

## From the Director



MS students breaking ground

Happy fall!

We celebrated a wonderful start to the fall season, with our official Groundbreaking Ceremony on Friday, Sept 28. We also hosted representatives from the Office of Charter Schools, for our charter renewal site visit. It was a busy and exciting day! Thank you to everyone who came to the groundbreaking, and to all who assisted with our site visit!

Two weeks ago, as a school faculty, we took time to work together on envisioning a school where every student truly feels visible and valuable, which is one of the norms we ask our students to follow. We reflected together on what it would really look like and sound like here in our school. What work do we, as adults, need to undertake to create a safe and welcoming community for all students? We looked at our own biases, and committed to actions we would take to overcome them. We then broke into groups, and dug more deeply into some of the kinds of bias, prejudice, and general unkindness students may experience in school. As a final action step, each group designed at least one Crew lesson, to help

## Important Dates

### Tues, Oct 2

- 4:15 pm MS Flag Football @ FSI
- 4:35 pm HS Soccer (in TN)
- 6:00 pm Parent Volunteer Mtg, Johnson building

### Wed, Oct 3 12:50/1:00 Release

- 4:30 pm HS Volleyball @ Asheville School
- 5:00 pm: HS Soccer @ Asheville School

### Thurs, Oct 4

- 3:45 pm: Welcome Potluck for German Students - Johnson Bldg
- 4:30 pm: MS Cross Country @ Veritas

### Sat, Oct 6, 9 am - 1 pm

Gardening Workday

### Tues, Oct 9

- 4:15 pm: MS Flag Football @FSI
- 6 pm: Board of Directors mtg

### Tues, Oct 9 - Fri, Oct 12:

9th Grade Adventure Treks

### Wed, Oct 10 12:50/1 release

### Thurs, Oct 11

- 4:15 pm: MS Flag Football
- 4:30 pm: HS Cross Country

### Sat, Oct 13, 8:30 am

PSAT @ FSI

### Oct 15 - 19 - Spirit Week!

students examine issues of bias and prejudice, and learn how they can stand up against these actions in our school.

This is work we began in our first year, and that we know will continue every year into the future. As a next step this year, in October, we will ask students to tell us what bullying, bias, and prejudice they experience, see or hear at school. We will do this through an anonymous survey, and we'll include time to talk about the survey after students complete it. This survey will help inform our continued efforts to provide education and support to students, by guiding the lessons and topics we explore in Crew and in our classes.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. In addition to checking in with our students to learn more what they see and hear in school, we want to be sure that parents know how to communicate concerns about bullying or harassment. There are several people you can reach out to for support, depending on your level of concern. For initial outreach or lower level concerns, your student's Crew leader is an excellent resource. For higher level concerns, middle school parents should contact Walter Plotkin ([wplotkin@thefsi.us](mailto:wplotkin@thefsi.us)), our MS principal, and high school parents should contact Sarah Jean Smith ([sjsmith@thefsi.us](mailto:sjsmith@thefsi.us)), our HS principal. Our school counselors are also an excellent resource. Lindsey Foster ([lfoster@thefsi.us](mailto:lfoster@thefsi.us)) supports our middle school students and Katherine Becker ([kbecker@thefsi.us](mailto:kbecker@thefsi.us)) supports high school.

We know that our school exists within a broader community, and issues of bias, prejudice, and bullying extend beyond our school walls. Our commitment is to doing all that we can to create a school where every child is visible and valuable. We welcome and appreciate your support in this worthy and challenging task.

Warmly,

Michelle Vruwink, Executive Director

## **Tues, Oct 16**

-4:30 pm - MS Cross Country

-6:30 pm: FSI Family Fun Day/Staff vs Student Volleyball Game

## **Wed, Oct 17 12:50/1 Release**

## **Thurs, Oct 18**

-4:15 pm: MS Flag Football

-5:30 pm: Info Session for Prospective Families

## **Fri, Oct 19, 7:30 pm**

HS Homecoming Dance @ Woodfin Community Center

## **Sat, Oct 20, 6 pm**

All-School Bonfire

## **Tues, Oct 23, 4:15 pm**

MS Flag Football

**Wed, Oct 24: No regular classes** - Student Led Conferences

## **Wed & Thurs, Oct 24 & 25**

Cross Country Invitational @ FSI

## **Wed, Oct 24, 11 am - 8 pm**

Dine Out @ Cantina, Biltmore Village

## **Tues, Oct 30**

-Make Up Picture Day

-10th Grade Field Day

-4:15 pm: MS Flag Football

## **Wed, Oct 31 12:50/1:00 release**

End of Quarter 1

**Fri, Nov 2: NO SCHOOL** - teacher work day

## **Wed, Nov 7, 1:15 - 4:15**

Attendance Makeup Date

# Homecoming

We're very excited about our first ever Homecoming Week! Our Student Community Council has planned an exciting Spirit Week, and we have lots of great activities.

## All School Spirit Week

- Oct 15, Monday- Twin Day- dress like twins
- Oct 16, Tuesday, Bolt Day- dress in your favorite Bolt gear
- Oct 17, Wednesday, Vine Day- dress like your favorite Viner
- Oct 18, Thursday, Throwback Thursday- dress like the past
- Oct 19, Friday, Crazy Hat Day

**Daily Contest:** Students can pay \$1.00 to enter the contest. Contestants will be judged at lunch on that day.

Athletics & Events - please see the parent sign-ups -come have fun and earn your volunteer hours! We really need your help!

- **Middle School Cross Country Meet, Tuesday, Oct 16, 4:30 pm** at I C Imagine School Kingfisher Invitational
- **FSI Family Fun Spirit Night and Annual Fund Kick Off, Tuesday, 6:30 pm** at Foster SDA Church at 375 Hendersonville Road.  
Join FSI for a fun evening to celebrate Homecoming and to Kick Off our Annual Fund Campaign. We will have a faculty/student volleyball game, a free throw contest, and prizes and info about our Annual Fund campaign. Food and snacks will be for sale.
- **Middle School Flag Football, Thursday, Oct 18th, 4:15** at Burton Street Rec Park (134 Burton Street, Asheville 28806) vs Francine Delany School
- **High School Homecoming Dance, Friday, Oct 19, 7:00-10:30**  
Woodfin Community Center, 14 Penley Avenue, Woodfin  
Tickets will be on sale on Oct 1, \$7 in advance with Coach Burke or Friday lunches/\$10 at door. Pizza, Snacks and Drinks will be for sale as a fundraiser for the Athletic Department.

Current FSI High School Students may bring 1 non-FSI student as a guest/date. However, an approval form must be filled out and turned into Coach Burke.

**For Parent Donations and Volunteers, please visit our sign-up genius:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eaea822a7fe3-fsihigh>

- **All School Bonfire, Saturday, Oct 20, 6-9pm**, FSI All School Bonfire to celebrate Homecoming. Join us for contests, games, food, bonfire, music and fun! This is an event for all current FSI students.

**To sign up for parent volunteers and donations:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eaea822a7fe3-fsihomecoming>

## Annual Fund Campaign

Our campaign will start this month and run for 6 weeks! The educational and social program we offer at FSI costs us more than we receive from the State. To be able to offer the programs that we think are important to your children's education, like the EL Education curriculum, technology, transportation, sports, arts, expeditions, grade level trips and scholarships, we must raise \$50,000 this year for the annual fund. **The Annual Fund positively affects every child at FSI.**

Our Annual Fund supports

- EL Education program
- Grade Level Expeditions
- Grade Level outdoor adventure trips
- The Athletic Department with uniforms, gym and field rentals
- The Arts Department with supplies and materials
- The Theatre Department with costumes, scripts and performance space
- The Music Department with supplies and performance space
- Keeping our buses running and paying drivers
- Technology- FSI purchased 200 new chromebooks this year already

There will be many ways to give and to share information with family members and friends! The students will have a contest with prizes. There are also annual sponsorship levels available, if you would like to donate in the name of your business!

More info will be coming soon!

## Student Led Conferences - Wednesday, Oct 24

Our fall Student Led Conferences (SLC) will be held on Wednesday, October 24. SLCs are an essential EL Education structure, and one of the ways that we help students become the leaders of their own learning. For our fall SLCs, each student and their parents/guardians meet one on one with the student's Crew leader. During the SLC, your student will share their goals for the year and show some of the work they have completed.

**Note that there are no classes on the day of SLCs.** Crew leaders will send out a sign-up form, and you and your student will come to school for the assigned SLC time. Because we use all our classrooms for the SLCs, we are not able to provide Beyond the Bell services on SLC day.

You will receive more information about SLCs as we get closer. If you have questions, reach out to your student's Crew leader!

## Third Annual Bolts Cross Country Invitational, Oct 24 & 25, 4:30 pm

While this is our 3rd Invitational, this is the **FIRST** year we are hosting it at FSI! Students have been working hard alongside Athletic Director Coach Burke to build a trail for our runners. This will be a fun opportunity to cheer on our Cross Country Team. Come on out in all your Bolt gear, and let's cheer them on to lots of personal bests! Final details are being arranged, so watch for more info to come. At this time, we'll host MS runners on Oct 24 and HS runners on Oct 25.

## Dine out at The Cantina, Biltmore Village, Wed, Oct 24, 11 am - 8 pm

After SLCs, or after the Cross Country Invitational, how about a night out to celebrate? You must mention FSI (or Franklin School of Innovation) - and if you do, we receive 15% of sales between 11 am and 8 pm. So tell your friends and families to head over to The Cantina at Biltmore Village to enjoy a great meal, and tell them they are there to support FSI.

## Volunteer Corner

Want to meet more parents at FSI, and connect to the community? Looking for a way to show your child that you think school is important? Volunteering is a wonderful way to do this! We have lots of fun ways for you to get involved this fall.

### Upcoming Opportunities

**Saturday, Oct 6, 9 am - 1 pm:** Gardening/Grounds Crew Work Day

**Friday, Oct 19, 7 - 10:30 pm:** HS Homecoming Dance - donations & volunteers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eaea822a7fe3-fsihigh>

**Saturday, Oct 20, 6 - 9 pm:** All School Homecoming Bonfire - donations & volunteers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eaea822a7fe3-fsihomecoming>

To help us communicate effectively about volunteer opportunities (meaning fewer, more targeted emails!) - please complete this short survey! [Volunteer Survey](#)

## How to Use Canvas

Have you heard about Canvas? Perhaps you aren't sure what this is? Canvas is a Learning Management System that we use to help students keep up to date with coursework, assignments, and their progress in class. As a parent, you can log in to see how your student is doing. **You will need information from your student to log in the first time. All students have received this information.** With the end of Q1 approaching (October 31), now is a good time to check in.

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 our Technology Coordinator, Matt Mikulski ([mmikulski@thefsi.us](mailto:mmikulski@thefsi.us)) 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. Ask your student to log on and show you Canvas. You can ask them to take you on a tour of their courses, and check assignments and grades. You can determine how often you want/need to log on with your student.



We recommend logging into Canvas with your child at least a few times each quarter. This can be a great way to open conversations about what is going on in school, how your student feels about their learning, and if they have any concerns or need support. 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.

## Info Sessions for Prospective Families

October means recruitment season for next year is underway. As we look forward to the excitement of our new building, we look forward to a strong year of growth for next year. If your child is thriving and happy at FSI, please help spread the word! Invite them to an Info Session, suggest they take a tour, or invite their child to spend part of a day here at FSI! Our first Info Session is October 18, 5:30 pm, here at FSI.

## Reminders - Check here for any info you may have missed!

### Stay Informed - Where to find what you need to know

Homework, sports, social events, and more -keeping up with family schedules takes some serious organization! We want to help you find all the information you need to know, when you need it!

Here are the ways you will hear from us, and some helpful links when you're looking for something and just not sure where to find it:

**Monthly Newsletter:** This newsletter will be sent the 1st week of each month. The newsletter highlights activities taking place at school, as well as some of why we do what we do. The newsletters are published on our website - on the Parent page - in case you ever miss an issue, or want to go back and read it again.

**Community Calendar:** Find our online calendar on our website! The Community Calendar is the place to find all daily/weekly events taking place at Franklin.

**Facebook Page:** Franklin maintains a school-wide Facebook page. We'll post about events, topics of interest, and general happenings. Like us and follow us!

**Carpooling Group:** Find other Franklin parents looking for rideshares and carpooling on this closed Facebook group. You'll be asked to answer a couple questions before you join.

**Bolts Athletics:** Our Athletics Program has a Facebook page as well - follow it to keep up with our teams. We hope to see lots of fans on the sideline this year!

**FSI Website:** You'll find lots of information on our website! Check the Parent tab for the calendar, forms, our handbook, archived copies of our newsletter, and more!

### Who do I go to when....

Whether you are new or returning to Franklin, we know you will have questions, and we want to help you find the best person to answer them, quickly and efficiently. We hope this little guide will help you navigate!

***I have a question about my child's grade, an assignment, or something specific to one class:***

Start with your child - what do they know? Then, the classroom teacher

***I'm worried about my child's overall progress, or progress in multiple classes:*** Your child's Crew advisor can help coordinate a team response or meeting

***My child seems anxious, sad, or unhappy:*** [Lindsey Foster](#) is our middle school counselor, and [Katherine Becker](#) is our high school counselor

***I think my child is being bullied, or other behavior/discipline concerns:*** [Walter Plotkin](#), Middle School Principal or [Sarah Jean Smith](#), High School Principal

***My child will miss school:*** For short-term absences (illness, doctor's appointments, etc), send an email to [attendance@thefsi.us](mailto:attendance@thefsi.us), or bring a written note to the front office. Educational leave requests require prior approval from the Executive Director, [Michelle Vruwink](#).

***I've contacted a teacher, but the problem isn't resolved:*** Your child's Principal

***I think my child may need special education services or accommodations:*** [Donnie Stahlke](#), Director of Special Services

***My child has an IEP, and I have questions about the services provided:*** Your child's Exceptional Children teacher is your first contact:

- Grades 5 - 6: [Tammy Leahy](#)
- Grades 7 - 8: [Meagan Barnhard](#)
- Grade 9: [Lindsay Furst](#)
- Grade 10: [Jennifer Nathanson](#)
- Grades 11 -12: [Serena Campbell](#)

***I have questions about sports:*** [Kim Burke](#), Athletic Director

***I want to know more about after or before-school services:*** [McKenzie Eury](#), Beyond the Bell Coordinator

***I want to know more about your band program:*** [Chris Wilson](#), Band Director

***I have questions about your school bus:*** [Deeana Bennett](#), Director of Operations

**I am interested in carpooling/ride-sharing:** Check out our carpool facebook group (you need to request to join):

***I want to know more about college planning, including advanced courses like AP and Dual Enrollment, financial aid, or the college application process:*** [JaneAnne Tager](#), College & Career Counselor

***I have high level concerns or questions about the school, such as a problem that hasn't been resolved through my principal, an immediate school safety concern, or more general questions about the school's philosophy, approach, or plans for the future:*** [Michelle Vruwink](#), Executive Director

## **Our Teaching Teams for 2018-2019!**

We are excited to have many returning teachers, as well as some new faces for the coming school year! While we are sharing contact information now, please understand that teachers are enjoying their summers, and will not be responding to emails until the school year begins. You will have the opportunity to meet teachers at our Back to School Nights in early September! Please see information above for the Exceptional Children teachers on each grade level team.

### 5th Grade

Katie Lapinski, ELA & Social Studies: [klapinski@thefsi.us](mailto:klapinski@thefsi.us)

Peggy McKay, Science & Math: [pmckay@thefsi.us](mailto:pmckay@thefsi.us)

### 6th Grade

Tony Freeman, ELA & Social Studies: [tfreeman@thefsi.us](mailto:tfreeman@thefsi.us)

Charlie Keller, Math & Social Studies: [ckeller@thefsi.us](mailto:ckeller@thefsi.us)

Samuel "Latt" Berry Foster, Science & Social Studies: [sfoster@thefsi.us](mailto:sfoster@thefsi.us)

### 7th Grade

Ethan Burns, ELA: [eburns@thefsi.us](mailto:eburns@thefsi.us)

Bryan Clendenin, Social Studies: [bclendenin@thefsi.us](mailto:bclendenin@thefsi.us)

Judy Carhart, Math: [jcarhart@thefsi.us](mailto:jcarhart@thefsi.us)

Nick Liu, Science: [nliu@thefsi.us](mailto:nliu@thefsi.us)

### 8th Grade

Dan Torrington, ELA: & Social Studies: [dtorrington@thefsi.us](mailto:dtorrington@thefsi.us)

Lucas Myers, Math: [lmyers@thefsi.us](mailto:lmyers@thefsi.us)

Elizabeth Post, Science & Social Studies: [epost@thefsi.us](mailto:epost@thefsi.us)

### 9th Grade

Drew Fowler, ELA: [dfowler@thefsi.us](mailto:dfowler@thefsi.us)

Jerry Lubos, World History: [jlubos@thefsi.us](mailto:jlubos@thefsi.us)

Austin Proctor, Math 1: [aproctor@thefsi.us](mailto:aproctor@thefsi.us)



Taylor Jenkins, Math 1: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)  
Jill Padfield, Math 2: [jpadfield@thefsi.us](mailto:jpadfield@thefsi.us)  
Chris DeFiore, Earth Science: [cdefiore@thefsi.us](mailto:cdefiore@thefsi.us)

#### 10th Grade

Carly Connor, ELA: [cconnor@thefsi.us](mailto:cconnor@thefsi.us)  
Matt Reynolds, Civics & Economics: [mreynolds@thefsi.us](mailto:mreynolds@thefsi.us)  
Jill Padfield, Math 2: [jpadfield@thefsi.us](mailto:jpadfield@thefsi.us)  
Teshale Byan, Math 3 & Calculus: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)  
Jessica Bragdon, Biology: [jbragdon@thefsi.us](mailto:jbragdon@thefsi.us)

#### 11th Grade

Katie Washburn, English III & AP Lang: [kwashburn@thefsi.us](mailto:kwashburn@thefsi.us)  
Meghan Moore-Hubbard, American History I: [mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us](mailto:mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us)  
Teshale Byan, Math 3 & Calculus: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)  
Taylor Jenkins, PreCalc: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)  
Melissa Kee (formerly Parton), Chemistry & Conceptual Physics: [mparton@thefsi.us](mailto:mparton@thefsi.us)

#### 12th Grade

Laura Walton (formerly Bubacz,) English IV & AP Lit: [lwalton@thefsi.us](mailto:lwalton@thefsi.us)  
Tess Barnes Dunn, American History II: [tbarnesdunn@thefsi.us](mailto:tbarnesdunn@thefsi.us)  
Teshale Byan, Calculus: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)  
Taylor Jenkins, PreCalc & Discrete Math: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)  
Melissa Kee (formerly Parton), Conceptual Physics: [mparton@thefsi.us](mailto:mparton@thefsi.us)  
Austin Proctor, Physics: [aproctor@thefsi.us](mailto:aproctor@thefsi.us)

#### Elective Teachers:

MS PE: Kendra Parks (formerly Orians), [korians@thefsi.us](mailto:korians@thefsi.us)  
HS PE & Athletic Director: Kimberly Burke, [kburke@thefsi.us](mailto:kburke@thefsi.us)  
MS Art: Diane Strazzer, [dstrazzer@thefsi.us](mailto:dstrazzer@thefsi.us)  
HS Art: Kati Robbins, [krobbins@thefsi.us](mailto:krobbins@thefsi.us)  
MS Lit Lab: Hannah Allen, [hallen@thefsi.us](mailto:hallen@thefsi.us)  
MS Tech: Matt Mikulski, [mmikulski@thefsi.us](mailto:mmikulski@thefsi.us)  
MS Guidance (and counselor): Lindsey Foster, [lfoster@thefsi.us](mailto:lfoster@thefsi.us)  
Music: Cary Cooper, [ccooper@thefsi.us](mailto:ccooper@thefsi.us)  
Theatre: Chris Martin, [cmartin@thefsi.us](mailto:cmartin@thefsi.us)  
French: Stephanie Hellert, [shellert@thefsi.us](mailto:shellert@thefsi.us)  
Spanish: Heather Kabat, [hkabat@thefsi.us](mailto:hkabat@thefsi.us)  
Spanish: Alfredo Herrero Debon, [aherrerodebon@thefsi.us](mailto:aherrerodebon@thefsi.us)  
ASL: Desiree Delbert, [ddelbert@thefsi.us](mailto:ddelbert@thefsi.us)