



# BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BUZZ

## FEBRUARY 2024



### A Message from Mr. Craft & Mr. Valente

### BF Upcoming Events

Hello Benjamin Franklin Families:

It is hard to believe we have reached the halfway point of the 2023-2024 school year. As always, we are very busy bees here at Benjamin Franklin. Our students come to school eager to learn and give us their very best every day. We are so proud of them!

This month, our classes will be participating in activities and learning about prominent figures from the past and present during Black History Month. Classroom and special area teachers have planned engaging lessons to celebrate the contributions of Black leaders, innovators, and difference makers in American history.

In collaboration with our PBIS, Site-Based, and Equity for All Committees, we work closely with teachers to facilitate assemblies, programs, and lessons to support our BF ROCKS Positive Behavior Expectations. Our words and actions matter, and we hold all students accountable to these expectations to ensure we maintain a safe and positive learning environment. Through daily morning meetings, lessons on social-emotional learning, and our Second Step education program, we consistently reinforce the importance of kindness, empathy, and appropriate social interactions at Benjamin Franklin. On a daily basis, we ask all our students to "Be the Nice Kid" and remind them words can and do hurt. As always, Mr. Valente and I appreciate your support in reinforcing this message at home with your child(ren), which supports our efforts at school. Together, we will continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students.

One School One Book is coming this spring! Our OSOB committee has rescheduled the start date of the book so it will be completed in May, just in time to have our Multicultural Night with the Arts as the culminating celebration. At school, we look forward to sharing this wonderful story with our students and are designing fun, engaging activities for Benjamin Franklin families to enjoy at home. We can't wait to share the title with you at the "Kick-Off" in early April.

Thank you BFPTA! Our PTA continues to support our school and we would like to thank them for all the exciting activities and events they provide the school community. As always, our PTA goes above and beyond. Please consider volunteering some of your time with the PTA to support the fundraising and event planning efforts which benefits all students.

Kind regards,  
Mr. Craft & Mr. Valente



**Black  
History  
Month**

HELLO  
*February*

Districtwide Kindergarten/UPK Registration Begins -  
Go to the Lakeland Central School District website  
[www.lakelandcentralschools.org](http://www.lakelandcentralschools.org)  
to register your child for the 24/25 school year.

- Feb. 1st - Kindergarten/Pre-K Registration begins
- Feb. 2nd - Interim Report Cards - All Students
- Feb. 2nd - PTA Tall & Small Ball - Grades 3-5 - 6:30 pm
- Feb. 7th - Feeding Westchester - 3:15 pm @ JV Mall
- Feb. 15th - Board of Ed. Meeting - 7:00 pm @ LT
- Feb. 19th - 23rd - Winter Recess - School Closed

Looking Ahead for March... 

In March we celebrate:

Nutrition Month  
Music in Our Schools  
Women's History Month

- Mar. 6th - Feeding Westchester
- Mar. 18th - PTA Meeting - 6:30 pm
- Mar. 21st - Board of Ed. Meeting - 7:00 pm @ VCES
- Mar. 28th - Superintendents Conf. Day - No Students
- March 29th - April 5th - Spring Recess



Benjamin Franklin Elementary School  
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# PBIS Updates

In the first half of the school year, our PBIS team constructed assemblies, midmonth checkins, and classroom lessons centered around our BF ROCKS expectations. While we will continue to reinforce those expectations through the second half of the school year, students will now learn character education themes that are in our Second Step lessons with Mrs. Weinbaum. In January, we highlighted the importance of Empathy and Compassion here at Benjamin Franklin. Our classes showcased themes around Empathy and Compassion, and students around Benjamin Franklin continue to do a wonderful job showcasing our monthly Buzzwords.



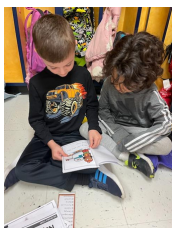
## Districtwide Registration Kindergarten/Universal Pre-K 2024-2025

[Student Online Registration Information](http://www.lakelandschools.org)  
for the  
2024-2025 School Year  
[www.lakelandschools.org](http://www.lakelandschools.org)

If you do not have access to a computer or are unable to complete the online process, please contact the school building registrar. A paper copy of the registration packet can be picked up in the Ben Franklin main office.

## January 2024 Happenings

A picture is worth a thousand words



# Nurse's Corner



Donna Malia - [dmalia@lakelandschools.org](mailto:dmalia@lakelandschools.org)

To report an absence call 914-603-9805

Happy Winter!

Children learn best when they are well and in school. You should not send your child to school if they have flu-like symptoms, fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea in the past 24 hours. Students should stay home for at least 24 hours after they are without symptoms and fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication. Refer to the Lakeland Home page under LCSO Health Office for current information regarding absences and Covid protocols.

If your child will be absent from school please call the Health Office here at BFES to report the absence before 8:45 AM. Absences should be called in daily. Be sure to remember to send a **HANDWRITTEN ABSENCE NOTE** with your child when they return to school along with any medical documentation if the absence was due to an injury or illness requiring medical care.

Please be mindful of the temperature outside. Every attempt is made to have outdoor recess! This is an important time to get exercise, fresh air and have some needed playtime. Students are generally outside for 20 minutes so hats, gloves and warm winter jackets are essential. Make sure your child is prepared with warm outerwear. Label all outerwear items.

For parents of 5th graders: Please keep in mind that students need the TDaP vaccine prior to entering 6th grade or within 14 days of their 11th birthday if they turn 11 after school starts. As your children receive their physicals this year, please send documentation of this vaccine into the Health Office.



## Spread the Love

Random Act of Kindness Week kicks off on February 11th and Friday the 17th is Random Act of Kindness Day. As the name implies, these occasions honor and encourage spontaneous acts designed to spread kindness and positivity. Your acts of kindness don't need to be large, dramatic, clever, or costly gestures to make a difference. And they don't need to be confined to a single day or week. Why not make daily, weekly, or monthly random acts of kindness a habit in your life? It will enhance your overall wellbeing. Generosity releases good chemicals like oxytocin, serotonin, and endorphins, which help to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. Unexpected kindness offers feel-good benefits for both the doer and the recipient.

Here are some simple ideas for brightening someone's day with the unexpected:

- Write a note of appreciation to a different work colleague every day for the week.
- Bring flowers to an elderly neighbor.
- Pay for coffee, gas, groceries, or a movie ticket for a stranger behind you in line.
- Donate blood or sign up as an organ donor.
- Leave a small treat, a thank you note, or a few dollars for your mail carrier, bus driver, or other service person.
- Send a care package to a service member on active duty.
- Bring freshly baked goods or fresh flowers to share in the workplace.
- Participate in a community fundraiser by walking, running, or biking.
- Volunteer to help cook or serve dinner at a community pantry.
- Buy school supplies for a classroom or a teacher.
- Spend time with someone who recently suffered a loss.
- Bring coupons you aren't using to the store. Leave them near the products so others can find them.
- In cold weather, buy warm gloves, hats, and socks to give to homeless people or shelters.