

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



BEN FRANKLIN
ACADEMY

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
INDIVIDUAL FOCUS
BALANCE

**December 2011 Vol. 1,
Iss. 29**

[Volunteer Appreciation
Reception Rescheduled](#)

[Gone Phishing?](#)

[Report Cards](#)

[Car Pool](#)

[Music to Our Ears:
Grant Award and
Enrichment](#)

[Volunteer Hours for
Donations](#)

[Lunch Update](#)

[BFF Social](#)

[PTO Update: Bricks,
Box Tops, and Store](#)

[EO: December Sale](#)

Important Dates

BFF Social:
4-7 p.m., Dec. 6, Jamba
Juice
Volunteer Appreciation
Reception:
6 p.m., Dec. 8, BFA
Library
BFA Open Enrollment
Lottery:
Dec. 9
Dress of Choice Day:
Dec. 16
January Lunch/Pizza/Milk
Orders Due:
Dec. 21

Dear Parents,

iPads are coming! We have been waiting for the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to release our grant funds so we can purchase the iPads, but we had no control over their timetable. The good news is that the CDE released the grant funds this week, and we are in the process of ordering the iPads. We hope to have them after Winter Break at school and ready for students to use. Thank you for your patience - we also have been chomping at the bit for the iPads to arrive.

Volunteer Appreciation Reception Rescheduled

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) would like to thank all of the parent volunteers who have helped at Ben Franklin Academy. Without your dedication and commitment to our students, our school would not be the same.

Due to the weather and cold conditions expected for tonight, the PTO is **postponing** its Volunteer Appreciation Reception and PTO meeting. The reception has been rescheduled to **6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8, in the library.** (The monthly PTO meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m.) If you have dedicated some time to helping our school, please join us and meet other parents who have done the same.

Click on the [Volunteer Appreciation Reception](#) for more information, and please RSVP by [email](#) (if you haven't already) so the PTO can plan for food accordingly.

Gone Phishing?

Brick Fundraiser Orders

Due:

Dec. 21

Winter Break:

Dec. 19 - Jan. 2

Ben Franklin Academy

Address: 2270 Plaza Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Main Office: (720) 383-4519

Main Office Email:

info@bfacademy.org

Attendance: (720) 432-9239

Attendance Email:

attendance@bfacademy.org

Fax: (303) 974-1738

The term "phishing" - as in fishing for confidential information - refers to a scam that encompasses fraudulently obtaining and using an individual's personal or financial information. It typically takes place through email and will often make reference to a money transfer or transaction that may have been made. The emails are intentionally left vague, which leaves you searching for the source of the message or worried about a legitimate transaction you have recently made online. This type of scam increases during the holiday season when many people make online purchases.

I bring this to your attention because it appears there may be a phishing scam currently taking place regarding online transactions with Ben Franklin Academy. This is nothing more than a phishing scam - do not reply to such emails.

If you receive such an email that appears to be tied to Ben Franklin Academy, but you are not sure, please contact the office. All emails regarding problems with financially related transactions will come directly from Ben Franklin Academy, unless it is confirmation of a payment received. I assure you Ben Franklin Academy's systems remain secure, and we are not compromised in any way.

Report Cards

Report cards go home today. Please make sure you review your child's report card with him/her. Remember to praise your child for his/her hard work, and encourage him/her when the grade is not quite what you may have expected. This is a great opportunity to show your child that you are involved in his/her education and there to help.

Car Pool

Thank you all for your patience with car pool. The afternoon times are finishing consistently in about 30 minutes. The new system is really working great.

The main office closes at 3:15 p.m. for car pool. We are asking parents to please refrain from going to the office from

3:15-4 p.m. so we can run car pool efficiently. In case of an emergency, you are certainly welcome to come into the office.

Music to Our Ears: Grant Award and Enrichment

Design a Musical Instrument: The Science of Sound Workshop



Ben Franklin Academy has been awarded the **Target Art and Culture in Schools** grant!

This grant provides the school with **\$2,000** to purchase materials for an after-school enrichment workshop using Legos to study the science of sound. During this five-week workshop, participating third graders will meet twice a week to explore all aspects of sound, which they are studying in the Core Knowledge Sequence. They will reinforce what they have learned in class about the relationship between vibrations and sound and what pitch is and how it can be changed. The culmination of the workshop is when the students design their own musical instrument that plays at least three different pitches out of Legos to demonstrate the aspects of sound they have studied. We will offer the workshop for three different five-week periods. Each workshop costs \$20 per participant and has a maximum of 12 participants.

A huge **THANK YOU** to the Target Corporation for its support of education at Ben Franklin Academy!

Music Enrichment at BFA

Sera Schools Music Programs is proud to announce that we have partnered with Ben Franklin Academy to offer all students a **new after school enrichment opportunity!** You will now find enrichment learning opportunities in piano, voice, choir, guitar, and violin classes held after school. All classes are six weeks in length meeting once per week for 45 minutes. For more information, click on the following links: [Information letter](#), [offered classes](#), and [sign-up sheet](#). You

also can find additional information at [Sera Schools Music](#)

also can find additional information at [Sera Schools Music Programs](#).

Volunteer Hours for Donations

Please note that effective **today, Thursday, Dec. 1**, volunteer hours will *not* be granted in exchange for the donation of goods to the school or for an event. This includes cups, napkins, paper, supplies, etc. This does not apply to the time granted by the PTO to bake/cook an item for the Baking Committee.

Ben Franklin Academy's "Volunteer and Visitor" policy states that volunteer hours cannot be purchased, and this note provides further clarification. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding. We greatly appreciate **ALL** you do for Ben Franklin Academy; we wouldn't be here without you!

If you have any questions, please email the [PAC](#) or [PTO](#).

Lunch Update

Thank you to parents for your help in resolving the "noodle" issue, as the number of requests is lowering each day.

Ben Franklin Academy is built on 13 virtues, and four of them speak strongly in regard to the lunchroom and its procedures: (1) Order - keeping things in their place, (2) Sincerity - be kind to each other and help out, (3) Cleanliness - keeping your space and school clean, and (4) Resolution - finding a common ground in solving an issue and carrying through. In keeping with Ben Franklin Academy's virtues, Brenda Sarconi, Lunchroom Coordinator, and I ask you to help remind your child(ren) to keep these particular virtues in mind when in the lunchroom.

An issue that seems to be growing is the mess that students are leaving behind in the lunchroom. It is imperative for all Ben Franklin Academy students to take responsibility for cleaning up after themselves. The lunchroom volunteers

work very hard and having to do the extra clean up really puts a strain on them. As a result, we are experiencing a drop in volunteers. We need and rely on volunteers to make the lunch program work.

We want to turn this increasing issue into a positive learning experience, so we are reviewing different ways to praise the students, classes, and grades. Some ideas include competitions between tables, classes, and lunch periods. Another idea is to have each class assign a table cleaner, floor cleaner and/or table monitor. Although Brenda is currently working out the details and hopes to have a plan in place by the time school resumes in January, she welcomes any additional ideas you would like to share via [email](#). Until then, we need your help in talking to your child(ren) about Order, Sincerity, Cleanliness, and Resolution in regard to the lunchroom.

BFF Social

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is hosting a Ben Franklin Friends (BFF) Social from **4-7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Highlands Ranch Jamba Juice** (9315 Dorchester St., next to the Tattered Cover Book Store in the Town Center). Jamba Juice will be donating **10 percent of the proceeds** from the BFF Social to the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) when the [flyer](#) announcing this event is presented with purchase. We hope to see you there!

The PAC's BFF Socials are intended for parents to meet one another, ask policy questions, and voice feedback about their experiences at Ben Franklin Academy. BFF Socials will be held monthly - time, date, and location to be determined. Children are welcome!

PTO Update: Brick Fundraiser, Box Tops, and Online Store

Brick Fundraiser

Don't forget: There is only a few weeks left for our Brick Fundraiser. **Brick orders are due on Wednesday, Dec. 21.**

Give a lasting gift to your kids! For more information or to order, click [here](#).

Box Tops

We collected nearly **\$400** in Box Tops this past contest period. **The winning classroom was Ms. B. Klee's kindergarten class.**

Shopping online? Be sure to go through the Marketplace at [BTFE.com](#) and earn additional cash for our school by shopping at more than 100 different retailers.

Thanks for your wonderful support of this program, and keep clipping!

Online Store Update

Just in time for the cold weather, our online store is now selling winter hats. For more information, click [here](#).

Educational Outfitters: December Sale

Educational Outfitters is having a December sale for uniforms. Please click on the [flyer](#) for additional details.

Sincerely,

Bob Barber

Principal

Ben Franklin Academy

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to jason@bfacademy.org by bbarber@bfacademy.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Ben Franklin Academy | 2270 Plaza Drive | Littleton | CO | 80129