

Franklin Randall School Newsletter

Brought to you by the Parent Teacher Organization

Feeling Welcome—Moving Community Forward

Dear Franklin-Randall Community,

One of the goals I set when I became PTO president was to figure out ways to open our community so that more of our members would feel welcomed and at home at PTO events and activities. I know that this is a lofty goal, and I know that so far this year, the PTO has only done what the PTO has done in the past.

Ah, tradition -- good to have, hard to change, and somewhat cumbersome to manage.

When I was a child, my family celebrated St. Nicholas Day, Christmas, New Years Day, and Ukrainian Christmas at the beginning of January. When our church switched to the Gregorian calendar, we lost Ukrainian Christmas. When my parents took over the celebrations from my grandparents, we lost St. Nicholas Day, and late supper on Christ-



mas Eve became the ritual meal that the whole family ate together. No matter. When I got married, I added Hanukkah to our winter holidays, and when our youngest daughter joined our family three years ago, we added Chinese New Year.

Many of the PTO activities become like old family traditions. We have our Fall Dance, our Winter Carnival, our math and science Saturdays, and our Moving On celebrations. Those of us who have enjoyed these activities as our children come through Franklin and Randall can get pretty sentimental

when we remember what our eldest wore to the Fall dance when he was in fourth grade, or what our kindergartener enjoyed at the Winter Carnival. Sometimes in an effort to hold on to the memories, we want to freeze the events and repeat them without change. And sometimes,

Friday

12/18/2009

newcomers to our Franklin Randall community are stymied as to why these events are so important.

When I think about my family's evolving winter traditions, I miss some of what has changed. I even miss some of the rituals that we outgrew and gleefully abandoned. I remember times when lighting candles felt like stiff new shoes, or when we had no idea of what to cook for a holiday we knew little about. But because including something new or shifting something we'd always done was important to someone in our family, something once strange became something cherished and we became a bigger and richer family.

I hope that in the coming year we can look at our community building programs and events and explore ways to make those events accessible and interesting to **go to page 2...**

H1N1 – summarizing the year

By Freddi Adelson, MMSD Coordinator of Health

December 14, 2009

Along with the tulips and daffodils, last spring brought a new influenza virus to Wisconsin and the United States. The 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak began small and quickly spread throughout the country and world.

H1N1 influenza causes illness that is similar to seasonal flu—people who are sick have fever, cough, scratchy throat and muscle aches. Most people recover from H1N1 without complications but some people develop more serious illness and need intensive medical care.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that 2009 H1N1 flu has caused a greater disease burden on people younger than 25 years of age than

on older people. The H1N1 infection rate in those over age 65 is the lowest of all groups. This is different than seasonal flu which typically affects older people more.

Looking back, we can see that that H1N1 had a first peak in mid June 2009, in the 2 weeks just after school ended and then a second peak in late October. The peaks are measured by reports from around the country to the CDC on the numbers of visits to health care providers for influenza like illness.

MMSD experienced increased student absence rates throughout the district in late October but these rates have returned to the typical daily winter absence rate of about 6-7%. Although we are now past the second or "fall" peak, the numbers of people ill with influenza like illness is still higher now than typically seen at this time of the year.

MMSD responded to the outbreak by dusting off and putting our Pandemic Plan into action. Our initial activities focused on:

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more members of our community. I hope that we can devise new programs and events that are inclusive in their inception, and I hope that those of us who have not felt included in our community can join the discussion. Finally, I hope that this effort results in a bigger and richer Franklin Randall community.

Have a wonderful winter break! Rest, relax, celebrate, play outside, talk long into the night, get ready for Santa to come down the chimney or the Christ child to be born or the candles to be lit, eat much too much, play with all the new toys, make memories, and come back in the new year ready to make the Franklin Randall community stronger, better, and much more fun!

Suzanne Buchko, PTO President, zazutoo@sbcglobal.net

- 12/21/09—01/01/2010 Winter Break
- 1/04/2010 School Resumes
- 1/12/2010 PTO Meeting, Randall 6:30 p.m.
- 1/18/2010 Martin Luther King Day
- 1/22/2010 Music Performance, K-8:45 am, 1st and 2nd 10am
- 2/13/2010 Franklin Randall Carnival
- 3/5/2010 Music Performance, Randall School

From Mrs. Haimerl, Najem and Agboka (Franklin music teachers) Come and enjoy!

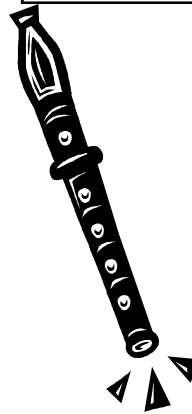
Franklin Parents - get this on your calendar!! You are invited to the annual winter concerts!

On Friday Jan. 22nd at the Franklin Gym:

Kindergarten performance - 8:45 a.m./ 1st and 2nd Grade performance - 10 a.m.

We will be sharing with you a little of what we have been doing in music class.

Randall concerts will be Friday March 5. Each grade level will have their own concert, with exact times TBA. 3rd and 4th grades will be in the morning and 5th in the afternoon.



Many Randall students are still in need of recorder cases. They are very simple to make. If you have any old material sitting around and a little bit of thread, please consider making some for us. Nothing fancy - just a bag that a soprano recorder can fit into! Thanks so much!

- providing information to our staff and students about how to stay healthy,
- making sure we had adequate supplies for hand washing in all of our buildings,
- monitoring staff and student absence rates,
- communicating guidelines for how long ill students and staff need to stay home, and planning carefully for possible school closures.

At first, the CDC recommended school closure when children were found to have H1N1 as a way to stop the spread of illness. It soon became clear that school closure was not effective in slowing the spread of the illness and it was very disruptive for children and families. No school closures occurred in the MMSD.

As soon as the 2009 H1N1 influenza strain was identified, work began on developing a vaccine to prevent illness. Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent illness.

Public Health Madison Dane County (PHMDC) launched an ambitious effort in October to provide H1N1 immunization to all school aged children in Dane County in school located clinics. Information and consent forms

were provided to families. School clinics started on October 20 but were canceled several days later due to vaccine shortage.

The 13 clinics that took place were well utilized with almost 2,200 students vaccinated. Now that the vaccine supply has improved and several large clinics have been held for at risk residents of Dane County, PHMDC plans to resume school clinics in January 2010.

H1N1 activity is expected to continue throughout the flu season and it is anticipated that another wave of H1N1 cases could occur later this winter. Seasonal influenza usually peaks in Wisconsin during late January, February or early March.

CDC anticipates that 2009 H1N1 influenza viruses and regular seasonal influenza may spread at the same time making more people than usual sick this season because both types of flu will be present at the same time.

MMSD continues to monitor staff and student absences, emphasize things that students and staff can do to protect themselves, and communicate and offer opportunities for vaccination. You can stay current on H1N1 news for MMSD students by going to [the district's H1N1 web page](#).

Remember your ABCD's: (1) Avoid touching the nose, eyes and mouth, (2) Be sure to wash hands frequently, (3) Covering coughs and (4) Don't go to work or school when ill.