



# BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCHOOL NO. 13

2024-2025 NEWSLETTER - VOLUME 1

## A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL STEWART



### WELCOME TO ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR

We have started our 2024-2025 school year. We started the year off with “Back to School Night” where parents had an opportunity to meet with the faculty and staff. We celebrated Fall with multiple activities: Fall Harvest and Trunk or Treat to boost school spirit and celebrate the beginning of a new school year. Thank you to our families for your commitment to partnering with Benjamin Franklin School #13. During Marking Period 1 we established classroom and building rules. Students have built positive relationships with team members throughout the school. Children will continue to build new skills daily, please encourage these at home as well. Expectations have been shared and we have started off to a great year.

Let's continue to focus on our academic goals, which are:

- Attending school daily
- Increasing ELA and Math Grades
- Increasing Benchmark Scores
- Increasing NJSLA Scores
- Continue to check your child's grades weekly and speak with your child's teacher regarding their grades.

Now that we are in Marking Period 2 (MP2) we will begin preparing for testing:

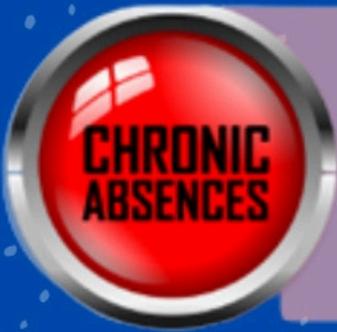
- ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners) assessment for our Multilingual Learners (Bilingual/ELL students)
- NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment) for all 3rd-8th grade students.

The winter months are filled with wonderful celebrations and activities. In December, we look forward to selecting our National Junior Honor Society students. Our National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be an exciting event in January. In addition, we are looking forward to our Holiday Activities that will take place in December.

Let's continue having a great school year!

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

With the first Marking Period already in the books, every minute of every day counts!



## 18 OR MORE DAYS

- Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.
- Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to 18 days in a year. Absences add up before you even know it.



## 10 TO 17 DAYS

- Students who are absent an average of 15 days a year miss a year's worth of school before their senior year.
- When students miss a day of school it actually puts them two days behind their classmates.



## 9 OR FEWER ABSENCES

- Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Children benefit and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time.

Keep up with your child's attendance through PowerSchool. If you need any assistance with PowerSchool, attendance, doctor's notes, etc., please contact the main office at (908) 436-5700.





# HISPA

## PRESENTATIONS

Our middle school students had their first two HISPA presentations of the year. HISPA (Hispanics Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement) is a non-profit organization that mobilizes Hispanic professionals by providing educational opportunities for student to learn about various career paths.



2024-2025



In October, we held our Student Council elections for grades 5-8. Nominees were responsible for giving speeches to peers that highlighted their leadership qualities and their plans for fostering kindness, compassion, and respect in our building. Middle school students then voted and elected the following 2024-2025 Student Council:

**Averi Suero**  
PRESIDENT

**Morgan Johnson**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Graciela Rivera**  
SECRETARY

**Samantha Zarama**  
TREASURER

**Sierra Songalia**  
Class Representative

**Antonio Luna**  
Class Representative

**Jayden Hood**  
Class Representative

**Tiana Lee**  
Class Representative

**Mayerly Montenegro**  
Class Representative

**Evangeleen Mercado**  
Class Representative

# ALL THE FALL THINGS

## Fall Harvest Festival

The fall harvest festival got everyone in the fall spirit! Students enjoyed their time outside, playing games with teachers, family members, and friends. Games included scooter races, hula-hoops, corn hole, bag toss, and an intense game of musical chairs. Thank you to all the family volunteers who helped make it a memorable event!



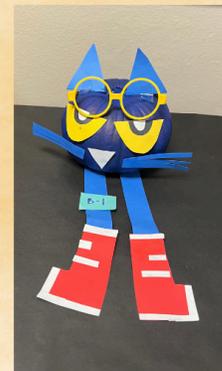
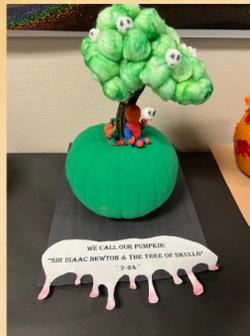
## Character Parade & Trunk-or-Treat

Students and staff had a blast dressing up for our Character Parade and Trunk-or-Treat! Thank you to all family and staff volunteers who decorated their cars, donated candy, and helped distribute on the day.



# PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

Our Second Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest was a hit! Each homeroom decorated a pumpkin and the results were incredible:



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED!

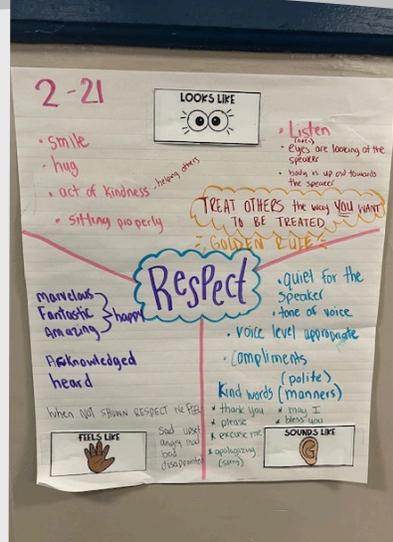


# The Bound for Greatness Mentoring Program

The lead host of the celebrity Bound For Greatness Mentoring Program is Duane West, America's leading nationally acclaimed celebrity youth motivator, over 33 years of success in schools and over 25 years of success on national television (NBC TV).



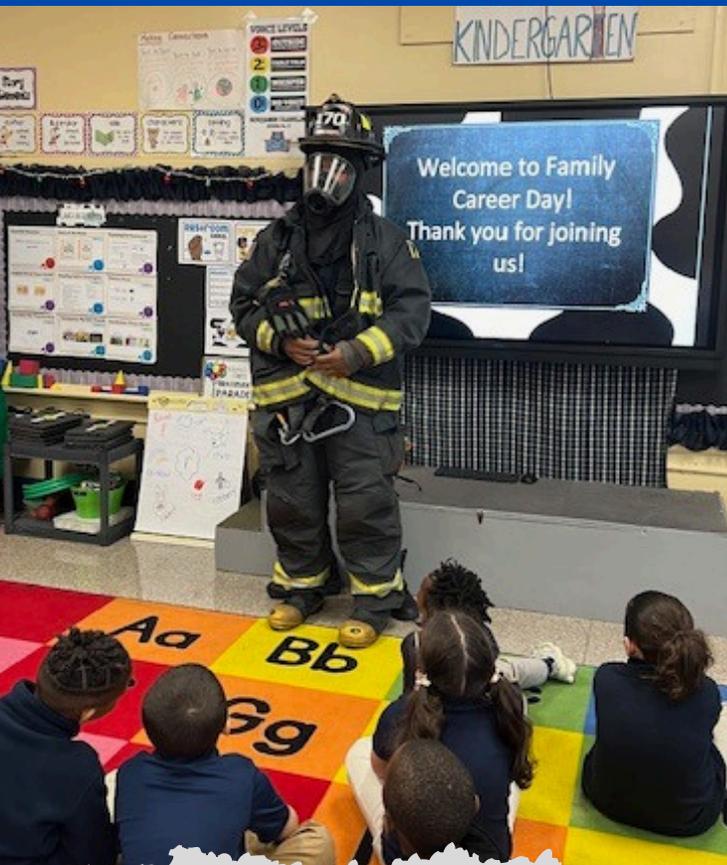
Mr. West uses the power of our celebrity status to steer children towards productive roles in school, life, their homes and the community. We encourage students to make good choices and decisions. Most importantly, we help students understand the importance of education and the significance of excelling academically. Our celebrity mentors inspire students to dream big, aim high, set goals and respect themselves and others.



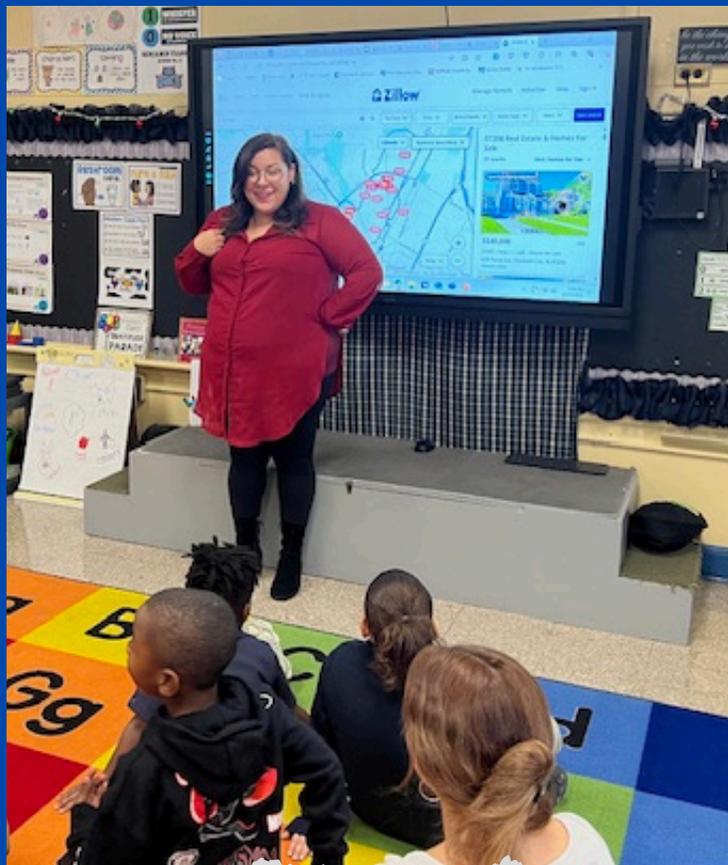
# WEEK OF RESPECT

This year's Week of Respect was a blast! Students had meaningful discussions about what respect is and how we can honor and respect ourselves, others and our school. They also engaged in a series of activities that promoted unity, diversity and acceptance of others. Our School Counselor Ms. Simpson and our School Social Worker Mr. Lopez were able to meet with all classes to discuss how to define, report, and help stop bullying. We ended the week with our Respect March and Pledge Signing, to uphold the standards of kindness, compassion, and respect in our building.

# FAMILY CAREER DAY



**Firefighter Latimore: Parent of Bryson Latimore in room K-001. Discussed the primary duties of firefighters includes extinguishing fires, conducting search and rescue operations, providing emergency medical care, and educating students about fire safety and prevention.**



**Mrs. Taveres Parent of Daviel Rodriguez in K-001 is a realtor. A professional who helps people buy, sell, or rent properties such as houses, apartments, or commercial buildings. Being a realtor involves many responsibilities, and it's a job that combines business skills with personal interaction.**



# A TIME FOR GRATITUDE

Read the passage below to learn why Thanksgiving is a gratitude in the United States.



Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of every November, and is one of the most cherished holidays in the United States. But, have you ever wondered what Thanksgiving is really about? It's more than just taking a day off from school or having a feast of delicious food. Thanksgiving is a holiday when people pause and reflect on what they are thankful for. It's a time when family and friends show gratitude.

Gratitude is a powerful emotion that not only makes us feel happier but also strengthens our relationships with others. When we practice gratitude, we shift our attention away from negative thoughts and emotions, and instead, we acknowledge and cherish the good things around us.



Expressing gratitude is not only beneficial to ourselves but also to those around us. When we show appreciation to others, it strengthens our relationships and creates a sense of connection. People feel valued and encouraged when they receive heartfelt thanks. This cycle of gratitude can have a ripple effect, spreading positivity and improving the overall well-being of a community.

There are so many ways you can practice gratitude in your life. One simple way is to keep a gratitude journal. Each day, write down three things you are grateful for. It could be something as small as a beautiful sunset or a kind gesture from a friend. By writing them down, you reinforce the positive experiences and train your mind to focus on the good things. We can also practice gratitude by giving back to our community. Volunteer at a local shelter, donate to a charity, or lend a helping hand to someone in need. These actions remind us of the privileges we have and how we can make a difference in the lives of others.

How will you show your gratitude this Thanksgiving?



# DECEMBER

DECEMBER 2024

## Upcoming Events

### December 4th

Perfect Attendance Celebration at 9am in the Gymnasium, Celebrate students who had perfect attendance for the month of November.

### December 4th

Winter Dance December 4th (Grades K-4) 3-3:45pm and (Grades 5-8) 4-4:45pm

### December 11th

Winter Craft Activity All students 3-5:00pm (first come, first serve)

### December 12th

Movie Night December 12th (grades 3-5) 3:00-5:00pm

### December 13th

Students dismissed at 12:15pm for staff PD December 13th

### December 18th

Winter Concert December 18th 9am

**Candy Gram Sale** Throughout the month of December 8:00-3:00pm Guidance Office. School Wide Fundraiser

## Second Marking Period

Starts: November 18th

Progress Reports: January 3rd

Ends: February 3rd

Report cards on Powerschool: February 11th

**Dec. 23 - Jan. 3:**

**WINTER Break!**

