

## The secret to success...

For many of us, the transition to a new year is marked with a period of self-reflecting, looking back at goals set and achieved, and thinking ahead to what we have yet to accomplish. As a school community, we've come so far from our start, when each month we hoped we had the cash to cover our expenses, and each day we faced some new thing we'd never done before. Through every challenge, the strength of our community prevailed. Parents, students, faculty, staff, and Board members all pulled together to help us succeed.

Our next big challenge is to break ground on a permanent facility. We know this is essential to our continued growth and success. For next school year, we will manage our growth within our existing classrooms, allowing us to focus more fully on our goal of opening permanent classrooms in August of 2019. In December, the Board voted to begin work to obtain zoning approvals. We are in discussions with funders, and in late January, we've been invited to present our project to a group of bond investors.

Obtaining financing for a large construction process is difficult for a small charter school. We'll succeed the way we always have - through the collaborative efforts of parents, students, faculty, staff, and Board members - all pulling together toward a common goal.

What can you do to ensure our success?

1. **Support our Annual Fund!** 100% participation is a powerful message. Please give what is meaningful and possible for your family. Every gift brings us toward our goal.
2. **Spread the word!** From our start, word of mouth has been our most effective recruiting tool. We are accepting applications for new students now through March 31. Full enrollment and a strong waiting list ensure our continued financial strength. Let's make this our strongest year!
3. **Volunteer!** Join our Marketing Crew, and help us recruit. Join the Events Crew, and help us plan! Join our Gardening Crew, and help us grow something beautiful! Whatever your gifts, we can put them to good use.

Here's to a year of great success!  
Michelle Vruwink, Executive Director

## Important Dates

Jan 8 - March 31

### **Open Enrollment for 2018**

**Tues, Jan 9, 6 pm**

Board of Directors Meeting

**Thus, Jan 11, 5:30 - 7 pm**

Info Session for Prospective Students & Families

**Mon, Jan 15, NO SCHOOL**

Martin Luther King Jr Holiday

**Wed, Jan 17, 2 - 5 pm**

Attendance Make Up Session

**Fri, Jan 19, NO SCHOOL**

Teacher Work Day, End of Q2

**Mon, Jan 22, 3:45 - 4:45 pm**

School Improvement Team

**Tues, Jan 23, 6 - 7:30 pm**

Parent Workshop: Growth Mindset with Dr. Stahan, WCU

**Tues, Jan 23, 7 pm**

"The Reluctant Dragon" 8th Grade Play @ Bent Creek Baptist Church

**Thurs, Jan 25, 5:30 - 7 pm**

Info Session for Prospective Students & Families

**Sat, Jan 27, 5 - 10 pm**

Franklin Flurries Dance @ Fairview Community Center

**Wed, Jan 31, 2 - 5 pm**

Attendance Make Up Session

## **Open Enrollment - Jan 8 - March 31**

Open Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year began this week, and runs through the end of March. Please note that Open Enrollment is for NEW students only. Siblings of current FSI students must apply through Open Enrollment. Returning students will complete a separate re-enrollment process, beginning in February. You've made the choice of FSI for your student - help us spread the word! Info Sessions are scheduled from 5:30 - 7 pm for the following evenings: January 11, January 25, February 15, March 8, and March 22. Invite a friend to attend!

## **Business Directory**

We'd love to help support businesses in our school community! If you own a business, be sure you have it listed in our Business Directory! Fill out the Google Form [HERE](#)

## **Parent Education Workshops - Jan 23 & Feb 13**

Our Counseling Department invites you to join us for two great workshops! On Tuesday, Jan 23, from 6 - 7:30 pm, Dr. David Stahan, from Western Carolina University, is joining us to talk about how parents and teachers can work together to nurture a growth mindset in students, for stronger student engagement and learning. On Tuesday, February 13, also starting at 6 pm, Kriya Lenzion, a licensed professional counselor who specializes in teens and addictions and substance abuse issues, will return to FSI to share her blend of personal, "street certified" history and clinical expertise. These workshops are open to all FSI parents. For more information, contact Katherine Becker ([kbecker@thefsi.us](mailto:kbecker@thefsi.us)) or Lindsey Foster ([lfoster@thefsi.us](mailto:lfoster@thefsi.us)). We hope you'll join us!

## **Attendance Make Up Sessions**

It makes sense and research shows that it is true - students with good attendance are more successful in school. Chronic absenteeism is directly related to many challenges within the school setting, including lack of academic success and ultimately, an increased risk of dropping out. At FSI, middle school students with 20 or more absences may be retained. High school students cannot earn credit in classes in which they have 5 or more unexcused absences. Excessive tardies may also be considered as a factor in determining whether a student will be promoted or earn credit.

We offer Attendance Make Up Sessions for students with high numbers of absences. Each hour of Attendance Make Up will count as 1 class absence. Students must bring homework or a book to read; cell phones and electronic devices will not be allowed. Students will have access to school

Chromebooks for purposes of completing homework assignments. There is a \$5 fee for each Attendance Make Up Session.

Make Up Sessions have been scheduled for the following dates; additional dates will be added as we get closer to the end of the school year: **January 17 & 31, February 7 & 21, March 14 & 28.**

For more information, or to sign up for a Make Up Session, contact Erinn Otten ([eotten@thefsi.us](mailto:eotten@thefsi.us)).

## **“Room to Grow” Spring Fling- Hold the Date Saturday, March 10**

Saturday, March 10, from 7 - 10 pm, FSI will kick off our capital campaign efforts with a party! This fun event will be held in The Cellar @ Isa's Bistro, featuring appetizers, Silent Auction, and a chance to build community with fellow Franklin families. Mark the date, and watch for more information!

## **Smile! Mobile Dentist Program @ FSI February 26 and 27**

Great news! We have partnered with Smile Program, the mobile dentists to offer in-school dental care. Sign up your child today at [www.myschooldentist.com](http://www.myschooldentist.com) or return the permission form that has been sent home with your student. The mobile dentist will be on campus on February 26th and 27th.

Even better, dental care is usually at no cost to you. All insurance is accepted including Medicaid and CHIP. For those without insurance, a low cost self-pay option is available. Please sign up online or return the form to school by **February 1**. For further information visit [www.myschooldentist.com](http://www.myschooldentist.com).

## **“The Reluctant Dragon”, an 8th Grade Performance**

The 8th grade Theatre class has been hard at work, preparing for an authentic, whole-class final project. On January 23, the curtain goes up for “The Reluctant Dragon”. This performance is the first time on stage for many of our student actors, and we know they are excited and nervous! The performance will be held in the Fellowship Hall @ Bent Creek Baptist. You do not need tickets for this event, though we welcome donations to help offset the cost of the performance.

## **Volunteer Corner - School Based Mentors**

Did you know that we have a School Based Mentoring program at FSI? Launched this year through our partnership with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of WNC/AmeriCorps program, we are recruiting, training, and pairing mentors with students in our school. Mentors make a commitment to work one-on-one with students during the school year, helping build relationship skills, completing academic work, and supporting students any way they can. We currently have 3 mentors working with our students, Caroline Crowley, a recent graduate from UNC Asheville, Joe Rhatigan, a spouse of one of our FSI staff members, and Erin Dooley, our School Engagement Coordinator. We also have FSI parent volunteers who are pending matches such as Kirk Vandersall, Amy Paleno, and Caroline Kennedy. Without these awesome volunteers this program would not be possible! We thank them for their service and commitment to our

students. If you want to learn more about this program or about Big Brother Big Sisters of Western North Carolina you can visit their website at [bbbswnc.org](http://bbbswnc.org) or email Erin Dooley at [edooley@thefsi.us](mailto:edooley@thefsi.us)"

There are so many ways to earn your volunteer hours. Our Events Crew is currently planning a party to kick off a Capital Campaign (watch for more info coming soon!). As soon as we have some warmer weather, the Gardening & Grounds Crew will be busy planting the wonderful donation of bulbs and seeds received from ACE Hardware on Hendersonville Road. And our Marketing Crew is always looking for extra hands to help put up flyers, attend events around town, and help spread the word about Open Enrollment! If you haven't signed up to be Crew, complete [this survey](#) and sign up today. Our Volunteer Crews include Gardening & Grounds, Marketing & Outreach, Fundraising, Teacher Support, & Community Events. There's something for everyone!

## Thunder Bolts! Athletics

Hey Sports Fans! There's plenty of basketball going on! Upcoming games include

Sat, Jan 13, 1 pm: MS Bolts @ Shiloh Center

Tues, Jan 16, 4:15 pm: MS Thunder @Evergreen Community Charter School

Thurs, Jan 18, 6 pm: HS B-ball @ Mt. Pisgah Academy

Find all the games on our school calendar, or linked here:

[HS Basketball Schedule 17-18](#)

[MS BBall Schedule Thunder HL '17-18](#)

[MS BBall Schedule Bolts '17-18](#)

## Reminders - Check Here for News You Missed!

### Visit our [Website](#)

Did you know you can keep up with school events, teacher work dates, sports, and more on our school calendar? Need a school form for something (student driver, campus leave form, medical forms...)? Want to check something in the school handbook? You'll find all this, and much more, on our website! If you ever miss a monthly newsletter, we are posting them to the website, under the "Parent" tab.

From time to time, we'll feature blog posts with updates on what is happening at Franklin. If you have suggestions on ways we can communicate better, please reach out.

## How to Use Canvas

There are two options for using Canvas as a parent.

### 1. Use the Canvas App for Parents

- Download the Canvas App for your device (it is free)
- Create an account. You will enter your email address, and select a password

- You will be prompted to add a student. Search for The Franklin School of Innovation. You will then be asked for your student's UID and password. All students have been given their UID and passwords, and have received training on how to log on. Ask your student!
- If your student does NOT know how to log into Canvas, we can help. Please check with your student before you email for help. Email me if your student cannot help you log on.

2. Log onto Canvas (you will find a [link to Canvas](#) on our website!) with your student - you can create a parent account, but you will need your student's log in information to create your account. Log on with your student and ask them to show you their courses, assignments, and grades. You determine how often you want/need to log on with your student.

If you have a question about your student's grade in any specific class, please reach out to that teacher. They can best help you understand how your student is doing.