

# Franklin Avenue

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Dear Franklin Families,

October brought to us many exciting opportunities for our students, staff, and families. It was such a joy to see Franklin bustling during our Open House. Students were excited to introduce parents to their new teachers and show off their classrooms. Families mingled in our cafegymnasium adopting reading pets, meeting with our support staff, and learning about the wonderful organizations that support our children throughout the school year, including our wonderful PTO. Thank you for joining us for such a fun-filled event.

STEM week brought other great events to Franklin. Don't be surprised if your child may have his or her future set on being a scientist or engineer. This month students were engaged in a variety of activities that fueled their imagination and locked into their creative spirit. One of the greatest rewards of teaching is watching students persevere through activities, even with a bit of frustration, to then find a solution. These struggles are a part of learning, but as we know, they are also a part of life. By building these character traits at such a young age, we hope to instill not only a love of learning, but an attitude of never giving up. It was clear that our students are resilient and have much to offer the world we live in.

One of the reasons I love Franklin is that we promote the idea of Family – we are ALL in this together. In order to maintain this culture, we rely on kindness. Would you please take a moment to speak to your child about kindness towards others? Let them know that words have the power to hurt others. As my great-grandmother taught me, "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all." We support each other on this journey of life; how we treat each other matters. Thanks for reminding our students that kindness is the greatest gift we can give one another.

My Best,

Mrs. Tolpa

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## Upcoming Events

### Maple Leaf Dining Fundraiser

November 9: 5 – 9:30 p.m.

### No School – Veterans Day

November 11

### Picture Re-Take Day

November 22

### No School – Thanksgiving

November 24, 25, & 26

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## Maple Leaf Fundraiser November 9

Please join us the evening of November 9 anytime between 5-9:30 for our first Maple Leaf Dining fundraiser. Just come with family or friends and eat dinner, and 15% of your food and beverage bill will go to our Franklin PTO. We will have raffles and other fun activities that everyone can enjoy. If you have never been to the Maple Leaf, you will be in for a treat with their delicious food. Thanks for supporting Franklin!

## News and Happenings

### STEM Week – All Year Long

A great big SHOUT OUT goes to Westfield State University and Dr. Jennifer Hanselman for collaborating with Franklin Avenue for STEM Week held October 18-22. From Playful Engineers to a field trip to WSU, all students were able to partake in "Seeing themselves in STEM!" STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, and because so many career fields are in



these disciplines, we feel it is important to expose our students as early as possible. This is why all Franklin Avenue teachers are being certified to teach Project Lead the Way's LAUNCH elementary program. These modules promote hands-on learning in STEM through lessons in

coding, erosion, and forces, just to name a few. Mrs. Ayers and Mrs. Nielsen are certified trainers in this program, and our teachers began day one training in August. All Franklin classroom teachers will receive PLTW certification after our November 2 Professional Development day. This training will help us be better prepared for the transition to our new school building which will include a state-of-the-art STEM laboratory where students will flourish.

### Social Media, Television, and Students

Across the country, schools are experiencing disturbing behavior by students. From physical aggression to pranks and teasing, these actions are affecting Franklin. Wanting to become educated on some of the influences on our children, I tried to watch a trailer for *Squid Games*, *Red Light Green Light* trailer. I could not get through the first two minutes. Television, Tiktok, Instagram, and other apps encourage students to conduct themselves in ways that they may not normally behave. PLEASE monitor what your students are watching. Yes, Tiktok, Youtube, and Instagram are favorites of our Franklin students, and while the platform does offer age-appropriate content, it is a feeding ground for unsuitable messaging for the 5-10 year old crowd. Thanks for having a frank conversation with your student, and we at Franklin will continue to monitor our students' interactions.

## HEART

### Honor

Build a good reputation

### Effort

Give your personal best

### Attitude

Be positive and kind

### Responsibility

Do your part

### Teamwork

Be reliable and help others

### Educator Spotlight

#### Ms. Fahey

#### Position:

Adjustment Counselor – 21 years

#### Education:

BA: Concordia Univ, Montreal  
MS: Springfield College  
Master of Social Work: Smith College

#### Prior Experience:

Fisher Junior College  
Bradford College  
Mount Holyoke College  
Holyoke Public Schools

#### Love about Franklin:

"Working with a school community who want to be here, love to be here, and want to make things better in the world...It really is true that, if you love what you do for work, it doesn't feel like work. This includes the staff, families, and the students."

#### Advice:

"I know how hard we can be on ourselves. What I tell my own children about parenting is to always remember that, tomorrow is another day. You have a chance, every morning, to start over and do things differently."