



Kennedy News

551 Pond Street Franklin, MA 02038

(508) 541-5260

www.franklin.ma.us/kennedy

April 2012



Happy Spring!

Our Spring Book Fair and Art Show kick off a busy month!

The event happens on Thursday,

April 5th, and runs from 6:30-8:00 PM in our gym and cafeteria. This year we plan to present some of JFK student artwork at the School Committee meeting on April 10th, as we showcase the fabulous art program at Kennedy School. Thanks to Mrs. Hess for all of her hard work in organizing the show and for presenting to the School Committee!

Our School Council is conducting an online survey via SurveyMonkey.com, to gauge parent interest in and availability for school volunteering. The survey is short, with only seven questions to answer. All but

one are in a multiple choice format, with an option to add comments for each question. The survey will be open through April 10th. Please visit:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T2RM36J> to take part.

Thanks in advance for your responses!

A letter was sent home last week regarding class placements for the 2012/2013 school year. If you wish to provide information you feel is pertinent for your child, be sure to send in your letter by April 13th.

The Spring 2012 MCAS dates are posted on page 4. Please make a note of these important dates for your 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders.

Important Dates

- ◆ Monday, April 2~Thursday, April 5th, Scholastic Book Fair
- ◆ April 5th: Evening Book Fair and Art Show, 6:30-8:00 PM
- ◆ April 6th: NO SCHOOL, Good Friday observance
- ◆ Tuesday, April 10th: Grades 3 & 5 Field Trip to the Rhode Island Philharmonic
- ◆ Tuesday, April 10th: Student recites Pledge of Allegiance at School Committee Meeting, 7PM
- ◆ Friday, April 13th: Class placement letter deadline
- ◆ April 16th ~ April 20th, VACATION WEEK!
- ◆ Thursday, April 26th, School Council, 7:30 AM



- ◆ To the PCC, for funding our enrichment programs for March: "What's the Matter?" came to our second grades and Wingmasters visited our fifth grades in March.
- ◆ To Renata Gilarova, for refreshing our front planters with signs of Spring!
- ◆ To our third, fourth, and fifth graders who participated in our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. Our students jumped and raised \$1068 for the American Heart Association! Thanks, too, to Mrs. Perry, for coordinating this event!
- ◆ To the PCC for funding a JFK team for the FEF Trivia Bee. We were proudly represented this year by Mr. Lee, Mr. McCarthy, and Mr. Silva.
- ◆ To Gwyn Dieterle and the Auction committee: Heather Arone, Pooh Chaudhury, Missy Dowley, Jodi Ellis, Betsy Hanley, Deb Honor, Meredith Marsh, Amy Moore, Denise Flynn Wright, for coordinating the fabulous Ladybug Auction this year!

Stay connected !

- ◆ Check out our website:

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Kennedy

- ◆ Join our list-serve. You can self-subscribe by visiting :

<http://lists.franklin.k12.ma.us/mailman/listinfo/jfkennedy>





Bottle and Can Drive/ Electronics Recycling Date by Mrs. Lipson



The Kennedy PCC is holding a Bottle & Can Drive and Appliance & Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, May 12th, from 9AM to noon at the Kennedy School. Please start saving your Bottles & Cans (soda, seltzer, beer)! Electronics and appliances such as cameras, computers, computer accessories, stereos, microwaves, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, washers, dryers and dishwashers will be accepted. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Lisa



We are using  to organize supplies and volunteers for this event. To donate supplies, please go to: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4AADA92A1-recycling1>. To volunteer for the event, please go to the online

sign-up sheet at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4AADA92A1-recycling>. To open a  account, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/register>.



5th Grade Birds of Prey Project by Marissa C. and Addison H.

In the lobby and library of the John F. Kennedy Elementary School you can see all of the birds of prey the 5th graders have worked on over the past few months. The 5th graders researched, wrote reports, created replicas, and presented their projects about the bird that they were assigned. Our reports consisted of a cover, an outline, a typed final copy, and a bibliography. All of the replicas were creative and unique. During our presentations, each student presented the facts about the bird they researched. Each student also discussed how they made their replica. All of the 5th grade students have worked very hard to complete this project.

Box Tops for Education

The next Box Tops submission is coming up soon! Drop your baggies of Box Tops into the BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION collection bin located in the school lobby. Please note: the Box Tops folks do not like staples; please use tape to attach box tops if you use the submission sheet.

Thank you for supporting Kennedy's PCC!

Nurse Notes by Mrs. Kelcourse, RN



POSTURAL SCREENING GRADE 5

Postural screening is a state mandated screening to check for scoliosis. This is done yearly in grades 5-9. The 5th graders will be shown a video explaining this condition and the screening during Wellness classes. Each screening will be done privately by either Mrs. Perry or Mrs. Kelcourse.

If the nurse has a copy of your child's current physician exam form (since June 2011) and the physician has specifically written that postural screening was done at that exam, then your child will be excused from the school screening.

Postural screening will be done on April 12 this year. Notices will go home to 5th grade students prior to the screening.

Prevent Tick-Borne Diseases

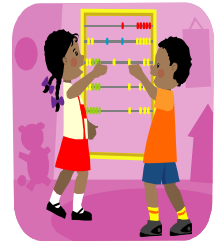
Although deer ticks are most active in warm weather months between May and July, they can be found anytime temperatures are above freezing.

Ticks are found near the ground in wooded, brushy, or grassy areas (including the "rough" at golf courses). After spending time in an area likely to have ticks, check yourself, your children, and pets for ticks. Young deer ticks are the size of a poppy seed. Adult deer ticks are the size of a sesame seed. Ticks like warm, moist places so always check the backs of knees, armpits, groin, scalp, back of the neck, and behind the ears. Talk to your veterinarian about tick control options for your pets. Symptoms may appear 3-30 days after being bitten by an infected tick. Bull's eye rash may occur, but not always. Tick-borne diseases masquerade as a "Summer Flu"- with symptoms like: fever, headache fatigue, muscle aches. Contact your health care provider if any symptoms occur, especially if a tick was attached for more than 24 hours.

More information is available at www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/factsheets/factsheets.htm.

Second Grade Morning Math Brunch A Huge Success! By Mrs. Dulmaine

Our second graders and their families enjoyed a fun-filled morning of math games and activities. From some serious concentration and quick calculations, to the luck of the roll, everyone's goal was the same - to outwit and outplay their parents, (I mean partners!) Brunch was extraordinary and no one left hungry! The second grade teachers wish to everyone for their help and donations. It was great to just be together having fun with our kids! We're already looking forward to next year!



Art Show and Book Fair by Mrs. Hess

Kennedy Elementary's annual Art Show will be held on Thursday, April 5th from 6:30-8:00. This is the same evening as the spring book fair so there are two great reasons to attend. The Art Show will be located in the cafeteria and every Kennedy student will have one of their artworks on display in the show. We hope you can join us in supporting our talented young artists!

More Playground News!

The Playground Committee is pleased to announce that the new playground equipment has been ordered! We are working with school and town officials, as well as with the playground company, to coordinate the installation, which will happen soon after school is out in June. When the dates are firm, we can then plan for our celebration!

Thanks again to the tireless workers on the Playground Committee: Renata Gilarova, Sandy Brown, Tisha Arffa, Ariel Doggett, and Nikki Wisniewski, for all of their herculean fundraising efforts and tireless work with vendors to come up with a workable design plan for our school.





MCAS Testing Dates for Spring 2012

Grade 3

5/7	Math practice test
5/10	Math session 1
5/11	Math session 2
5/14	Math make-up tests

Grade 5

5/8	Math session 1
5/9	Math session 2
5/10	Math make-ups

5/14	Science practice test
5/16	Science session 1
5/17	Science session 2

Grade 4

*5/7	Math practice test
5/14	Math session 1
5/15	Math session 2
5/16	Math make-ups



* Some practice tests may be optional in Gr. 4 & 5

Summer Math Academy

Franklin is pleased to announce the return of The Summer Math Academy, a day camp for students who enjoy mathematics. The Summer Math Academy is a place where children work together in a casual environment to enrich and extend their mathematical knowledge. The non-traditional setting allows curious and enthusiastic campers to explore math, art, and science through hands-on interactive projects, and in general to share their love of mathematics.

The Summer Math Academy will run for one two-week full morning session at Oak Street Elementary School from Monday, July 2 to Friday July 13 (no class on July 4th) from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Here is just a sampling of some of the possible activities:

Origami, Attribute Graphing, Pattern Art, Logic Puzzles, Cryptology, Tangrams, Sudoku, Engineering Challenges, Math Story Re-enactments, Gum Drop 3-D Figures, Rube Goldberg Inventions, Probability Games, and more!

The Director is Jeff Chaffee, the Mathematics Curriculum Enhancement Teacher at Remington Middle School. If you have any questions his e-mail address is chaffeej@franklin.k12.ma.us

Birthday Books



Our PCC sponsors the Birthday Books program. When a JFK student celebrates a birthday, she or he may come to the office and choose a book to keep. Mrs. Toye visits briefly with each child and writes a birthday greeting in the chosen book. Summer birthdays are acknowledged in June and August. This is a great way for her to get to know children, and for children to feel special on their special day!



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March 2012



Principally Speaking

We hope your February vacation was wonderful! While our winter has certainly been mild this year, it is still cold enough during recess for children to need hats and gloves each day. March brings several Early Release days: March 7th and 23rd will be used for teachers' professional development. Second term report cards will be issued on March 14th, and the 15th and 16th are Early Release Days for parent conferences. Please contact your child's teacher if you'd like an appointment.

Please note that this is the final paper copy of our school newsletter. In our efforts to reduce costs and to be 'greener,' we will stop automatic sending of paper copies of the monthly newsletter. As is our practice now, the newsletter will be posted on our website. If you are signed up on our email

list-serve, you will receive an email notification that a new newsletter edition has been posted. If you are not on our list-serve, you can self-subscribe by visiting:

<http://lists.franklin.k12.ma.us/mailman/listinfo/jfkennedy>.

Please note that this is different from our Connect-Ed service, which we use for emergency notifications. You need to actively join the list-serve. If you do not have web access, please contact our office. We will keep several paper copies of the newsletter in our office area, also.

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Important Dates

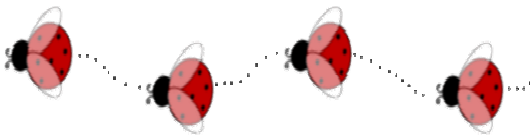
- ◆ Wednesday, March 7th: EARLY RELEASE DAY, Dismissal at 11:40 AM, No lunches served
- ◆ Thursday, March 8th: School Council meeting, 7:30 AM in the Conference Room
- ◆ Wednesday, March 14th: Second Term Report Cards Issued
- ◆ Thursday, March 15th, and Friday, March 16th: EARLY RELEASE DAYS. Dismissal at 11:40 AM, No lunches served. Parent Conferences by appointment.
- ◆ Wednesday, March 21st: PCC Meeting, 7PM in the Cafeteria
- ◆ Friday, March 23rd: EARLY RELEASE DAY, Dismissal at 11:40 AM, No lunches served
- ◆ New FHS Debt Exclusion Vote, Tuesday, March 27th at the FHS Field House.
- ◆ Friday, March 30th, 7PM, PCC Ladybug Auction, Primavera Restaurant, Millis, MA
- ◆ April 5th: Evening Book Fair and Art Show
- ◆ April 6th: NO SCHOOL

Check out our website:

<http://www.franklin.ma.us/Kennedy>



Many Thanks!



- ◆ To the PCC Board and the Playground Committee, for hosting a special informational meeting about the new playground project. Thanks, too, to all who attended!
- ◆ To Kelli Woelfel, Daniela Masters, Leanne Reardon, and Debbie Mulvey for coordinating, collecting, and counting the coins for the "Coins for Kennedy" Drive.
- ◆ To the PCC, for funding our enrichment programs for March: "What's the Matter?" comes to our second grades and Wingmasters will visit our fifth grades in March.

Bottle and Can Drive/ Electronics Recycling Date by Mrs. Lipson

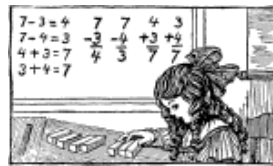


Kennedy PCC Fundraiser

The Kennedy PCC is holding a Bottle & Can Drive and Appliance & Electronics Recycling Day this Spring (date is TBA) at the Kennedy School. Please start saving your Bottles & Cans (soda, seltzer, beer)! Electronics and appliances such as cameras, computers, computer accessories, stereos, microwaves, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, washers, dryers and dishwashers will be accepted. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Lisa Lipson at lisalipson@comcast.net.

Morning Math Brunch by Mrs. Dulmaine

Coming Soon



Morning Math Brunch

For Second Grade Students and Parents/Guardians

Where: JFK cafeteria & gym

When: Thursday, March 15, 2012

9:00 – 10:30



Fun Math Games!

Friendly competition!

Are you smarter than a 2nd grader?

Birthday Books

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Box Tops for Education

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Thank you for supporting Kennedy's PCC!

Art News by Mrs. Hess

March is Youth Art Month and to celebrate, Gallery 218 in Franklin High School is showcasing abstract artwork created by students ranging from kindergarten through grade 12. In addition Franklin schools will be participating in Youth Art Month at the Worcester Art Museum. Selected students will have their artwork on display in the museum for the month of March. In other Art news... The Annual Kennedy School Art Show will be held on Thursday April 5th!

Nurse Notes by Mrs. Kelcourse, RN



POSTURAL SCREENING GRADE 5

Postural screening is a state mandated screening to check for postural problems. This is done yearly in grades 5-9. The 5th graders will be shown a video explaining this condition and the screening during Wellness classes. Each screening will be done privately by either the PE staff or the school nurse.

If the nurse has a copy of your child's current physician exam form (since last June) and the physician has specifically written that postural screening was done at that exam, then your child will be excused from the school screening.

CHECKING FOR LICE

When a case of head lice is reported to you either by a friend or by the school, it is recommended that you check your child's hair daily for a minimum of 2 weeks. Lice can be diagnosed by the presence of the insects or lice eggs in the hair. The most common places to find lice eggs are behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. It is important to differentiate dandruff from nits (lice eggs). Dandruff will be flatter and easy to flake off the hair. If you can make it "snow" or dislodge the flakes, it's dandruff. If it resists and you need to pull it out all the way through the hair shaft, it is more than likely a louse egg.

Footlighters Production

THE WIZ

Thomas Mercer Auditorium

March 9 and 10 @ 7 PM

Tickets are \$10 for everyone

Tickets are only available at the door for non cast members



Winter Carnival

Winter Carnival, hosted by FHS Student Government, is a great event for families. There will be music, food, games, and more! This year all benefits will go to Tickets For Loving Children, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting hospitalized kids. The event will take place SUNDAY, March 11, from 12pm to 4pm in the FHS Field House. \$5 per child. Adults and children under 3 go free!

Rally for Recess Contest Announcement by Renata Gilarova

The Playground Committee is excited to let you know that we received a call on 2/28/12 from Dannon announcing that our school placed first in the Rally for Recess contest in our Gator League with 26,610 points!! We also had the most points in the contest overall! Way to go Kennedy students and parents. Dannon will be sending the committee paperwork to submit. Once Dannon approves the paper work, our school should receive \$20,000 for the new playground and the students at Kennedy School will get an awesome Recess party!! Congratulations Kennedy School and a HUGE THANK YOU to ALL who helped to make this happen.

More Playground News!

The Playground Committee is pleased to announce that the new playground equipment has been ordered! We are working with school and town officials as well as with the playground company to coordinate the installation. When the dates are firm, we can then plan for our celebration!

Thanks again to the tireless workers on the Playground Committee: Renata Gilarova, Sandy Brown, Tisha Arffa, Ariel Doggett, and Nikki Wisniewski, for all of their herculean fundraising efforts and tireless work with vendors to come up with a workable design plan for our school.





MCAS Testing Dates for Spring 2012

Grade 3

3/19 ELA practice test
 3/21 ELA session 1
 3/22 ELA session 2

5/7 Math practice test
 5/10 Math session 1
 5/11 Math session 2
 5/14 Math make-up tests

Grade 5

*3/19 ELA practice test
 3/28 ELA session 1
 3/29 ELA session 2

5/7 Science practice test
 5/8 Science session 1
 5/9 Science session 2
 5/10 Science make-ups

*5/14 Math practice test
 5/16 Math session 1
 5/17 Math session 2

Grade 4

* 3/19 ELA practice test
 3/20 ELA long composition
 3/26 ELA session 1
 3/27 ELA session 2
 3/28 ELA make-up tests
 3/29 Long composition make-up

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February 2012



Principally Speaking

While we haven't had much snow, winter has arrived!

Please remember that children are outside for recess each day, and should come to school prepared with hats and gloves to play in cold weather.

Changes are in store for our monthly newsletter. In our efforts to reduce costs and to be 'greener,' we will stop automatic sending of paper copies of the monthly newsletter in March. As is our practice now, the newsletter will be posted on our website. For the future, you will receive an email notification that a new newsletter edition has been posted. If you are not on our list-serve, you can self-subscribe by visiting :

<http://lists.franklin.k12.ma.us/mailman/listinfo/jkennedy>.



Many Thanks!

- ◆ To our PCC for funding our January enrichment programs. We enjoyed visits from "Vibes", a program about sound for our third grade classes, and from author Michael Glaser, who visited our first graders with his books on sea life.
- ◆ To our Superintendent, Maureen Sabolinski, Town Administrator Jeff Nutting, and School Building Committee Chair Tom Mercer, for presenting the plans for the new Franklin High School project at the January PCC meeting.
- ◆ To the PCC's Playground Committee members: Tisha Arffa, Sandy Brown, Renata Gilarova, Ariel Doggett, for coordinating the student vote for a climber and a slide for our new playground equipment.

Please note that this is different from our Connect-Ed service, which we use for emergency notifications. You need to actively join the list-serve. If you do not have web access, please contact our office. We will keep several paper copies of the newsletter in our office area, also.

On January 26th, a school-wide vote was held to choose two pieces of equipment- a slide and a climber. Each student was able to view the two choices for each piece and cast a vote. Our students chose the Cloudburst Slide and Starburst Climber. We are all very excited about getting a new playground at JFK!

Beginning in this newsletter, the Spring 2012 MCAS dates are posted. Please make a note of these important dates for your 3rd, 4th, or 5th graders.



Important Dates

- ◆ Friday, February 3rd: Winter Wonderland festivities
- ◆ Wednesday, February 15th: SEPAC presents Dr. Ross Greene, author of *The Explosive Child*
- ◆ Monday, February 20th- Friday, February 24th: NO SCHOOL, Winter Vacation
- ◆ Wednesday, March 7th: EARLY RELEASE DAY, Dismissal at 11:40 AM, No lunches served
- ◆ Thursday, March 8th: School Council meeting, 7:30 AM in the Conference Room
- ◆ Wednesday, March 21st: PCC Meeting, 7PM in the Cafeteria

Stay connected !

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Jump Rope for Heart by Mrs. Perry



Dear Parents and students at Kennedy School:

It is that time again! Time for healthy hearts and a healthy community. The students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will have an opportunity to participate in a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. In the past Kennedy School has done its fair share raising money for a much needed cause. Children are encouraged to ask family and close friends for donations. They will not be going "door to door". The students enjoy participating as well as earning the prizes the American Heart Association offers. Please be a part of everyone's success.

Informational Meetings

The Franklin High School Building Committee has been holding informational sessions at various PCC meetings. If you missed the one here last month, here are some upcoming meetings that you are welcome to attend:

Date	Time	Location
2/3	9 AM	Keller
2/6	7 PM	BF Charter School
2/8	8:30 AM	Annie Sullivan
2/8	12:30 PM	Remington
2/8	7 PM	Parmenter
2/9	6PM or 7 PM	Oak Street
2/17	8:30 AM	Horace Mann
2/29	7PM	Davis Thayer



No Name Calling Week by Mr. Lee

No Name Calling week is a yearly event that takes place in schools across the country. This year, it occurred during the week of January 23rd to 27th. At Kennedy School, teachers and students discussed bullying and a variety of situations where name calling can happen. Some building-wide activities that occurred included:

A "**Diss-Furnace**" was sent around classrooms to get rid of "disses" (hurtful things that have been said to someone or that someone has said to you). Students wrote something down and threw it into the recycling bin or "furnace" when it came around in the morning.

Stomp Out Name Calling activity - Students discussed in class how we can all work together to put an end to name calling/hurtful words/bullying, etc. and to show support for each other. An example of such an activity was that students traced their foot on paper and cut it out. They then put their name on their foot cut-out and hung it in a designated spot in the cafeteria during the week.

Open Circles/class discussions - Students talked about No Name Calling Week during the week through whole class discussions to help bring awareness to students.

We hope parents can continue to support this initiative and encourage discussions at home on name calling and bullying, and what we can all do to eliminate it in our schools and town!

Information/activities can be found at www.nonamecallingweek.org

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January 2012



Principally Speaking

Happy New Year!

We look forward to a happy and healthy new year together. This month we welcome several folks to JFK: The new year brings Mrs. Trottier back from her maternity leave. Ms. Elizabeth Henneberry is our new third grade teacher. Our student teacher, Ms. Katie Sprusansky, graduated just in time to become Mrs. MacMurray's substitute during her maternity leave! Finally, Ms. Katie Tessitore will take over during Mrs. Necola's maternity leave. We wish a warm Kennedy welcome to all.

Despite the mild weather, winter is here, and it is a good time to make sure your contact information for our Connect-Ed automated system and our list-serve is current. Included in this edition is the district Inclement Weather and School Closing Information.



Many Thanks!

- ◆ To our Playground Committee Board: Renata Gilarova, Tisha Arffa, Sandy Brown, Ariel Doggett, and Nikki Wisniewski, for bringing the dream of a new playground for Kennedy School to a reality through months of grant writing and fundraising.
- ◆ To Marie Cuneo and the PCC folks who provided our faculty with delicious treats during our long days of parent/guardian conferences.
- ◆ To the Franklin Rotary Club, for the donation of dictionaries to each of our third grade students.
- ◆ To Franklin resident Carole Preble, who donated a Howard Spinnet Baldwin upright piano to our school, and to Gallo Moving and Storage for donating their services to get our new piano to JFK.
- ◆ To Franklin resident Ben Santo Domingo, who donated a copy of John F. Kennedy's Inaugural address for our library.

Kennedy Community Playground

Winner of the \$50,000 Pepsi Refresh Project Grant

The Playground Committee is thrilled to announce that we have been officially named as a recipient of a \$50,000 Pepsi Refresh Project Grant. The Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all supporters who tirelessly voted for us in the month of November. The grant funds should be received mid January. We are looking forward to building a wonderful, inclusive playground at our school in the spring of 2012. Please visit our website often for updates and additional information - www.kennedyplayground.com. We would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year 2012!

By: Tisha Arffa, Sandy Brown, Ariel Doggett, Renata Gilarova, and Nikki Wisniewski

Important Dates

- ◆ Monday, January 16th: NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ◆ January 18th: SEPAC workshop on Augmentative Devices, 7PM, Municipal Building
- ◆ Thursday, January 19th: PCC Meeting, 7PM
- ◆ Sunday, January 22nd: PCC trip to the Providence Bruins game
- ◆ Wednesday, January 25th: EARLY RELEASE DAY. Dismissal begins at 11:40AM, and no lunch is served.
- ◆ Thursday, January 26th, School Council Meeting, 7:30 AM, Conference Room

Stay connected !

- ◆ Check out our website:
<http://www.franklin.ma.us/Kennedy>
- ◆ Join our list-serve. You can self-subscribe by visiting:
<http://lists.franklin.k12.ma.us/mailman/listinfo/jkennedy>

