



## **Franklin Public Schools**

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### **Superintendent's Report to School Committee October 12, 2021**

#### **ECDC Playground**

We're excited that construction is underway on the resurfacing of the ECDC playground. Ms. Kelley sent out a notice to her families earlier today to provide some notice, as this will impact arrival and dismissal. We will take pictures when it is done and share them.

#### **Coach Bain - New England Coach of the Week**

Congratulations to Football Coach Eain Bain who was recognized last week with the NE Patriot High School Coach of the Week Award. This award & \$1,000 is made possible through the generosity of the Kraft Family & The Patriots Charitable Foundation.

#### **Announcing our Middle School 2021 visiting author - Aisha Saeed**

Ms. Saeed has authored several popular Young Adult novels, including *Amal Unbound*, *Aladdin: Far From Agrabah*, and *Written in the Stars*. She is a founding member of We Need Diverse Books and has been featured on the NY Times bestseller list. Her books are highly engaging and give our students the opportunity to connect with others through story - allowing a window into experiences our students may not otherwise encounter and, conversely, a mirror for our students in Franklin to see themselves represented in the literature they are reading.

We have several fun events planned for her virtual visit coming up in November:

- Stop Drop and Read Day
- Book Fair at Barnes and Noble Bellingham
- Virtual visits with the author during school
- Evening community event

Special thanks to the middle school PCCs and the Massachusetts Cultural Council for making this possible.

#### **Food Services and Supply Chain Issues**

Due to disruptions in the supply chain, Franklin's school nutrition program, like programs across the state and the nation, are struggling to secure all food and supply items. According to DESE, this is due to product shortages, discontinued items, price increases, distributor cancellations, delayed or cancelled deliveries with little to no notice, and staffing shortages. Our Food Services Department is working very hard to ensure healthy, nutritious, and appealing free school meals

are served every school day and they are making adjustments as needed. We appreciate everyone's flexibility and understanding.

### **Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey**

Letters are going out to our middle and high school families to inform them that students will be participating in the Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey. This survey is issued to grades 7-12 students every other year. We have been participating since its inception in 2006. The 2020 administration did not occur due to COVID, and the survey is being instituted in 2021, after last being conducted in 2018. Questions are developmentally appropriate and differentiated depending on the grade level and generally pertain to the following areas:

- Alcohol, tobacco, and drug use
- Violence and safety
- Nutrition and physical health
- Online behaviors
- Mental health
- Protective health factors
- Sexual behaviors

The survey will be conducted in late October through mid-November. Families can opt their children out of the survey by responding to the letter they will receive. The survey is completed anonymously.

The survey data is very informative to our programs focused on student well-being. Our Wellness Department adjusts health curriculum in response to the survey findings. We have used these findings in our parent education events, for example on the influence and impact of social media on children. The school community including counselors, likewise, can be more responsive to student SEL needs with an understanding of trends and patterns.