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BEN FRANKLIN
ACADEMY

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
INDIVIDUAL FOCUS
BALANCE

**September 2011 Vol.
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Important Dates

STEM Expo/

Family Movie Night:
Sept. 30

PAC Informal Social:
Oct. 4

PAC Preschool Playdate:
Oct. 6

Parent-Teacher Conferences:
Oct. 11 and Oct. 13

Fall Break:
Oct. 19-21

Ben Franklin Academy

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Dear Parents,

Just when you thought it was safe to read a newsletter without car pool reminders, I must comment on some important points.

- First and foremost, we are still receiving complaints from nearby residents that we are not being good neighbors. One of the biggest issues is that people are still parking and blocking the mailboxes on Greensborough Drive - so much so that the post office is refusing to deliver mail. Understandably, this upsets residents and is an easy issue to fix: **Please do not park in front of the mailboxes.** It also now is illegal to park there, as that area has been designated a "no parking zone" with signage. (Please remember that parking in front of fire hydrants also is illegal.)
- Many of the other concerns revolve around safety issues. People are double-parking on Greensborough Drive, making it hard for cars to drive through and very difficult for drivers to see pedestrians. There have been some narrow misses, and **I must put the safety of your children and all pedestrians in this area first by asking you to cease double parking.** Also, some people are making U-turns on Greensborough Drive and at the intersection of Greensborough Drive and Plaza Drive. **Making a U-turn in this area is illegal,** and you can receive a ticket for doing so. **I have been told that the sheriff's department will start ticketing cars next week.**

- **Please give the carpool line another chance.** The times have reduced considerably, making it a worthwhile option. Carpooling with other families also will help alleviate the number of cars going through car pool. **Ride Arrangers** offers a free service to help families find car pool partners. More information can be found by reading Ride Arrangers' [flyer](#) and visiting their website.
- Though I know the wait time is a great opportunity to get some things done, **please do not talk on your cell phone in the car pool line.** I have noticed more and more people on their phones while in the car pool line. This request is for the safety of all of our students.
- **Please park in our overflow parking area during events that take place after school.** This is the dirt lot east of the school. It can be accessed via the school's parking lot; there is even a cutout on the curb to make it easier. We will have volunteers at most events to assist with parking. Please follow their directions.

Tomorrow: STEM Expo

Don't forget: The first **Ben Franklin Academy STEM Expo** will be held from **1-5 p.m., tomorrow (Friday), Sept. 30, in the gym.** 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.**

Academic Responsibility

Students will be receiving an academic responsibility grade for each of their classes. This grade represents students' work ethic by taking points away if a student turns work in late. Students will receive 100 points in the academic responsibility category for each class, and five points will be

deducted for each day an assignment is turned in late. I believe it is important for student work to be graded for the actual quality of work that a student produces; for example, an A paper is an A paper - even if it is turned in one day late. Students need to recognize, however, there are consequences for turning work in late and their overall grade will be affected. This also allows teachers to determine if a student is struggling. If a child receives a C for their overall grade and an A for their academic responsibility grade, it gives the teacher an indication that the student is missing something academically.

Dropping Off Lunches

We realize that students sometimes forget their lunch for whatever reason and that parents then bring in a lunch for their child. The office staff cannot deliver these lunches to the classroom, as it does disrupt the learning process. We are happy to keep the lunches in a designated area in the office for safekeeping. Teachers will instruct students who forgot their lunches to check in with the office to see if a lunch has been delivered for them.

Upcoming PAC Socials

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) invites parents to an **Informal Social on Tuesday, Oct. 4, at Civic Green Park**. After drop-off, grab your coffee and join the PAC to meet other parents from Ben Franklin Academy. If there is inclement weather, the social will be held at the Starbucks in Super Target on Highlands Ranch Parkway.

Join the PAC for a **Preschool Playdate from 12:30-2 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, at Civic Green Park**. Please email the [PAC](#) with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on **Tuesday, Oct. 11, and Thursday, Oct. 13**. This is a great time to meet with

your teacher to discuss your child's progress in school. We will be utilizing an online system to sign up for conferences - more information will be coming soon.

Discovery Program Information

The Douglas County School District is holding information sessions regarding its Gifted and Talented Elementary Discovery Program in October and November with an application deadline of **Thursday, Dec. 1**. If you are interested in learning more about the district's Discovery Program, please read the attached [flyer](#).

Sincerely,

Bob Barber
Principal
Ben Franklin Academy

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