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Dear Parents,

Our "Cute Quote of the Week" was overheard by one of our awesome sixth graders: "I like this school so much, I wish I could live here."

BFF Social with Principal Barber Tomorrow

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) will be hosting a Ben Franklin Friends (BFF) Social from **8:45-9:45 a.m., TOMORROW, Friday, Feb. 10, in the Ben Franklin Academy Library**. The Baking Committee will provide snacks, so bring your favorite early morning beverage and join other Ben Franklin Academy parents for the social. Principal Barber and Ben Franklin Academy board members Jason Sanders and Becky Mullen will be on hand to answer questions.

The PAC's BFF Social is intended for parents to meet one another, ask policy questions, and voice feedback about their experiences at Ben Franklin Academy. Hope you can join us - children are welcome! Email the [PAC](#) with any questions.

Car Pool Reminders

Please make sure that you put your car in park while you are in the car pool lane for afternoon pickup. It is much safer to have your car in park while you are waiting for the "all clear sign," letting you know it is safe to leave. I have noticed a few cars that start rolling, and this makes me very nervous.

Also, once you have everyone in your car, please take down

Barber:
Feb. 10
Parents'/Kids' Night Out:
Feb. 11
Yearbook Orders Due:
Feb. 15
Dress of Choice Day:
Feb. 16
Jump Rope for Heart:
Feb. 15-16
Teacher In-Service Day (no
school for students):

Feb. 17
Presidents' Day (no school):
Feb. 20
Lunch Orders Due:
Feb. 21
Hearing/Vision Testing:
Feb. 21-22
Staff Appreciation Week:
Feb. 21-24
Formal Uniform Day:
March 7
Doodle 4 Google Entries
Due:
March 10
Parent-Teacher Conferences:

March 13 and March 15
The BENefit Bash:
May 5

Ben Franklin Academy

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Attendance: (720) 432-9239
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attendance@bfacademy.org
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your car pool number placard. This notifies us that you are ready to go and not missing anyone in your car.

Lastly, we have noticed an increase in the number of cars trying to cut in front of the car pool line by entering through the main entrance during morning and afternoon car pool. Please enter the property via the west entrance, and proceed through the designated car pool line. It is not fair for the parents who are waiting patiently in line and a car bypasses the system we have set in place.

Parent Survey

The parent survey is currently underway. The School Accountability Committee (SAC) invites each family to complete one survey per family, even if you have multiple children attending Ben Franklin Academy. The survey should take five to 10 minutes to complete. **Please complete the survey by Friday, Feb. 24.**

The purpose of the SAC is to ensure that Ben Franklin Academy meets or exceeds the annual goals set for the school by its Board of Directors. This survey was developed by the SAC and will provide the committee with valuable feedback on our parents' perception of the first year of operation. The information obtained from this survey will be compiled and presented to the board at a later date, which will be announced on the Ben Franklin Academy website.

You may access the survey via the school [website](#) or directly by clicking [here](#). Thank you for your participation and valuable input!

Third Grade TCAP (Formerly Called CSAP)

Third graders will take the reading TCAP (Transitional Colorado Assessment Program) next **Wednesday, Feb. 15, and Thursday, Feb. 16.** You should receive information from your child's homeroom teacher regarding the test. Please take a moment to talk to your child about the test and reassure them. We don't want the kids to be nervous or experience test anxiety. This is a chance for them to show how smart they are and what they have learned. Simply tell them to do their best and have fun taking the test. I do not want kids to fear the tests or be anxious

about them.

Lunch Update: Order Deadline, Snow Day, and Beverage Options/New Beverage Products

March Lunch Orders Deadline

March Lunch On The Go, pizza, and beverage orders are due **Tuesday, Feb. 21**.

Pizza + Snow Day = Playground

For those families who purchased pizza and milk for last Friday, Feb. 3 (snow day), we are putting the funds toward the purchase of new playground equipment. At this time, we are unable to give credit or refunds for pizza/milk purchases, so we felt this would be the best use for these proceeds. Thank you for your support.

Beverage Options at Lunch, New Beverage Products, and Friday-Only Beverage Orders Available

Beginning **March 1**, we will allow students to choose their beverage for lunch each day. We also are adding small bottles of water for purchase. This will not change how you order milk/water, we will just have more options for the students in the lunchroom.

Each day, students will choose from white milk, chocolate milk, or water. **If you have already placed your order for the month or semester, there is nothing you need to do - just be aware your child will be choosing his/her beverage at lunch.** Please discuss with your child what you would recommend they pick for a drink, as the volunteers will not be responsible for what your child chooses. In addition, we will be unable to issue refunds for sickness, field trips, or weather at this time.

Students will still receive their beverage product at their table by our wonderful volunteers. Fifth and sixth graders who are sitting at other tables will need to get their beverage from their original table - volunteers will not be able to look for those students.

Lastly, we have opened up the window to order milk/water for Fridays only. **Don't forget:** The same March lunch

deadline - Tuesday, Feb. 21 - applies.

For more information or links to order lunch/beverages, please click [here](#).

Reminder: Upcoming Holidays

This is a reminder that there is **no school for students on Friday, Feb. 17** (teacher in-service day), and there is **no school on Monday, Feb. 20**, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Before and After School Enrichment (BASE)

Did you know Ben Franklin Academy offers a before and after school care program? It is available for all Ben Franklin Academy students and their parents who need to drop off children early or pick up later in the day. Students can be dropped off as early as 6:45 a.m. and picked up as late as 6 p.m. You can find out more information about the program and purchase a BASE card by going to the Ben Franklin Academy [website](#).

Parents' (and Kids'!) Night Out This Saturday!

Spaces are filling up for our Parents' Night Out and Kids' Kickback Night at 5280 Sports this **Saturday, Feb. 11**. Ben Franklin Academy kids can play games, eat pizza, and watch a movie together while you get some time alone. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Yearbook Orders and Dedications

Don't miss out on the first edition Ben Franklin Academy Yearbook! Order your yearbooks via the Ben Franklin Academy [online store](#) or by filling out the [attached form](#), which you can turn into the office or your child's teacher. **The deadline for ordering yearbooks is this Wednesday, Feb. 15.** No extra yearbooks will be ordered.

In addition, we are offering dedications for \$10. Write a special note to your child, which will be printed in the yearbook at his/her grade level. Family dedications also can be purchased and will be published in their own section. If you have any questions or want to verify if you purchased a

yearbook, email the [Yearbook Committee](#).

Hearing/Vision Testing

Hearing/Vision Testing

Each year, Douglas County Schools conduct vision and hearing screening for all students in the state-mandated grade levels K-3, 5, 7, and 9, as well as new students to the district and students in other grades with untreated visual concerns. Ben Franklin Academy is currently scheduled for these screenings on **Tuesday, Feb. 21**, and **Wednesday, Feb. 22**. Please read the [attached letter](#) for more details.

Staff Appreciation Week

It's time for Staff Appreciation Week! It will be held from **Tuesday, Feb. 21, to Friday, Feb. 24**. For more information, click [here](#).

The BENefit Bash

Each week, we will highlight local businesses that have agreed to support the school with generous donations for our upcoming **BENefit Bash** on **Saturday, May 5**. We would like to thank **South Suburban Country Club** for their family swim and tennis membership donation and **The Trout Sniper** for donating a guided fly fishing trip.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is looking for additional donations for **The BENefit Bash**. Do you have a business or know someone who would like to donate? If so, please click [here](#) for more information.

The Silent Auction Committee meeting is at **6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23**. Click [here](#) for details of upcoming meetings and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held after school on **Tuesday, March 13**, and **Thursday, March 15**. More details will be available in upcoming newsletters.

Chess Club and Sign Language Class

Ben Franklin Academy will be offering a chess club and sign language class in the near future. Upcoming newsletters will include additional details.

Read All About It: PTO Newsletter

The PTO will be publishing a newsletter four times a year where you can find information about upcoming events, possible volunteer opportunities, and how you can get involved. You can obtain an electronic copy [here](#).

Sincerely,

Bob Barber
Principal
Ben Franklin Academy

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