



Dear Franklin Elementary Family:

In the midst of the current budget crisis, Franklin Avenue Elementary continues to thrive. Our test scores keep rising. The success of extracurricular events like the talent show and the pinewood derby grows. And last June, Friends of Franklin sponsored **the Franklin Art Show** where students, parents, faculty, alumni and local leaders came together to admire our students' art and celebrate our incomparable school community. Each classroom's art was professionally mounted and will be on display on the walls of our school for the next five years.

The Art Show was just one of the many special programs Friends of Franklin made possible. With your support, Friends of Franklin was able to:

- *Obtain 30 additional computers for our classrooms*
- *Give each child two semesters of dance, theater and visual arts*
- *Provide regular music instruction, and additional choral and orchestra programs*
- *Sponsor field trips for each grade*
- *Supply teachers with classroom materials and enrichment tools*
- *Award scholarships for after-school enrichment classes through Franklin Kids*
- *Pay for much-needed teacher's assistants and reading coaches*
- *Support a full-time nurse*

Our work is far from over. Even as we fight to stave off catastrophic school funding cuts, we want to do more to enrich our children's education experience: more field trips and assemblies; enhanced physical education; continued technological advancements; tutoring and academic enrichment programs. **We can do it, but we need your help.**

Last year's Fund Drive raised an unprecedented \$50,000. This year, we think we can do even better. Again this year we are asking each family to consider a contribution of \$500. We know not everyone can give this amount, but we ask that every family give what they can. **Every dollar will help and 100% participation is key.** To that end, every student whose family contributes \$10 or more will be automatically entered into a drawing to win one of two iPod Touches.

As public funding of education dissipates, we increasingly need your help to give our children the excellent school experience they deserve. Please consider making a 100% tax-deductible investment in your child's education today.

Please fill out the enclosed envelope and turn in your cash or check (made out to *Friends of Franklin*), or donate through PayPal at www.friendsoffranklin.com (click on **DONATE**). Also, consider asking your employer to make a matching contribution (for details visit www.friendsoffranklin.com/matchinggiftprogram.html). Thank you!