

JANUARY



The Franklin Family Connection

January Newsletter 2025

Office Hours: 8:00-4:20

A Message from Shelly 😊

Dear Tremendous FTE Families,
As we step into the new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared so far and the remarkable progress our students, teachers, and staff have made. I am continually inspired by the dedication of our kids; they come to school every day eager to learn! I admire the unwavering devotion and commitment of our teachers who pour their hearts into fostering an unmatched learning environment. As a team, we are building a foundation for lifelong success.

Mid-year data tells a story of growth and achievement across all grade levels. Whether it's in reading fluency or math computation, problem-solving skills or social-emotional development, our students are making meaningful strides. This progress is a direct result of the hard work and commitment exhibited by our entire school community. Your involvement and encouragement at home plays a vital role in this journey. When we all work together—at school and at home—our kids can achieve extraordinary things.

Let's continue to motivate our Warriors to put forth their best effort in everything they do. Success is not simply measured by grades or test scores but by the habits of perseverance, curiosity, kindness, and having a growth mindset that is developed along the way. As a school, we hold fast to an attitude of gratitude: gratitude for the growth we see, for the partnership of our families, and for the bright potential in every single student.

Before signing off, I just want to take a moment to share something straight from my heart. For different reasons, so many principals struggle every day and many have left the field all together - often times this is due to a lack of parent support. I know what we have at FTE is extraordinary; some say utopia and magical; I agree! I have a "get-to" job and I look forward to going to work! This is largely due to your ongoing love and support. To that end, I want to express my deep heartfelt appreciation for the unsolicited words of affirmation and appreciation that so many of you regularly share with me! Whether it's about our school culture, our team, or my leadership in general, your kind words mean more than you will ever know and are a reflection of the strong relationships we continue to build and nurture together. Your words (whether written or spoken) inspire me and our entire team to continue striving for excellence every single day! And, if there are things that I or we can be doing better, please share. If we don't know, we can't grow.

Let's make the rest of this school year the best it can be! Together, we are making a difference for our kids, and there's no greater gift than that! Honored to be on this journey with you!

I am so grateful for you and the privilege I have of working with your kids!
Love you guys,



Notes from the Nurse:

Welcome back and Happy New Year! My wish for you is that your holiday break included rest, renewal and good health for you and your family. The New Year also brings a time to start new healthy habits. Remember to take care of yourself by reducing stress as much as possible and finding a little happiness in your day. Simple things like going for a walk, reading a book, cutting back on electronics and even slow deep breaths are easy ways to reduce stress.

Please remember to screen your child's health before sending them to school. As a reminder, the policy includes keeping your child home if they have diarrhea, vomiting or a fever over 100 degrees. They need to be fever free for 24 hours with no fever reducing medications before returning to school. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Family First Dental will be returning **February 26, 2025** for their final visit with students. If you have not returned your Private Dental Report form (for Kg, 3rd and 5th grade only) from your private dentist by this date, your student will have a visual screening completed. Vision and hearing screenings are continuing through the school. If you receive a referral for either, please address it with a doctor as soon as possible. If getting vision checked or getting glasses is a financial hardship, please contact me as the Cashtown Lions Club has a program to help cover vision needs for our students and families. We would love to help out our students as vision is essential for learning in school!

Wishing you a wonderful New Year!

~Ms. Mead



Counselor's Corner:

Happy New Year! So far this school year, we've touched on two sets of common factors on the theme of building resilience in our children: 1) [facilitating supportive adult-child relationships](#) and 2) [building a sense of self-efficacy and perceived control](#). The next is: *providing opportunities to strengthen adaptive skills and self-regulatory capacities*. As adults, we know that it is the exception to the rule when everything goes as planned and as desired. As parents, it is only natural to protect our children. In our efforts to protect, it is important to differentiate between eustress (positive stress that leads to stimulation, motivation, and growth) and distress (negative stress that leads to being overwhelmed, defeated, and declining mental and physical health). To grow their resilience, it is important to allow our children to face manageable stress, with our "guide-on-the-side" support where needed. This stress may take the form of changes in plan or environment, difficult tasks, and the inevitable problems that arise in life. When needed, we can [co-regulate](#) with them when they face stressful situations, which will simultaneously facilitate the development of adaptive skills and regulation skills. If we notice that negative thinking patterns induce or exacerbate distress, we can help our children identify them and replace them with more helpful mindsets through explicit instruction and guided practice (consider [growth vs. fixed mindsets](#), as one example). Wishing you all a growth-filled year in 2025!

~Mr. Hogg



GASD Family Navigator News

We hope everyone is having a great start to the new year and is excited for what is to come! As always, we will continue to be in the community as a support. If you have any questions, need connections to school or community resources/services, or would like to express student concerns, please stop by to chat with one of us! We are happy to help in any way we can! Our location and times for this month are listed below:

- January 8** - 9:30-11:30am @ Adams County Library (basement)
- January 16** - 10am-12pm @ Waldo's
- January 24** - 1:30pm-3:30pm @ McDonald's (Steinwher)
- January 30** - 10am-12pm @ Dunkin

Additionally, we would like to invite our parents/families to the following event happening at Gettysburg Area High School:

SAVE THE DATE
January 22, 2025 . 6:15pm . Gettysburg High School
Snowdate Jan. 30th

HEALTHY ADAMS COUNTY
WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN
Find Your Light

Healthy Adams County's Behavioral Health Task Force presents an insightful exploration of mental wellness.

TCD
Two Cool Dudes Podcast

WEARY PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Featuring the hosts of Two Cool Dudes podcast & Weary Performing Arts Group!

Lastly, please consider applying for our district's Free and Reduced Meals Program. Even if you are unsure if you qualify, we encourage the application. Follow this link and reach out if you have any questions!
<https://www.gettysburg.k12.pa.us/services/food-services/about-food-services>

~Mrs. Zimmerman & Ms. Hastie

Literacy Lights the Way

Wednesday, March 5th 5:30-7pm

Our Bingo night scheduled for **February 7th** is **canceled**. Instead, members from our amazing FTE Team will be hosting something very special for the whole family on **March 5th** from 5:30-7pm. Our evening will include STEM and literacy activities, along with some games. Stay tuned for more information to come your way.



Dates to Remember

- January 6** – School Board Meeting; 7:00pm; Admin Building
- January 9** - FTE PTO 5:30pm
- January 20** – No School Student; Martin Luther King Holiday; Professional Development
- January 21**– School Board Meeting; 7:00pm; Admin Building
- January 23** - 4th & 5th Grade Band/Orchestra Concert @ GAMS – 6:00pm
- February 3** - School Board Meeting; 7:00pm; Admin Building

Spotlight in Education: 3rd Grade

Our third graders have been building rich knowledge in all subject areas! In ELA, we started our adventure sitting on the riverbank with Mole and Rat. Next, we put on our scientist hats and worked on classifying animals. We are currently wrapping up our body systems unit where we experienced an in-depth look at different body systems and how they work. In science, we learned about traits and fossils; more recently we are experimenting with force and motion. In math, we are solidifying our multiplication skills by working with equal groups, learning measurement, area and perimeter, and exploring geometry. Lots of learning taking place in 3rd grade; we are looking forward to our remaining months together!
~ Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Reneker & Mrs. Johnson

Franklin Township PTO Meeting

We'd love to have you join us for our next PTO on **Thursday, January 9th**. Our meetings last about one hour and our **start time is 5:30pm**. This is a great opportunity to make connections, share input, and be a part of all the good things happening at FTE.

Franklin Friends

The Franklin Friends program helps to provide students with meals and snacks over each weekend while school is in session. If this is something your family could benefit from, please contact Angie Brasee at 717-334-6254 option 6 or email

abrasee@gasd-pa.org.



Café Reminders

Breakfast is NOT served on 2-hour delay days



Warrior Way Celebration Important Reminder

Our next celebration is **Friday, January 17th**. Teachers will continue to choose 2 Rising Warriors from each class and will reach out to families accordingly. Though we wish we could accommodate more people, a **maximum of 2 adults are invited to be in attendance**. As a reminder, only non-school-age children are permitted as guests. The morning breakfast takes place in the FTE café before the assembly 7:55am-8:15am.

Excited to Announce FTE's Mission and Vision Statement

Earlier this year, we created a mission/vision writing team and we spent about 3.5 months working together putting our lived-out culture into words. We included input we received over the years from teachers, kids, families, and community members and how others experience FTE. We are so pleased and proud of our final product!

FTE Mission Statement:

Franklin Township Elementary School has a **child-centered, positive culture** where **teamwork** and **kindness** drive **growth** and **excellence**; intentionally preparing for a future where every child is **empowered** to **succeed** and **lead** with **confidence, resilience, and compassion**.

FTE's Vision

Empowering one another to **grow, lead, and succeed** with kindness and confidence.



This will be introduced and become known to our students, staff, and community as the **FTE Promise**.