This newsletter is produced by FAMILIES FOR FRANKLIN with input from the Title I program and the school's administration and staff.

2009 Buy One Get One Free World Premiere!

“I LAUGHED! I CRIED! I BOUGHT A BOOK AND GOT ONE FREE!”
— Rita Book, Famous Reader & Bargain Shopper

Join us on the red carpet for the PREMIERE of 2009 – A Book Fair Friday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m., prior to the start of our Family Movie Night. Because of the huge success of last fall’s Book Fair, this year’s Buy One Get One Free Fair will be our biggest ever! Have the first pick of this year’s selections!

If you cannot make it to the Premiere, the Book Fair will also be open during regular school hours, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 16 – 20. As always, students will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair with their class.

2009 – A Book Fair coming soon to a Dayton Public Montessori School near you. A Lisa production.

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Family Movie Night

“Beverly Hills Chihuahua”

Friday, March 13

7:00 p.m.—School Gym
Rated PG—Run time: 91 minutes

Join us for a fun-filled family evening on Friday, March 13, as we show the recently released film “Beverly Hills Chihuahua.” Check out the movie rating website, www.kids-in-mind.com, for more information on this movie.

Admission is FREE and concessions will be on sale for 75 cents an item. All students must be accompanied by an adult and supervised throughout the evening.

The doors to the gym will open at 6:30 p.m. for those families wishing to visit the Book Fair prior to the start of the movie. The movie will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Be sure to bring along a sleeping bag, blanket, bean bag, pillow, or lawn chair, since we sit on the floor to watch the movie. Sign in when you arrive to receive your family involvement credit and at the end of the evening, one lucky student will take home the DVD! We look forward to seeing you at the movies!

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At Franklin Montessori School it is our vision that we, the students, will make wise choices and become good citizens so that we can accomplish our goals and reach our highest level of achievement in our global society.
Let’s Get POPPING!

We’re warming up the popcorn machine again this month! March’s Popcorn Day is Friday, March 13! For the week preceding Popcorn Day, students can pre-purchase a bag of popcorn for 50 cents.

Extracurricular Activities

Want to learn more about the various activities and clubs that your child can join at Franklin? Is there something you’d like to see that isn’t currently being offered? Come to the March Families for Franklin meeting to discuss that and other topics.

Monday, March 9, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Childcare and healthy snacks provided
Enter through the Findlay Street doors

Father/Daughter Dance
A Wonderland of Memories

Friday, February 13 was a beautiful winter evening at Franklin Montessori School as Families for Franklin held its annual Father/Daughter Dance. The dance welcomed 252 people, representing 110 families. Dads and daughters, uncles and nieces, grandfathers and granddaughters all danced the night away and enjoyed lots of great snacks and desserts. Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time and each girl had the chance to have a picture taken with her special someone!

Our annual Valentine Dance has become a special tradition at Franklin Montessori. This year’s event was made possible thanks to the volunteer efforts of the following people: Sherry (coordinator), Lisa, Erica, Yolanda, Teneka, Rosa & Del, Donna, and Aliesa. Franklin students Mohamed, Kameron, and Antonio. Special thanks to Alex and Neko for taking the photographs and to the student volunteers from Stivers who served during the dance and helped set up tables. We also appreciate all the families who donated snacks and desserts for this event. Your generosity was amazing! Finally, thanks to everyone who participated. We hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Construction Update

Plans continue to move forward for our new Montessori school just across the river from downtown Dayton/RiverScape. According to John Carr, Chief Construction Officer for DPS, the transfer of property titles between the City of Dayton and DPS should be completed by March 6. Bids are currently being accepted from contractors to demolish the current structures on the site and the district is in the process of obtaining the necessary permits to begin soil stabilization and foundation work. Mr. Carr reported that they have tentatively scheduled the formal groundbreaking for Wednesday, April 29, so be sure to mark your calendars for this exciting event!

While the property acquisition and permit processes are underway, representatives from SFA Architects have been meeting with the staff to begin to understand their needs with respect to interior design, furnishings and equipment needs in the new spaces. SFA has also been working to reconcile the construction budget and hopefully was able to submit the construction design documents by the end of February.

Pat Yourselves on the Back

Families for Franklin runs many fundraisers throughout the year to support the events we sponsor, and also to support other activities around the school. Some of the things FFF has been able to do in the last few months include:

- Send the 3-6 teachers to CPR training
- Buy yarn and needles for the new knitting club
- Buy Montessori association memberships for the staff and send one staff member to a Montessori conference
- Support the custodians by purchasing a new salt spreader
- Provide prizes for the school recycling program contest

Thank you to all the organizers, volunteers and supporters whose minutes, hours, dimes and dollars make this possible!
African Family Night

What is a Montessori education? And how can a public school be a Montessori school? If you don’t know, ask one of the 61 families (182 people!) who came to Family Night: Africa! The Franklin Curriculum Team hosted a wonderful event to showcase aspects of the Montessori curriculum.

The staff set up three stations in the gym where students ran demonstrations of activities from the 3-6, 6-9, and 9-14-year-old classes. The demonstrations focused on the Montessori cultural theme of Africa, and covered topics such as math, geography, biology, and culture. Through these activities, parents could see examples of how the Montessori curriculum teaches skills and lessons at each age level that students can build on when they move to the next level.

A big thanks to Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Hawkins for all their thoughtful planning, and to all of the staff members who attended and prepared the materials at each station. Their hard work and their commitment to Montessori is what sets Franklin apart!

Thanks also to parent volunteers Aliesa and Miles for baking, and to Aliesa, Christina, Robert, Donna, and Teneka for lending a hand during the event.

As a part of the African Family Night, three families won special doors prizes from the country of Swaziland in southeastern Africa. Each family received a hand-carved soapstone animal, a hand-woven basket and a hand-made beaded necklace with a shell pendant. These items were made available to us through our connection with Christian Life Center. CLC has a ministry that supports children and women who have been orphaned/widowed by the HIV/AIDS crisis that is currently plaguing that country. As a part of that ministry CLC sells goods made by local Swazi citizens, with 100% of the sales being returned to the local community to help feed, clothe and educate the children and women.

Title I

Setting Students Up for Success in Reading and Math: A Workshop Series for Parents—Charity Adams Earley (450 Shoup Mill Road); March 11, 2009, 6:30—7:30 p.m.

Following a light dinner, parents and grandparents will be informed and entertained by nationally known consultant, Ann Anzalone. This is the third in a series of three workshops. For parents of PreK—6 students.

What is Discipline Anyway? Practices and Strategies—Franklin Montessori School; March 18, 2009, 12:00 p.m.

Topics include: What is Discipline? Practices and Strategies, The Critical Importance of Routines and Schedule, Corporal Punishment, Pros and Cons / Dos and Don’ts, The Art and Skill of Ignoring

Family Day at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Museum (1100 Spaatz Street) - Saturday, March 21, 2009, 1:00—4:00 p.m.

Join us at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Museum designed for children and adults of all ages. Family Day offers learning opportunities for all to enjoy with hands-on activities, demonstrations, story time and interactive displays. This is a FREE event but there is a small fee for the IMAX Theater.

Although all of these activities are FREE it is required that you register. Call 542-3333 or go online to www.parentinvolvement@dps.k12.oh.us

Spring Fever

K - 7th grade students will be dismissed 2 hours early on Friday, March 27 for spring break. School starts again on Monday, April 13.

Franklin Families
Skate the Scape

Finally, after the postponement in January, on Sunday evening, February 15, 124 people, representing 31 families and staff, joined in on the fun at Skate the Scape. Moms, dads, aunts, teachers, and students took to the ice and snuggled by the fire during this family friendly event. Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Families for Franklin would like to thank Lisa, Miles, Donna and Lorka for helping us coordinate Skate the Scape.

DCDC Performance

The world class Dayton Contemporary Dance Company will perform at Franklin with 6th grade students on Wednesday, March 4 at 12:15 pm. All Franklin families are welcome to attend.

SMILE! Spring Picture Day is Monday, March 23, 2009!
Coach's Corner

Talk to your child about what they are learning in their mathematics lessons. If problem solving, have your child explain what they are doing to achieve an answer.

Here are a few helpful sites,
- www.math.com
- www.coolmath4kids.com

For kids of all ages to have fun with math concepts and math brain teasers.

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Join the Families for Franklin Yahoo! Group

In the past few issues of the Focus, we’ve presented the information on the Families for Franklin Yahoo! Group page. A few families have signed up but it’s not too late if you’d like in on the Group community too!

This group will not only provide a “home” for an archive of past issues of the Franklin Focus, but also a school calendar of all upcoming events with automatic e-mail reminders and a discussion forum for members as well. Have a great idea but can’t make it to our monthly meeting? Have a question but not sure who to ask? Remember reading something in the Focus but can’t find it at home when you need it? The Yahoo! Group is an ideal tool for busy parents who still want to stay involved and informed.

To join, simply fill out the form below and return it to the office. Within a few days you will receive an invitation to join the Group. Once you’re a member, you will have access to the full archive of files and can send and receive messages to the group as you wish. You are in full control of how much, if any, e-mail you receive. The group is a work-in-progress, but we believe it can grow to become an invaluable tool as we move forward.

Still unsure? Sign up and give it a try – you can unsubscribe from the group at any time. Still have questions? Many answers can be found by visiting: http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original

YES! I’d love to join the FFF Yahoo! Group!

Name: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________

Child’s Name: ______________________

Teacher: __________________________

Please return this form to the office

Upcoming Mother / Son Event

We have an exciting Mother-Son event on April 18! In celebration of Earth Week, female caregivers and Franklin Montessori male students can participate in the Earth Day Adopt-a-Park at a Five Rivers MetroPark (to be determined).

The Adopt-a-Park event will take place on April 18 from 9AM-12PM; Each volunteer will receive a T-shirt and a free lunch. MetroParks will also provide gloves, trash bags, and drinking water.

Please provide your information on the slip below, or you can contact Kerensa Hughes at kerniec@aol.com if you are interested in participating in this event. We need your replies ASAP so we can plan accordingly with the MetroPark of our choice.

YES! We’d love to attend the Mother/Son Earth Week Event!

Name: ____________________________

Phone: ___________________________

Email: ____________________________

Child’s Name: ______________________

Teacher: __________________________

Please return this form to the office

"There is no program or policy that can substitute for a mother or father who will attend those parent-teacher conferences, or help with homework after dinner, or turn off the TV, put away the video games, and read to their child. I speak to you not just as a President, but as a father when I say that responsibility for our children’s education must begin at home."

- President Barack Obama, February 24, 2009.
Montessori Moment

In this issue of Franklin Focus, we conclude our review of the 5 Great Lessons of Montessori as we learn about Lesson 5: The Story of Numbers (sometimes called the History of Mathematics). The Story of Numbers emphasizes how human beings needed a language for their inventions to convey measurement and how things were made. This lesson begins with the earliest civilizations, who often only had "one", "two", and "more than two" as their numeric system and continues with a look at different numbering systems throughout the centuries.

The Story of Numbers begins with the Sumerian and Babylonian number systems based on 60, which is the reason for our 60-second minute and sixty-minute hour. It then goes on to introduce Greek, Roman and Chinese numbers. The story then describes how our Arabic numerals are similar to numbers found in a cave in India from 2,000 years ago. These Indian numerals had something that no other number system had - the zero.

From the Story of Numbers children learn that numbers are a useful and necessary part of every day life. Specifically they learn the concepts of:

- **Mathematics**: operations, fractions, decimals, multiples, squares, cubes, percentages, ratio, probability, introduction to algebra
- **Numbers**: origins of numbers and systems, bases, types of numbers, scientific notation, mathematicians
- **Geometry**: congruency, similarity, nomenclature of lines, angles, shapes, solids, measurement, theorems
- **Application**: story problems, measurement, estimation, graphs, patterning, rounding, money concepts

Montessori Quote of the Month:

“**This system in which a child is constantly moving objects with his hands and actively exercising his senses, also takes into account a child's special aptitude for mathematics. When they leave the material, the children very easily reach the point where they wish to write out the operation. They thus carry out an abstract mental operation and acquire a kind of natural and spontaneous inclination for mental calculations.**”

~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Kindergarten Registration and Pre-School Registration Currently Underway

If you or someone you know has a student who will be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2009, it is time for them to register for kindergarten! Franklin Montessori School is a choice option and historically we have had more students request placement here than there are spaces available. If there are not spaces available, the child’s name may be placed on a wait list.

**Kindergarten registration for preschool students currently attending a DPS school began in February; citywide open enrollment for kindergarten began March 2.**

Only a parent or legal guardian may register a student. A legal guardian must present proper documentation (custody given by court or accredited agency).

A parent/guardian must enroll a student who is entering a Dayton Public School for the first time and should bring the following documents to the Student Assignment Office:

1. Child's Birth Certificate/Proof of Birth
2. Child's Shot Records
3. Child's Social Security Number
4. Proof of Address (no older than 60 days)
5. Custody Documentation (if applicable)
6. Child-care Provider's name, address, and phone number (if applicable)

All registration must be completed at the district's Student Assignment Office:

   115 S. Ludlow Street  
   Dayton, Ohio 45402-1812  
   (937) 542-5555

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Applications for the Pre-K (3 & 4 year olds) program are also now being accepted. **Paperwork is to be picked up from and returned to the school office at Franklin Montessori**. The selection process will not be completed until the summer, after the number of Kindergarten placements has been set; however, it is still important to complete the application process immediately. Call the school office for more information: 542-4640.

Please keep in mind that Montessori is a choice option and as such, we expect that parents who enroll their children in the program will move with the Montessori program when we relocate to our new school building just across the river from downtown Dayton during the 2010 school year.
Extra! Extra!
Did you know there is a newspaper specifically for Montessori Public Schools?

Public School Montessorian is published four times a year and contains information on the Montessori education and other public Montessori schools. Individual subscriptions are $20 for 4 issues or $35 for 8 issues and can be obtained by calling Jola Publications at (612) 529-5001. For more information, visit their website at www.jola-montessori.com.

Miss an edition of the Focus? You can view them all online at http://www.dps.k12.oh.us/cms/schoolsites/franklin/fff/ or at the Families for Franklin Yahoo! Group page. The Focus is produced at the beginning of each month.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Living with Mother Earth: Spring Cleaning
Head to Wegerzyn’s MetroPark Saturday, March 7, to learn about earth-friendly alternatives for a clean, spring-fresh home. We’ll discuss products you can buy as well as cleaners you can make and new cleaning techniques. Reservations requested and walk-ins welcome for this FREE program. Call 277-6545 or register online. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Silly Saturday
Saturday, March 21, 2009 from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. at the Main Branch Dayton Public Library (215 E 3rd St).
Get ready for April Fool’s Day with some serious fun at the library! Watch a funny movie, make some crazy crafts, and play some silly games! For kids age 6-12.

St. Patrick’s Day at the Market
Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day at National City 2nd Street Market! Enjoy live Irish music with Arcadian Banshees from 11 AM to 1 PM and Irish dance with Celtic Academy of Irish Dance from 1 PM to 2 PM. Saturday, March 14 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fiction, Fine Art, and Fun!
Featuring The Painter of Battles, by Arturo Perez-Reverte Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. in the Lott Memorial Art Reference Library at the Dayton Art Institute.

Women’s Wellness Night
On Friday, March 20 from 6:00 - 9:30 p.m. at Cox Arboretum, enjoy an informative evening on women’s wellness. Network with other women, learn from programs related to your overall well-being and discover the many meanings of wellness. Registration begins at 5:30 pm. This program is FREE but registration is required. For a full program listing call 937-434-9005 or visit the website www.metroparks.org

Living with Mother Earth: The Future of Food and Eating Local
Members of Miami Valley Grown, an organization of local farmers and food producers will discuss CSA’s (community supported agriculture), local farms, and farmers markets available to conscientious eaters. We'll also have a group discussion on the future of food and will end by cooking some local food in the kitchen. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome for this FREE event. Call 277-6545 or register online. Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Wegerzyn’s MetroPark.