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BEN FRANKLIN
ACADEMY

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
INDIVIDUAL FOCUS
BALANCE

**September 2011 Vol.
1, Iss. 20**

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Important Dates

School Pictures/October

Lunch Order Deadline:

Sept. 21

Dress of Choice Day/

6th Grade Social:

Sept. 23

Family Movie Night:

Sept. 30

Ben Franklin Academy

Address: 2270 Plaza Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Main Office/Attendance:

(720) 383-4519

Dear Parents,

Week two is almost in the books, and school is going great at Ben Franklin Academy. It was wonderful seeing everyone at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and the Back to School Night presentations. Each morning, I see numerous smiling kids getting out of their cars as they proceed to their classrooms. Many of them tell me, "I really like this school." I cannot explain what a fantastic feeling I receive from hearing those comments. The kids genuinely enjoy coming to school and that makes such a difference with their education.

Car Pool

Car pool times are greatly improving. The afternoon pickup takes about 36 minutes now. Thank you to everyone for your patience as we adjust our procedures - the adjustments have paid off. As we fine-tune the process, other small items come to light.

- For all of the kids' safety, please put your car in park when you pull forward in the pickup lanes. One small slip off the brake can lead to serious consequences.
- **Please, please, please** do not park on Plaza Drive - it simply is not safe. The police have told us they may ticket cars that park or pull over on Plaza. While I do not want anyone to receive a ticket, I **really** do not want anyone risking the chance of hurting a child simply to save a couple of minutes by not going through the car pool line.

Main Email:

info@bfacademy.org

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(303) 974-1738

- There are cars that need to proceed through the front driveway entrance during car pool time - they are not cutting in line. We have given those parents yellow number placards so you can easily identify them.

Snow (yes, I said it) will be coming soon. The same procedures we currently use for pickup will remain in effect when it snows. Please be advised that car pool will take longer on these days. Be patient and know we are diligently working to get you through car pool as quickly and safely as possible.

Afternoon Kindergarten Drop-Off

The afternoon kindergarten drop-off time is **12:20 p.m., not noon (12 p.m.)**. Please adjust your drop-off time accordingly.

Early Pickup of Students

If you need to pick up your student early from school for an appointment, **please do so before 3 p.m.** Waiting until after 3 p.m. interferes with car pool and can slow down the process. If possible, please give the office advance notice that you will be picking up your child early (the day before would be ideal).

Reserved Parking Spots

Families at the silent auction in May purchased four reserved parking spaces. These four spaces are just south of the disabled parking and are marked with the word "Reserved" in red on the curb. Please do not park in these spots, as families did purchase the right to park there. The parking spaces will be available to bid on again at the next silent auction.

Recess/Field

The field will be officially ready for kids - providing them more space to play - beginning Monday. We needed the

extra time to ensure the sod was adequately established, and we are reducing the watering times this weekend, so it should be all set on Monday. In addition, the basketball backboards/hoops have arrived and will be installed soon. We also are working on adding more playground equipment, especially swings. All of these steps will increase the play area and offer the kids more things to do during recess.

Safety: First Fire Drill

We will conduct a safety drill once a month, and our first fire drill is scheduled for next week. All students will be notified in advance of the drill with the hopes of not scaring any students. During a fire drill, I monitor how long it takes to get all of the students out of the building and to their assigned meeting place. In the future, we will practice other types of drills, including lock down drills and tornado drills.

Picture Day

Picture Day is **Wednesday, Sept. 21**. Please make sure your child looks extra good that day. (I know that will be difficult since they already look so good!) Students should be dressed in their uniforms, but they do not need to wear their formal uniform unless they choose to do so. Please no sweatshirts or hoodies on Picture Day. Also, if you need an additional photo order form, you are welcome to pick up one in the front office.

Reminder: October Lunch Order Deadline

Don't forget that the deadline to order lunches, pizza, and milk for the month of October is **Wednesday, Sept. 21**. To order lunch, go to [Lunch On The Go](#). To order pizza and/or milk, go to the [BFA Store](#).

Sixth Grade Social

Ben Franklin Academy sixth graders and their families are invited to attend the Sixth Grade Social from **6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 23, at the Chatfield Corn Maze**. The cost is \$5

per person. Bring a dessert or appetizer to share and meet other families at the event gazebo. (All children must be accompanied by an adult, but the entire family is invited.) For more information, please read the enclosed [flyer](#).

STEM Expo

The first Ben Franklin Academy STEM Expo will be held from **1-5 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30, in the gym**. An incredible amount of planning has gone into this event - thank you to the STEM committee and the volunteers who have helped set it up. There will be more than 25 booths representing various aspects of the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. Students will visit the STEM Expo with their classes during the day, and everyone is invited to visit it after school is dismissed. We hope to see you there!

Spirit Wear

Wondering what size of Spirit Wear to order for your child? The sizes of the T-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies are as follows:

- Youth sizes: Small (6-7), Medium (8-10), Large (12-14), and XL (16-18)
- Adult sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XL, and XXL

For more information or to order Spirit Wear, go to the [BFA Store](#). According to the school's [Uniform Policy](#), students may wear Spirit Wear on specially designated Spirit Days with the rest of their Ben Franklin Academy uniform; **however, students are allowed to wear the sweatshirts (K-5 only) and hoodies (grades 6-8 only) over their uniforms on any day (except for Formal Uniform Days and Picture Day).**

If your Spirit Wear does not fit, you can exchange it for a different size. Please email [Cindy Daniels](#), Spirit Wear Committee Chair, for more information on how to make an exchange. Spirit Wear orders are sent home with students.

Sincerely,

Bob Barber
Principal
Ben Franklin Academy

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