



Ben Franklin Courier



March 2008

Volume 26 Issue 6

Newsletter of the Ben Franklin PTA 2.8.15
12434 NE 60th St., Kirkland, WA 98033

436 members

Christine Muenz & Brenda Jensen, Co-Presidents
Mary Rumpf, Editor

Presidents' Letter

An Invitation!

We know your calendar is full this spring, as it always is for busy parents. Baseball, Softball, and Lacrosse are just getting started. Scouts are selling cookies and ramping up for pinewood derby and other big projects. Musicians are practicing for spring recitals. Sixth Graders are preparing for camp. And as the weather gets warmer those long-overdue projects in the yard and around the house start beckoning to us.

We'd like to add one more fun event to your upcoming calendar. This is one you may never have participated in before. Perhaps you were waiting for an invitation. So here it is!

What: Please join us, your PTA Board, for our Spring General Membership Meeting!

When: We will meet at 6:30, Thursday, April 10.

But come a few minutes early to enjoy homemade treats and chat with Board members before the meeting starts.

Where: Library of Ben Franklin Elementary

At this important meeting we will vote to approve both the budget and the PTA Board for the 2008 – 2009 school year. The nominating committee will post the proposed slate of new officers on March 26. Look for it on our website www.mybenfranklinpta.org and on the PTA bulletin board just inside the front doors of the school. At the meeting we will also hear reports from Principal Cronin and our Teacher representative, Kate Berten. At the conclusion of this meeting you are welcome to stay for our regular Board meeting, which will include updates from all of our Vice Presidents. Please join us; we'd love to have you!

—Christine Muenz and Brenda Jensen

Parent Reminders

March 31– April 4 NO SCHOOL
Spring Break

April 10 PTA General Member-
ship Meeting 6:30 pm, BFr Library

April 14-18 WASL testing

May 5-9 Hopelink Campaign to
End Hunger

May 2-4 WSPTA Annual Conven-
tion, DoubleTree Hotel-Seatac
Airport



Ben Franklin PTA Board

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The *Ben Franklin Courier*, the newsletter of the Ben Franklin Elementary PTA, is published during the academic year to serve the families and the community of Ben Franklin Elementary School.

All are welcome to submit articles, announcements, and photos for publication. Please submit material to Rumpf@DrMyEyes.com by the Wednesday following the monthly PTA Board Meeting.

Look for this newsletter online at www.mybenfranklinpta.org!



Board Meeting Highlights

By Kris LaFramboise, Secretary



MARCH 6, 2008

Guest speaker, Chris Carlson, attended our meeting to open lines of communication. He is the LWSD School Board Representative member and wanted to come to our meeting and introduce himself. Ccarlson@lwsd.org if you wish to contact him. Board meetings are the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

Jim Muenz donated a check for \$778.50 from recent sale of another home. Jog-a-thon is up over the \$34,000 mark.

Summer capital projects that will be completed now to the end of the summer: The sound system in the art room and they enclosure of the west side of the commons with glass doors to cut down disturbances from the gym to the commons.

Autism Awareness Day is April 2nd. Autism month is April.

Kathy scheduled the "Birds and the Bees" May 1st 7:00pm for the parent education class. Parents only.

Last meeting we had a person attend to discuss PACE. Christy recapped the information. Asked that we sign a paper in good faith. The board all support this new fundraiser. We have a chair person for this next year.

Washington State PTA gave us the gold level by increasing the previous year membership 10% by January 25, 2008.

Getting Fit with Physical Education

By Nancy Denney

Spring physical fitness assessments will be held March 19 – 25 in 3rd – 6th grades. Parent volunteers are needed to supervise and encourage students at each station. The traveling gymnastic apparatus unit will be at Franklin March 27th – April 18th. Students are encouraged to wear clothing that allows for flexibility and freedom of movement for those 3 weeks. We would love volunteer spotting help in all PE classes K – 6 during that time. Please email Ms. Denney if you can help out with either event, even if it's only for one class period. Ndenney@lwsd.org

The 2nd Annual Nike 5K for Kids will be held in downtown Seattle on Saturday May 10th. We are hoping for a large Ben Franklin contingent this year. Did you know \$15 of the \$20 registration fee comes back to the Franklin PE program? Last year NIKE donated \$326 to our school. Look for more information and official entry forms to come home soon or you can sign up and check it out online at www.nike5kforkids.com The earned pledge prizes for Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart arrived at school and were distributed this week. Our final fund raising total was \$3007.67. Thank You Ben Franklin Community for helping to fight heart disease and stroke!

Bike-to-School Month will be held during May in conjunction with Cascade Bicycle Club's bike to school and work month. Here is a great website for bicycle and helmet safety from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/> Click on Traffic Safety, then Bicycles and under Videos and Clips Fitting a Helmet and Bike Safe, Bike Smart.

Ben Franklin PTA Account Balances As of 3/10/08

By Mandi McChesney,
Treasurer

Checking \$15,964.13
Savings \$11,170.32
Total \$27,134.45





Countries and regions represented at International Night:

China	Africa
Israel	Japan
Mexico	Sweden
Iran	Brazil
England	Norway
India	Chile
Indonesia	

Fact: Chile is 2,700 miles long.
Fact: Some people really like marmite!

Photo by K.Wobker

International Night Is A Big Success by Julie Peterson

International Night was a resounding success! From delicious food samples to crafts to fantastic multicultural performances - there was something for everyone! We had over 300 Franklin family members in attendance and we cannot say enough thank-you's to all the parents, children, teachers and community members who worked so hard to make this wonderful event happen!

THANKS TO: ...Our MC's Mary Cronin and Dillon Fornia.

...Our fantastic teachers headed up by Kristen Wobker. You did a fantastic job with decorations, projects, and activities! Thank you Kate Berten, Jessie Shelley, Kathy Sanchez, Lael Tarr, Leann Clawson, Barb McElfish, Carrie Jamison, Nancy Denney, Joy Brooke, Natalya Freimanis, Jennifer Maxfield, Andrea Clemons, Jamie Warner, Kate Budahl, and Kristen Wobker!

...Our co-chairs for the event Susi McDermott and Qiuyan Xue.



Photo by K.Wobker

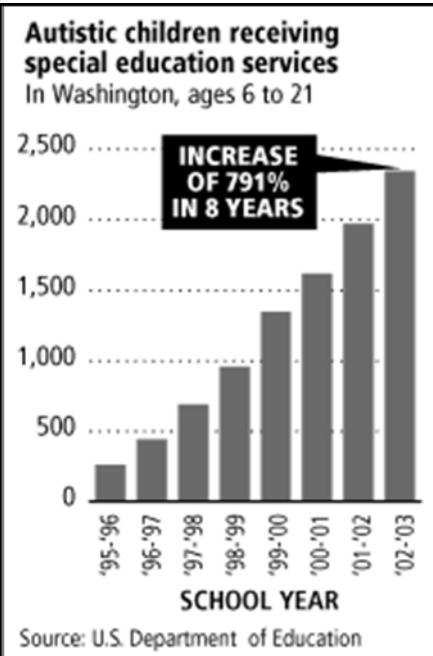
...Our wonderful Franklin parents and kids who represented their cultural heritage, performed, or helped in many, many other ways: Elly Budidjaja, William Clawson, Max Peterson, Natalie Peterson, Stephanie Stackhouse, Bruce Evans, Meera Srinivasan, Sonia Jara-Reyes, Cindy Small, John Perlic, Lucia White, Lilian Blanchard, Donna Harrison, Susan Saghari, Mehri Kaufman, Diana Shaw, Yuh Iwasaki, Priyanke Sawale, Lile Ellefson, Tracy Harsvik, and Janell Gregson.

Please forgive me if I have left anyone out - even if we didn't get your name we appreciated your efforts!



Increasing AUTISM Awareness by Sally Vilardi

The United Nations General Assembly, by unanimous consent, passed the resolution of the Third Committee designating **April 2nd** as **World Autism Awareness Day** in perpetuity starting in 2008. This is a huge step toward global awareness. I'd like to personally thank the staff at Ben Franklin for the amazing team work, thought and care they put into setting children up for success. Kind regards, Sally J. Vilardi



Autism Background *

Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Today, 1 in 166 individuals is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls. Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or following very specific routines. Symptoms can range from very mild to quite severe. Autism Spectrum Disorders include autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD), and Rett's Syndrome. Early diagnosis and intervention are extremely important to reduce some of the challenges associated with this disorder.

We have seen a 20-30% year-over-year growth in autism cases over the last decade. The average lifetime cost of treatment and care

Autism Information Resources:

Sites with information and resources for autism spectrum disorders:

Autismspeaks.org Feat.org
Cureautismnow.org

Nfar.org Autism-society.org
Autismtreatmentnetwork.org

Talkautism.com

The need for autism-related services in Washington is increasing.

is \$2-4 million per individual.

Early intervention treatments are effective but time-consuming, extremely expensive, and in very short supply.

To find out more about autism, please visit the informational sites listed in the box.

* Information from *Autism Speaks* and *Teachtown*.



Big Profits for Pets

Proceeds from the Big Garage and Bake Sale held March 7th and 8th at Franklin Elementary: \$1800 from the garage sale, \$200 from the bake sale, \$100 in direct contributions to pets.

The money is going to Meow Cat Rescue and Pasado's Safe Haven. Fourth graders visited Meow last week to see where their donations were going. Great work fourth graders, teacher Carrie Webster, lead parent Julie Peterson, and all the other parents and kids who helped!



Diamond For Sale

"Diamond Heights," the trainboard in Mr. Condon's classroom, is going on sale the first week in June. More information about the sale can be found under events on the following web site:

lakewashingtonhamclub.org

