than 200 students. Waiting lists for immersion extend out two years to 2012-2013.

Franklin will not offer an English-only kindergarten in the fall. Enrollment trends show that the English-only program will continue to decline. The lineup for kindergarten next year includes one German, one Italian, and three Spanish classes.

### Plan for Summer and Fall

Summer School begins June 28th for intervention, Spanish and German classes. An Italian class is planned for August.

The school office will be open from 8:00am to 12:00pm through July 21st and will reopen on August 17th.

#### Fall Events

Aug. 24, 6:30pm - New Parent Orientation

Aug. 27, 10:30am - Kindergarten Sneak Peak

Aug. 30, 8:10am - School Begins

Sept. 9, 5:30pm - K-3 Back to School Night  
6:15pm - Parent Information Meeting  
6:45pm - 4-6 back to School Night

Oct. 19, 6:30pm - Title I State of the School  
Parent Meeting

### *Events on School Calendar*

All school year events plus meeting dates for the BFEF, Parent Center, and PTA will be available on the school calendar, [franklingusd.net](http://franklingusd.net) before mid-July.

### *Students Get Involved Watching Pinnochio!*



Under the direction of Mrs. Ohanian and Mrs. Babakhanian, student actors clearly articulated their lines to a happy and excited audience, as they chanted for "cricket" to come help Pinnochio. The heartfelt performance grabbed all our emotions as we experienced Pinocchio's lessons.



# How Does Franklin Embrace New Diversity?

Several years ago, the population of Franklin was approximately 70% Hispanic, and included primarily neighborhood children, with a smidgeon of students from the Extended Early Education Learning Program, who attended Franklin on a permit. Student achievement was increasing every year.

With the addition of the immersion program, the demographics have changed. Parents with a variety of different ethnic backgrounds have joined the school. The diverse mix of cultures, bringing children together from a variety of backgrounds, enriches our school.

My goal as principal is to encourage our parents to help Franklin develop into a multicultural, attractive and safe place for all our children. I want to promote the development of relationships between parents of different cultures, ethnicities, socioeconomic and language backgrounds. The children already do this

naturally.

Let's provide opportunities for our students to excel. The PTA, Parent Center and now the Benjamin Franklin Elementary Foundation has been established to help us promote child advocacy or raise money to provide support for all our students to excel.

As much as it is necessary to locate funding for programs, it's also extremely important that we recognize that not everyone can afford to donate money or volunteer time at school. I do not want any parents to feel that they are not important because they are not able to contribute in this way. All our children deserve the best we can give them and know that as much as we welcome contributions, it's more important for us to welcome all our families and make sure that everyone feels connected to Franklin. Each child brings a gift to school, and it's our job to nurture that gift together.

## Project Day Volunteers Beautify Franklin



More than 100 volunteers from Deloitte, a professional firm which focuses on corporate development, painted several murals around school, planted a half dozen trees, delivered Junior Achievement lessons in every classroom and provided a carnival for the children during their lunch recess on Friday, June 11th.

