**Franklin Elementary School**

33 Cockeys Mill Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136, 410-887-1111

Ben Mertes Tiffany Livingstone

Principal Assistant Principal

[bmertes@bcps.org](mailto:bmertes@bcps.org) [tlivingstone@bcps.org](mailto:tlivingstone@bcps.org)

Dear Franklin families,

Welcome to a new school year as we look forward to an excellent 2016-2017! We are excited to have you back and for those of you who are new to Franklin welcome.

In recognition of their service to Franklin Elementary we thank Ms. Arey (vocal Music) and wish her the best as she adds a new member to her family. We will be welcoming Ms. Molly Swetland to vocal music. Molly has two years’ experience in Prince George’s County before coming to Franklin. We also welcome Megan Signor as our full time Speech Language Pathologist. Ms. Kristen Zucconi will be replacing Ms. McCausland in the library. Ms. Zucconi comes with years of experience and excitement for reading from Hillcrest Elementary.

It’s time to reflect on the past year and celebrate some of our accomplishments and look forward to our future accomplishments. Let me begin by stating that we met our goals and then some. Academically we met our reading and math goal of 70% growth according to MAP. Implementation of the devices in first through third grade was a huge success and parents use of BCPSOne hovered around 94%. Last year we implemented the daily video announcements with our new tv studio. Our March Madness reading initiative was off the charts. We had our first paint night, Guys Night Out, a Variety Show, and a host of other wonderful family activities with the support of the PTA.

***Our mission is to develop respectful, responsible, and productive citizens who will meet the challenges of the 21st century.*** Next year we continue with the same goal of reaching 70% and higher for both reading and math. This is a higher standard of achievement than the 50% minimum expectation. Grades Four and Five will be receiving devices for each student. All students in first through fifth will have a device by the end of October. Academically we will continue to meet the needs of each individual by focusing our resources on areas of strategic need. Areas will include reading foundational skills, math fluency, increased comprehension levels and answering higher level questions in both reading and writing. Your child is going to talk a lot at home about our initiative of promoting an environment of pride. Franklin Pride will include our motto of respect, responsibility, integrity, determination, and excellence. Everything we do will focus on these five traits and how we will achieve higher at Franklin!

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child’s education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children’s success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

Please consider joining our school PTA as our students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions to the school’s program and its operations. We seek volunteers to help us with the following activities:

* Teacher-led instructional support, usually in the classroom
* Reading with children who need extra help
* School-wide events
* Student recognition events
* Outreach and recruitment of parent and community volunteers

When the school year begins you will receive the student handbook. Please read over this handbook and review it with your child. If you have any questions about the rules and expectations, please feel free to contact me or to discuss them with your child’s teacher. It is very important that you and your child are fully informed regarding standards related to appropriate behavior for a safe and productive school year.

We look forward to seeing you at the open house on August 22, from 3:00 to 5:00. You can come anytime between those hours to visit your child’s classroom. From 5:00 – 6:30 we will be out in the back of the school for a picnic style get together. Bring your blanket, chairs, and a little dinner and relax with friends. The first day of school is August 24th and a reminder of our new school hours. Doors open at 9:05 and the late bell is 9:20. We begin dismissal at 3:50 and the last bus should be leaving by 4:05. Transportation is in the process of updating its new digital routing system. The transportation listed on this letter is based on previous information and is subject to change. During our open house we will have a table set up to verify transportation and another email will come out prior to school start with up to date real time information. We ask that you please look carefully at the transportation information and notify the school immediately if the information is incorrect.

On this paper you will find the homeroom assignment for your child. There could still be changes prior to the start of school, so this is subject to change.

For the upcoming school year, we have developed a parent handbook with important information about safety and security, transportation, as well as contact numbers that you may pick up at the open house. We look forward to seeing you soon and have a restful last few weeks of summer.

Sincerely,

Ben Mertes Tiffany Livingstone

Principal Assistant Principal