

Good evening Franklin Families,

We are so proud to report that our middle school has been recognized by the Florida Department of Education as a **School of Excellence**. This is based on our school's percentage of possible points earned in the school grade calculation. We hope to earn the same recognition once our high school is complete.

As you know by now, the first Thursday of every month is Character/Diversity Day. This month, we are looking at "Citizenship" and recognizing American Indian Heritage month. Citizenship is about doing your share to make your school and community better. It means cooperating and getting involved in community affairs. It means that you have a responsibility to stay informed; to vote; to be a good neighbor; to obey laws and rules; to respect authority; protect the environment and volunteer. National American Indian Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the accomplishments of the peoples who were the original inhabitants, explorers and settlers of the United States. The origin of American Indian Heritage Month is as follows:

On Dec. 14, 1915, Red Fox James, a Blackfeet Indian, presented at the White House endorsements from 24 state governments for a day to honor Indians. But the federal government didn't take action until 1983, when President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 13 as American Indian Day. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month. It is now called National Native American Heritage Month.

We have two fundraisers per month to teach students global awareness and encourage character development. Last month through Socktober, we raised enough funds to provide 3 amputees with legs! What a proud moment for all of us! Thank you! We also had a dress down day for Cancer Awareness. This month, our schools fundraising goals include Yankee Candle which will support the athletic department and Dress in Orange for the Gobble Giving organization (see flyers attached). Our Key Club is also working with Baskets of Hope and collecting the following items to include in food baskets for thanksgiving to help the families in our community have a thanksgiving meal from November 1st to the 9th. Please have your students bring these items to the main office or bring them with you to our next Parent Academy. Specifically, we are looking for: Canned corn, cream of corn, green beans, corn bread mix, apples, cranberry jelly, mash potatoes, Mac and cheese mix, stuffing, and anything you think our fellow citizens can use for the thanksgiving meal. Key club members will meet November 11 to make the basket and they will get service hours for their graduation requirement. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Damonte at [damonte.avelina@franklin-academy.org](mailto:damonte.avelina@franklin-academy.org). Please show your students how to be good citizens by participating in these events. Do some of your holiday shopping, fill a basket, dress down for gobble giving and show your child what it means to be globally aware!

Next Wednesday night, November 8<sup>th</sup>, is our Parent Academy where our IB Coordinator Mrs. Ruiz-Houston will continue explaining the goals and benefits of an IB Curriculum. What exactly does IB mean to you? These evenings are so important for parents to attend. Our students are 21<sup>st</sup> century learners with highly different needs. Colleges admissions are more competitive. Please make these evenings a priority at home. When you attend these evenings, students also see that you prioritize school. They will in turn do the same thing. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Franklin Academy now has around 21 sports programs for middle and High school girls and boys and we are growing. If anyone is a certified athletic trainer or knows someone who is in school and available to

volunteer, intern or work as an athletic trainer please contact Coach Amadeo at [Amadeo.alex@franklin-academy.org](mailto:Amadeo.alex@franklin-academy.org) or coach Flores @ [flores.michelle@franklin-academy.org](mailto:flores.michelle@franklin-academy.org) The internship would include:

1. Being available in case of injury
2. Wrapping and icing athletes before and after games
3. Educating and informing athletes in the areas of sports medicine
4. Our Athletic Trainer would play a significant role in the management, prevention, recognition and rehabilitation of our athletes.

Now that benchmark testing is over, we will have a busy upcoming week with our Scholastic Book Fair running all next week from 7:15am—4:15pm. On Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the **book fair** will be open from 5:00pm-6:30pm for parents/guardians/grandparents to shop. There will also be an online **book fair** from Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>-Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Please check the school's website for more information. Flyers about the **bookfair** were sent home this past Tuesday. Checks and Debit/Credit Cards will only be accepted for purchases. NO CASH, PLEASE! For more information, please feel free to contact Mrs. Mayhew in the media center at [Mayhew.sheila@franklin-academy.org](mailto:Mayhew.sheila@franklin-academy.org).

Attached is the calendar for November for your convenience. Please note, we will also have FoxMar on campus, Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for makeup photos.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arlene H. Valdes

Principal

Franklin Academy