

Franklin Towne Charter Elementary School

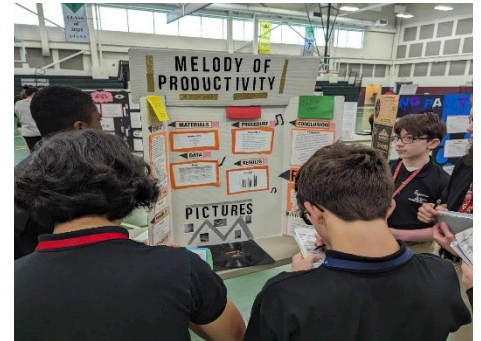
Winter Newsletter

8th Grade Science Fair

By Michael Desher

This year, 8th graders were tasked with constructing, conducting, analyzing and communicating the findings of their own controlled experiment. Students designed experiments to investigate how manipulating one variable modifies the outcome of another variable. During the months of October and November, students worked very diligently by carrying out itemized tasks, and they planned and assembled their project. It also occurred outside of school where students were compelled to initiate the actual experiment. Finally, the students had to present their experiments to judges, parents, and fellow students in the gym on November 17th. The Science Fair encourages self-directed learning and independence. Mrs. Sandford, the 8th grade science teacher, agreed with this when she stated, "Science Fair is one-way students have choice and it also allows them to have a hands-on experience in their education." To summarize

Mr. Gretzula's thoughts, he essentially stated how he was fond of the idea of the science fair because projects should be inquiry-based, where we choose our own topics, and the outcome isn't predictable or known. I also had the opportunity to speak with the winners of the Science Fair, Kayla Weisman and Thomas Chau. Kayla was a part of the group who placed 1st, and Thomas was a part of the group who finished 3rd. When asked about winning first place she said, "When I placed first, I felt accomplished because my group worked diligently and despite all the failed attempts, we finally got to where we are now." When Thomas was asked how his group decided on their topic, he said, "One of my group's members gets sunburn very often, so we believed sunscreen would be the most prominent topic because we wanted to find a sunscreen that reduces his chances of getting sunburn." After learning about the science fair and listening to other people's thoughts, what would your science fair be based on?



Trip to City Hall

By Owen Jenkins

On November 8th, 2023, the 8th grade Student Council, Towne Scholars, and some administrators here at Franklin Towne went downtown to the heart of Philadelphia to learn about the government and how it works. They took a tour through the city hall building, ate a delicious lunch at the Reading Terminal Market, and listened to live court cases in the city court system. This took place because Towne Scholars and Student Council are like Franklin Towne's government, so they took the trip to see how the government operates and met some officials along the way.

According to Dr. Gretzula, there were many great things about the trip including the social benefits, the positive representation of FTCE, and the content/experiences that they saw or were a part of. It seems like the best part of the trip for most of the student government and the administrators was the observation deck on the top of the city hall building. Overall, this trip was a success and it taught us lots about our government while having tons of fun on this trip.



Trunk or Treat

By Isabella Hathaway

Winter is finally here! During the 1st quarter there were a few events that happened in our school. Today we will be talking about the trunk or treat. The Trunk or Treat was where FTC parents would decorate their car into something spooky, while the kids would go around to each car and collect candy. This took place in the school parking garage on October 21st.

Let us give a thank you to the Home & School who organized this event, FTCE parents, FTCE students, and a few teachers that attended like Ms. Dodd, Ms. Neal, Ms. Schneider, Ms. Gipson, and Mr. Shoults. I asked Ms. Neal what trunk or treat was in her own words and she said, "It's a way for parents to participate in our school by coming up with themes to decorate their cars and allow for their students to go around and trick or treat." She also stated that the best part of the trunk or treat was "allowing the school and family to work together to benefit and provide fun for the kids." Ms. Dodd said that the best part of the trunk or treat was, "Looking at all the kids' costumes and how excited they were." She and the other 3rd grade teachers dressed as Hocus Pocus witches. We love events where we can build the community and boost creativity throughout the school and neighborhood.



Student Artist

By Mia Domenic

As a little kid, have you ever wanted to start a small business and sell things such as slime or bracelets? Well, first grader Felix is a young entrepreneur! Felix took it upon himself, with the help of his friend from school Connor, and his mother, to paint and sell his artwork. This event took place on November 18th. Felix painted most of his art based off things that interest him, such as a painting Rainbow Friends from Roblox, a bomb head from FNAF, rainbow lines covering the whole canvas, and creepy MnM's. Felix also painted on shells including a Mine-craft and cow themed shell. These are just some of Felix's amazing masterpieces.

Felix was incredibly happy when expressing how fun it was to paint with his friend Connor, who helped him paint the rainbow lines and a few of his own art pieces. Felix said, "Painting is something that I love to do." He also told me how happy he was to put that money he earned into buying a Nintendo switch and a cupcake. Felix's teachers, Mr. Conway and Ms. Davis, said they were very proud of Felix and how he sold the art himself. To end this off, I find Felix's salesman journey remarkably interesting, and I hope he continues to exceed and accomplish his goals if he continues to move forward with this.



Middle School Dances

By Madison Davis

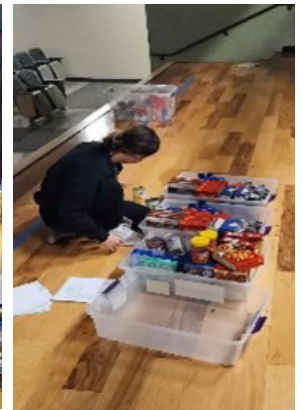
Middle School Dances are an exciting event for middle schoolers (6-8) to attend. So far, this school year there have been two dances. The dances occurred on October 27 and September 29. The dances took place in Franklin Towne Charter Elementary's school gymnasium. These dances are for students to socialize with their fellow classmates without doing school-related activities. Student council members help set up the dances. A Student Council member, Briella Falco, stated, "The best part of helping with dances is having a special part in an event that most people enjoy. It is a sense of responsibility that I get to show when helping with the dances." Franklin Towne's next middle school dance is January 19th, 2024. We hope to see you there!



Fall Food Drive

By Brynn Farrell

With the help of Ms. McLaughlin, our Towne community, and other Towne administration we host our fall food drive every year. Our fall food drive takes place from about November 1st to November 22nd. During this event, every grade is assigned a specific food item to bring in and donate to give families in need a balanced meal over the holidays. The Honors Society students are responsible for collecting and organizing all food donations into baskets for each family. This year we collected enough food to be able to feed 14 families for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays. Ms. McLaughlin has stated "Any extra food is donated to the Bridesburg food pantry." When asked why the food drive is important Ms. Tortis responded, "It is important to give back to the Franklin Towne community and help those students and families that are in need." When asked what could be done to make the food drive to be even more successful it was suggested that Franklin Towne should expand to other communities in need. As Aleigha Kieffer stated, "Everyone should contribute because even though it might not mean anything to you, but it might mean everything to someone else." Franklin Townes Honors Society hopes to surpass next year's goals and feed even more families in 2024.

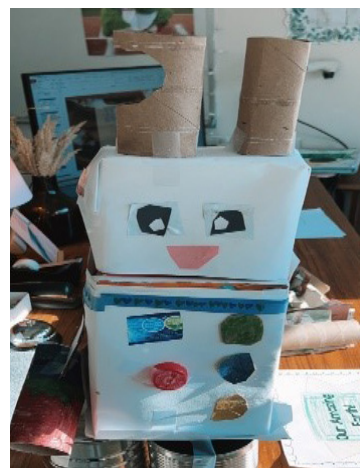


Third Grade Projects

By Paula Palanik

Being a leader in science and the arts has no age requirement. Within the first and second quarters of the 2023 school year, the 3rd grade students at Franklin Towne Charter Elementary School conducted multiple science and English projects. This event occurred in the 3rd grade classrooms taught by Ms. Pazda and Ms. Otto. The goal of these tasks, according to Ms. Pazda, was to encourage young students to "express their own creativity" through building and writing. The students did not disappoint, as they invented unique projects such as the recycling project. It was focused on creating things out of recycled objects.

The innovation of the 3rd graders sparked excitement among others, with Ms. Pazda exclaiming, "it was crazy". On the other hand, Ms. Otto's students focused on literature and "had to use writing skills and be creative." Out of all the English themed creations, Ms. Otto



believed "a writing project for Halloween" was the most original. In addition to the enthusiasm the teachers portrayed about this 3rd grade event, the students themselves seemed ecstatic. They all dedicated hard work, with one 3rd grader even stating she wanted to "challenge [her]self" by including 'gears inside' of her creation." Ultimately, the science and English projects conducted by the 3rd grade students of FTCEs inspired problem solving, hard work, excitement, and critical thinking among these young pioneers in education.



Spirit Week

By Rocco Montini

Spirit week is one of the many fun events that we have at Franklin Towne! This event lasts one full week and there are Towne Dress-Down days every day in that week. Each morning, after the morning announcements, we do a homeroom activity, like Name that Tune. According to Mr. Kocher, "Spirit week is important because it builds culture across the school, and it allows students the opportunity to have fun doing various activities." We asked some people around the school what their favorite part of spirit week was.

Both Mr. Kocher and Ms. Schneider said, "My favorite part of spirit week is seeing the excitement on student faces and witnessing the competitiveness in the games that are played." A student from the winning team (the red house) said, "My favorite part of spirit week is Carnival Day because it is always a classic event that



happens every year and it is also a fan favorite." A student from a losing team said, "Minute to win it because many people were involved, and you didn't have to participate, if you didn't want to." Spirit week is overall a great, fun time that many students look forward to.



Student Council and Towne Scholars Induction

By Joseph Rowan

Have you wondered what it's like to be a part of either Student Council or Towne Scholars? Well, Franklin Towne has an event to recognize these students was the Towne Scholars and Student Council Induction Ceremony. This ceremony happened on October 10th, 2023 in the Franklin Towne Charter Elementary School auditorium. This nice event was done to recognize the students in these organizations for all their hard work and for everything they do for the school and to show families and staff all the hard work that these students do.

During the induction, students got pins and certificates to put on their lanyards or book bags and to show at home. Ms. Gallagher, runner of Student Council explained what her organization does. She said, "Student Council has meetings, does Motivational Monday's, and works on improving the school by doing fun activities and other things such as

dances and pep rallies." Ms. McLaughlin, runner of Towne Scholars, spoke on the ceremony saying, "It was very nice and great to see all of those students who worked so hard to be celebrated for all of their work." A peer, Vincent Cavanaugh was asked why being a member of Student Council important and he said, "It helps represent the school more and gives me a better understanding of filling the role of leadership." Middle School students will have an opportunity to join these organizations for next year.



Harvest Festival

By Aleigha Kieffer

There are many events and exciting activities happening during the holiday season. One of the events that occurs is called the Harvest Festival. The Harvest Festival of the 2023 school year occurred on October 26th, and kindergarten students got to participate in dressing up as their favorite storybook characters. The staff members got in on the fun too and dressed up as crayons! All of the students that participated got to share their book with their classmates and as well as other classes.

Student did activities and got to listen to read alouds of books their classmates brought.

Ms. Neal, the Assistant Principal for grades K-3, said what she liked most about the Harvest Festival was, "seeing all of the students' costumes and their favorite storybook characters." Ms. Neal said her favorite costume belonged to a student named Declan Myers that was dressed as a robot, and everyone loved it. I loved sharing the Harvest Festival with you and I hope you know all about it now!





New Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Watton

By Sadie Hermann

For today's article we will be talking about Mr. Watton. Mr. Watton is the new 7th grade math teacher. This year is his first official year teaching. He first got into teaching because he likes building relationships with students and being able to help them learn. Even though this is his first year teaching his favorite memory is decorating the classroom for Christmas while listening to Christmas music.

Mr. Watton's Favorites

Favorite Sports Team: Philadelphia Eagles

Favorite Movie: Elf

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorite Store: Amazon



Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Murphy

By Vincent Knipp

Let's give a warm welcome to one of our awesome new teachers, Mrs. Murphy! She's living her childhood dream of being a teacher, and she's super stoked to help our kids learn and grow. Mrs. Murphy's favorite teaching memory was the first week here at Franklin Towne, meeting all the amazing students and experiencing all the firsts of being a teacher. Let us show her some love and make Miss Murphy feel right at home!

Mrs. Murphy's Favorites

Favorite Sports Team: Philadelphia Eagles, Union, and Sixers

Favorite Movie: A League of Their Own

Favorite Color: Green

Favorite Food: Chinese Food

Favorite Store: Starbucks

