

June 1, 2018

Dear Ben Franklin Families,

I want to thank each of you for joining us for our Family Picnic on the last day of school. I enjoyed talking with all of you and watching the students dance in the lawn. The family picnic is my favorite event of the school year! As a building principal it is a true joy to look out upon our 11 acres of playground space and see the students and the families enjoying lunch together and reflecting upon our many accomplishments during the school year.

When you drive by our school this summer, you will see that we are already preparing the school grounds for next year. The custodians are cleaning the classrooms from top to bottom and Mr. Walker has been busy mowing the school property. Mrs. Hammond is working on the class lists and the registration forms for next year. Class lists will be posted August 17, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. for students in grades 1-5. with Open House taking place August 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Kindergarten Open House is scheduled for August 23, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

This year was a true success because of our kind and caring students, families, and staff members! We are all Bucket Fillers indeed! These are a few of our school accomplishments from the 2017-2018 school year.

- Our recycling efforts surpassed our goal this year. We collected and recycled an estimated 21,969 plastic containers - that's approximately 1,002 pounds.
- Our Walking Club won the Licking Memorial Health Systems Building A Healthier Community Award.
- Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students worked in partnership with The Works to complete many hands-on learning activities at school and also at The Works Museum.
- We continued our partnership with the South Newark Civic Association and St. John's Church of Christ to provide more resources for our families.
- The Ben Franklin staff sponsored the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Carnival.
- Our students and staff participated in three Walk and Bike to School Days.
- In partnership with the YMCA of Licking County, our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students received *Safety Around Water* swimming lessons.
- Miss Zurhorst, our art teacher, hosted a Cupcakes & Canvas Event with over 103 students and parents painting alongside each other at the same time.
- Our school held 2 family photo sessions, providing families with a professional photo shoot experience and a free family portrait.
- Our school held 7 Family Reading Nights, 5 STEM Nights, and 8 Title 1 events.
- The staff hosted 600 participants for the family picnic on the last day of school.

During the month of June on Mondays and Fridays, be sure to visit one of our Summer Bus Tour stops and receive a free lunch. Children ages 2-18 years old can receive a free lunch. The Summer Bus Tour stops are as follows.

- 11:00 a.m. The entrance of Mound City Baseball Park
- 11:45 a.m. The Everett Avenue Apartments
- 12:30 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> Street Community Garden

The first day of school for students in grades 1-5 is Tuesday, August 21, 2018. Breakfast is served free of charge to all students and students eat breakfast in their classrooms. The tardy bell rings at 8:45 a.m. each day.

I am honored to complete my 7<sup>th</sup> year as the principal of Ben Franklin Elementary! Our school is filled with amazing students, staff, and families. Ben Franklin Elementary is the place to be! I look forward to seeing each of you during the summer months and at Open House.

Sincerely,

Dena M. Cable-Miller, Principal

*Be kind to each other and let your excellence shine!*