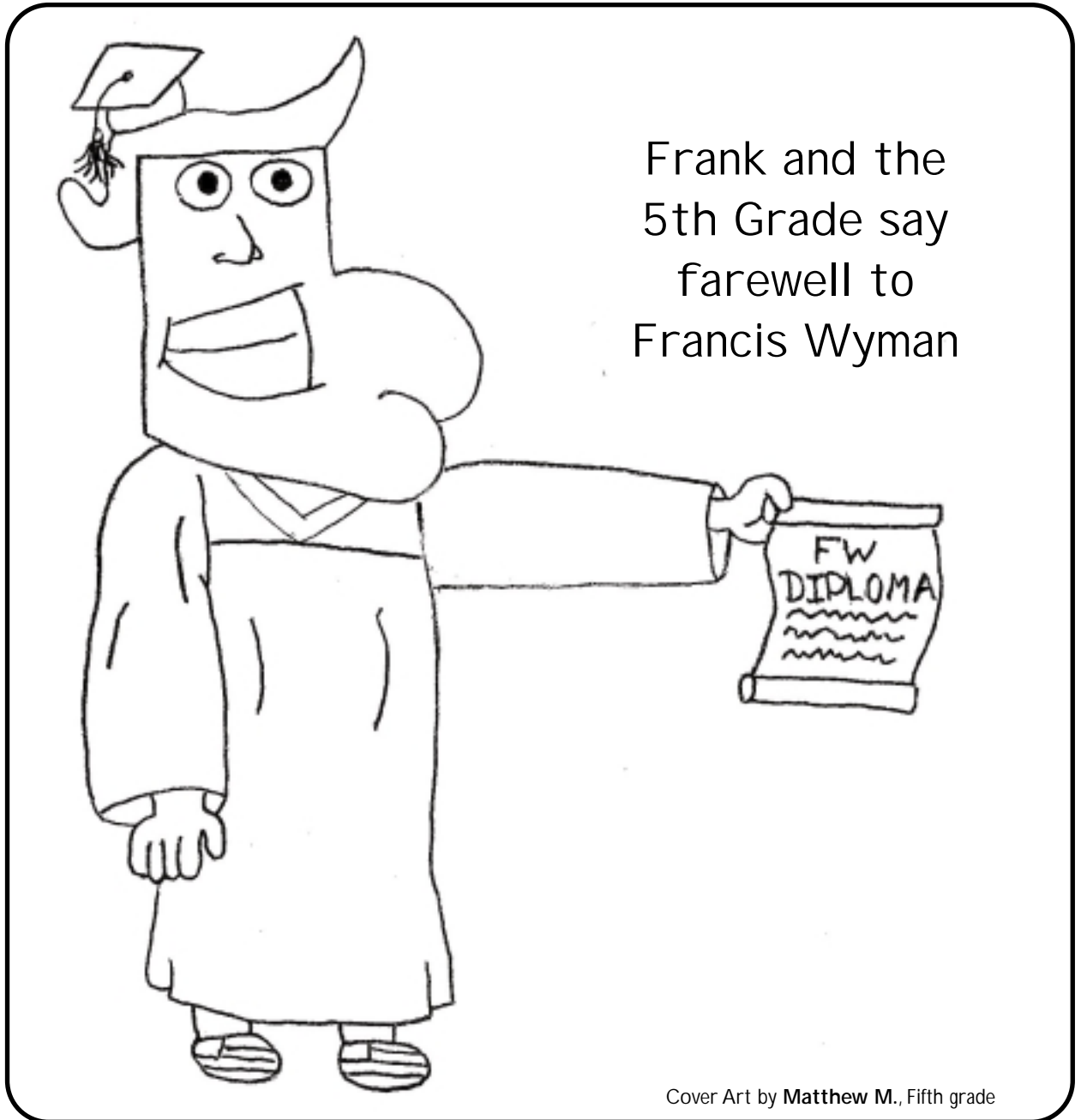


JUNE 2007

NEWSLETTER

FRANKly Francis Wyman



Frank and the
5th Grade say
farewell to
Francis Wyman

Cover Art by **Matthew M.**, Fifth grade

The Frankly Francis Wyman Newsletter Committee thanks 5th grade graduate, Matthew Martin, for his drawings of our newsletter mascot, FRANK. Good luck at the Middle School and in all your future endeavors, Matthew. We'll miss having FRANK on our covers!

June 2007

From the Principal.....

As the First days of summer roll along, many learning activities have been rolling along at Wyman as well. Since our last Newsletter, some happenings have included several educational field trips, Kindergarten registration (6 weeks earlier than past years), Science Center assembly on electromagnetic forces, and fifth grade DARE graduation.

Dr. Seuss' Birthday read-a-thon brought us many guest readers, Grade 3 Wee Deliver program delivered over 4500 pieces of mail, and St. Jude's fifth grade math-a-thon raised \$4,727.17. We had writing consultant, Fred Wolf, visit all grades and he gave great ideas for writing to all. Thanks to our PTO Enrichment Committee author, Mitali Perkins, shared her work experiences and her books with us. We also had an assembly to view the BHS spring musical, Les Miserables. We had budget discussions, a February 14th Snow Day, and Mrs. Clancy had her first child, a boy named Ryder. Yes, indeed, we at Wyman continue to learn in so many different ways, thanks to the efforts of many.

Have a healthy and happy summer.

Yours in Education,

Kathleen Burns

FROM THE VICE PRINCIPAL...

From the Vice Principal...

There were so many things happening this year. Our Student Council donated the proceeds from the "Loose Change" week. The representatives had to research a variety of children's charities, make two choices, and explain why these were the best choices to donate the money to. They then took a vote and decided to give the money to The Make A Wish Foundation. We offer many thanks to all the students and parents who brought in their "Loose Change". Even pennies make a difference.

The Student Council participated in "Project Belarus." There is an orphanage in Belarus where there are almost 300 children. They have very little when they begin school, so the Student Council packed 30 boxes with backpacks, pencils, pens, erasers, rulers, and a small toy for the children. We worked in conjunction with a member in the American Embassy in Belarus who acted as our liaison. They are very excited and grateful to us for helping these children. Needless to say, the members of the Student Council were very excited about the project.

Can you believe that the end of the year is so close? The school year just flew by and it is time for us to relax and enjoy the fun of summer. We will miss our fifth graders who will move on to Marshall Simonds Middle School and know that they will love it there. As for the rest of the Francis Wyman boys and girls, we look forward to seeing you in September!



This watercolor was painted by Burlington High School student and Francis Wyman graduate, Shauna Leva. The painting was presented as a retirement gift to Mrs. Burns at Arts Night. To see a full color photo please go to www.burlington.mec.edu/fw and click on the PTO home page.

5TH



Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade has been quite busy since the beginning of the New Year. They worked very hard with the DARE program and have officially graduated from the DARE elementary program. The graduation was a fun-filled, yet serious event. Former New England Patriot's player and substance abuse speaker, Ronnie Lippett, spoke to the fifth graders and the audience about how programs such as the DARE program have benefited children and adolescents throughout the country. Other speakers at the event were Police Chief Hart, School Committee member Mike DeSimone, and State Representative Charlie Murphy. The children enjoyed snacking on delicious desserts sent in by parents and signing each other's DARE shirts.

The fifth grade also participated in their annual fundraising program- the St. Jude's Math-a-thon. The students raised almost \$5,000 for this worthwhile cause.



The students prepared for MCAS by participating in MCAS reviews and experiencing excellent shows by our Science Center, including an "electricity show" and a "rocks and minerals show". They also hatched baby chicks! All fifth graders constructed science fair projects for the annual science fair on April 12th & 13th.

The students are fortunate that Mr. Ganley organized the skating program. So, for 3 weeks, the students hopped on buses and went skating at the Ice Palace. As the snow melted the students began anxiously awaiting summer.

They have been busy working on science and social studies projects, as well as end of the year activities. Their elementary experience is ending with a Beach Day in Gloucester and a Chinese food luncheon.

We wish them good luck in Middle School and will miss them!

A letter from our Artist In Residence...

Chinese Lunar New Year at Burlington!

I thoroughly enjoyed my interactions and teaching last month as resident artist at the Francis Wyman School. Each grade received a presentation on the Lunar New Year celebration and participated in an art form related to those made in China.

Grade 1 looked at the style and content of peasant (or farmer) painting and began to develop small mural panels working in groups of four. Their teachers assigned topics relevant to their lives, neighborhoods, and community similar to those used to depict life in Chinese villages.

Grade 2 printed fish and ocean forms on to paper and cloth, which they are using to make lanterns. The lantern festival is the closing event for the two-week Lunar New Year, occurring on the eve of the full moon.

Grade 3 studied Chinese papercuts, used to decorate windows and homes in villages. This knowledge was applied to block prints they were making of Massachusetts state symbols.

Grade 4 also made block prints depicting local history. As a group we designed them to flow down a Chinese scroll. I will be printing these group, scroll compositions later this month to produce permanent works for the school's ever-growing art collection.

Grade 5 took on the challenge of studying calligraphy, specifically its evolution from pictograms to the current Chinese character system of writing. They designed pictograms of their own based on their interests and/or personal traits to carve into "chops" or seals similar to those used to sign Chinese paintings. All will be displayed at Art Night next spring.

What impressed me most was the readiness and attentiveness of the children at Francis Wyman. Art teachers, Betty Kerr and Carol Finkle have established wonderful practices in their classrooms. Students were very comfortable with me leading the class. They jumped right in with questions, followed along with the new information I presented and were very productive during the work session. The atmosphere in the classrooms was delightful.

The student's art was on display for Arts Night and the two subsequent weeks.

Families may enjoy the pictograms designed for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing: Official site:

<http://en.beijing2008.cn/>

Image and look:

<http://en.beijing2008.cn/62/67/column211716762.shtml>

Pictograms: <http://en.beijing2008.cn/63/32/column212033263.shtml>

Sincerely,

Renee Covalucci

I Never Knew...

This is my first year being involved with the PTO and I am very impressed with everything the PTO is able to provide and do for the school. Three authors for student enrichment, the artist in residence (partly), a new laminator for the school, subsidizing the bus expenses, D.A.R.E. Graduation, fifth grade yearbooks, Staples gift cards for the classrooms, snacks for MCAS testing, magazines and Brain-Pop internet support. In addition to all the above, the PTO also provides scholarships to two high school seniors who graduated from Francis Wyman - as well as scholarships for the summer reading camp and Camp Bournedale! There is a purple pamphlet in the school lobby that lists everything that the PTO supports.

It is because of the fundraisers like Genevieve's and SCRIPS that the PTO is able to fund these services. It is not the school asking for more money, the PTO does these things because we want to help the students and teachers. I know there are many fundraisers in town and people do get tired of them. I confess that I did not participate in many PTO fundraisers before this year; I changed my mind when I saw how the money was being spent.

Someone recently asked me if we could eliminate a fundraiser, so I looked at the budget. Genevieve is our biggest source of income. The magazine subscription sales do not bring in much revenue, but they do provide roughly 2 magazine subscriptions to each classroom, which would cost approximately \$2,400 to replace. It's also a relatively painless fundraiser, if you just renew the magazines you are getting anyway. Similarly with SCRIPS, if there is something you need to get for a birthday anyway, order it through FW and we can make a profit. The new SCRIPS program aims to replace the pizza/cookie dough fundraiser.

The PTO does not exist just to raise money, but to provide a forum where parents, teachers and administrators can converse. I am impressed with the number of people who attend the PTO meetings. I also realize that it is not possible for everyone to make the meetings, (this was my first year). That is why the PTO also sends out an electronic newsletter and is working to update its website.

To do all this, we need help. Why didn't I help before this year? I guess I assumed there were enough people involved. We do have an excellent team, and things look like they just fall into place, but many of our volunteers' kids are fifth graders this year, and will be graduating. I will tell you that after volunteering this year, I am more impressed with what I see at the school. My attitude toward the school teachers and administration is even more positive than it was before. Being involved with PTO gives you a great sense of ownership and of being involved with your child's school.

So do you have any time that you can give to get involved? If not yet, maybe something small will come up later that you can help with. Please don't by-pass the fundraisers. They are important. If funds are tight - can you help with time? If both are tight don't worry, we'll keep plugging along. I have really enjoyed working with the PTO this year and getting to know more people and more about our school.

Wendy Czerwinski, PTO President

Second Grade News

There have been many wonderful lessons and activities going on in the second grade classrooms this term. We all became moon experts while reading *The Moon Book*, by Gail Gibbons. The students enjoyed reading and participating in many different activities associated with the text. Also, in science, the students learned about reptiles and amphibians. Many students were able to create a habitat for a chosen reptile or amphibian. Mrs. Clancy's class displayed their projects at the Burlington Library.

There were two special trips in March and April. We tapped a maple tree at the end of March. Ms. Pavlicek took us across the street to tap a tree and make maple syrup. In April, we went on a field trip to the North Shore Music Theatre to see the play of Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish. Many children read her books and were excited to see the books come alive!

For the last term the second grade has been learning about weather and insects in science. We have also been doing a lot of writing. In June, we are taking a field trip to America's Stonehenge in Salem, NH. The field trip goes along with our science curriculum including trees, animal life cycles, and fossils. The students in second grade have worked hard all year long. They look ready for third grade!

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten has been very busy since we were last with you. We have completed a very interesting unit on sea life and sea animals. We made small ocean scenes, various sea animals, and sea portfolios. We had a visit from Mr. Papadonis with his Super Fish program. Not everyone wanted to touch the Octopus he brought, but we sure could all smell it. The best day was our Fish Day, where we got to work in all the Kindergarten classrooms doing various activities to put in our aquarium in the hallway. The Parade of Penguins marches towards the very colorful and cheerful aquarium. We also had an awesome time visiting the New England Aquarium as our culminating activity.

The beginning of February began "Wee Deliver". The kindergarten children enjoyed being part of it. They looked forward to writing letters to their friends and anxiously awaited the arrival of the mail each day. It was particularly nice as Valentine's Day was the last day of "Wee Deliver".

We also celebrated our 100th day of school in February. Each classroom had many different math, writing, and art activities to celebrate this milestone.

We were all very busy preparing for our class museums. Many different mediums were used during this unit as the children painted, sculpted, built and learned about art. Emphasis was on Ancient Egyptian art and the period of Impressionism.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Library Media Center News

The library has been a busy place with 3 author visits. Mitali Perkins visited with 4th and 5th grade students to discuss her experiences and share her books. David Biedrzycki visited with our Kindergarten through 3rd grade students, and Brian Lies visited us in May.

We had a story and song hour in the library for incoming 2007 Kindergarteners on March 16th. Mrs. Corsino provided music and songs for us and Mrs. Burns, our principal, Mrs. Christenson, guidance counselor and our librarian, Mr. Levin, read stories.



4TH

Forth Grade News

May was a busy month here at Francis Wyman. We completed both Math and ELA MCAS. Our Invention Convention was outstanding and students used their knowledge of simple machines and created some fabulous inventions.

Over the past few weeks, many classes have been hard at work publishing a book of poems during our poetry month. The students are also finishing up with Ancient China, learning about the Silk Route, Calligraphy, and the ancient customs and traditions.

It's been a busy year for the fourth grade. The first term started off with the building of our rockets and with the help of the Science Center we had a very successful Rocket Launch. Along with our flight unit, the fourth grade also completed units in weather, plants, animal behavior and the water cycle.

In Social Studies, we have learned about the regions of the United States, Mexico and Canada. All five classes participated in a Washington D.C. Day where the students enjoyed a "walking tour" of different monuments that were set up in each classroom. In May, we attended a field trip to the Lowell Mills, which was a fantastic end to our Immigration Unit.

Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Fortunato, Mrs. Janis, Ms. Sunderland, and Mrs. Schnee would like to thank the entire fourth grade for a great year and look forward to seeing them next year as fifth graders!

Physical Education News

Mr. Ganley and Mr. LeV are concerned about the School Administration's policies on Health and Physical Education. The Administration is looking to make cutbacks. The State Legislature is now discussing the possibility of mandated, weekly physical education. Mr. Ganley and Mr. LeV believe this legislation is needed. They ask that you please contact your legislators and urge them to adopt a stricter policy

Mr. Ganley (Grades 3,4 & 5)

Mr. Ganley's classes have completed their volleyball and basketball units and have also participated in activities to promote physical fitness in preparation for the annual physical fitness testing that is done at all grade levels. Mr. Ganley's classes are now playing floor hockey, which is done in conjunction with the annual 5th Grade Ice Skating Program. Each year it is a struggle to get enough skates to fit all the participants. We were fortunate this spring to receive a generous donation from Missy (Butler) Hayes on behalf of "The Boston Foundation", to purchase skates for the upcoming programs. Thank you Missy!! It is, however, as important to have parent chaperones, committed to the weekly program.

Mr. LeV (Grades 1,2 & 3)

Mr. LeV's classes have been participating in fitness training activities, lead-up games featuring ball skills, and "lots of running". This was the best year for the Tumbling/Gymnastics unit. Every one of Mr. LeV's students can perform a forward roll; which is one of the basic gymnastics stunts. This unit features a great deal of "hands-on" training and all the kids responded well. Many of the girls come with a head start in their gymnastics and/or cheerleading activities. We have some very talented young athletes.

Please be sure to dress your children both "age appropriate" and appropriately for physical education. When not dressed accordingly, some of the activities may present an embarrassing moment for the child.

Once again, our annual Field Day was a success. Thank you to the many parents who volunteered their services for the day.

This Newsletter was Printed by Alpha Graphics,
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Third Grade News

The third graders enjoyed the “Wee Deliver” program in February. They wrote many friendly letters to classmates and teachers. The children collected, sorted, and delivered 4,529 pieces of mail in ten days.

The students were shocked by the electricity show presented by John Papadonis of the Burlington Science Center. Mr. Papadonis demonstrated many experiments showing current static electricity. Mr. Wizard brought his Van De Graaf Generator that displayed lightning!

The third grade children have been preparing for the MCAS test by reading fiction, non-fiction, and poetry passages. They identified the main idea and details in each selection. They underlined the important words in the open response questions. They answered questions in complete sentences using information from the story. The children celebrated their hard work with an ice cream party at the end of March.

The third grade visited the Minuteman National Park in Lexington in April. They learned about the Revolutionary War and Paul Revere's Famous Ride. A minuteman discussed his experiences and shot his musket.

In May, the children visited the Burlington Reservoir with staff from The Burlington Science Center. They explored five habitats and studied food chains. The children worked very hard on their MCAS math tests. They also enjoyed a presentation by author Brian Lies in May.

In June, the third graders visited the Boott Cotton Mills Museum in Lowell. They discovered how the Industrial Revolution changed the way Americans worked, lived and used the land. They also enjoyed the many activities during Field Day.

The children had another successful year at Francis Wyman School.

3RD

1ST

First Grade News

The First Grade returned to Earth recently after blasting off and touring the solar system. As part of our tour, we stopped by the planetarium at the Museum of Science to see the "Secrets of the Sky" show and learn about the constellations. Since our return, penguins have waddled into our classrooms and the First Grade has begun our chilly study of these interesting birds and the Antarctic Region. We've been measuring, weighing and comparing all of the different types of penguins. We've even created passports to go to Antarctica!

We had a lot of special occasions to celebrate in February. We celebrated the 100th day of school with a visit from Zero the Hero himself! We rotated classrooms and did a special 100th day activity in each classroom. The first grade also received a visit by Author/Illustrator David Beidrzycki. In honor of his visit, the students made a "Bug Book" using the colors that David Beidrzycki uses in his books and presented it to the author. He loved it and said that he was going to hang it in his office! Chinese New Year was also celebrated in February. The first grade made an extremely long, decorated paper dragon and paraded around the school. We also learned how to make paper firecrackers.

The first grade had a show. The first grade teachers taught dances and the music teachers are helping the children learn songs for our annual Dinosaur show on May 4th. This unit of study allowed for many activities across the curriculum.

In May we had two field trips. One was to the theater to see the stage production of Rainbow Fish on May 14th and the other was to the tide pool on May 22nd. Both field trips tied in nicely with our study of tide pools and ocean life.

CALENDAR

2006 - 2007

June

- 11** M End of third/last term (1 week before last day of school)
- 19** M Last day of school (if no snow days used)
- 19** M Progress reports go home (last day of school)

INTERVIEW

5th Graders Interview Mrs. Burns

As Mrs. Burns finishes her year at Francis Wyman we all become curious about how she got here, why she's leaving and where she'll be going next. In order to answer some of these questions we asked 5th grade teachers to choose a student from their class to interview Mrs. Burns for the Frankly Francis Wyman Newsletter.

Maya R., Miranda F., Joe S., Matt M., and Kelsey O. were chosen to do the interview. The five students were each given an area of Mrs. Burns' life to question her about. They consulted with each other about what people might want to know. Then, they met in Mrs. Burns' office for what ended up being an insightful, heartfelt, and somewhat emotional meeting with their Principal leading from her childhood to retirement.

Childhood

Maya: *What was your favorite subject in school?*

Burns: English, definitely, I liked to write.

Maya: *Was it your best subject?*

Burns: Yes.

Maya: *Were you a straight A student?*

Burns: Yes, until 8th grade. I got my first B in 8th grade math.

Maya: *What was your worst grade?*

Burns: It was in college. I got a C- in chemistry.

Maya: *Did you have a lot of friends in school?*

Burns: Yes.

Maya: *What was your dream job as a child?*

Burns: I wanted to be a teacher ever since 2nd grade.

Maya: *Who inspired you?*

Burns: Mrs. Murphy, my neighbor. She was a 2nd grade teacher and we used to help her clean out her classroom.

Maya: *Did you like your Principal?*

Burns: She was tough and she was fair so I liked her.

Family

Miranda: *Where do you live?*

Burns: Lexington.

Miranda: *How long have you been married?*

Burns: 34 years on June 30.

Miranda: *Do you have children?*

Burns: I have a 17-year-old daughter, Bridget.

Miranda: *What kind of Mom are you?*

Burns: Well, I think I'm a little strict, but fair.

Miranda: *Does Bridget do well in school?*

Burns: Yes. She's an A, B student.

Miranda: *Has she ever been in trouble at school?*

Burns: No.

Miranda: *One more thing, you were my Dad's teacher. What do you remember about him?*

Burns: I remember where he sat. He had a great smile, lots of friends, and he was good at social studies. He didn't get in trouble.

Teacher

Joe: *What grade was your favorite?*

Burns: 5th grade because I like all the different subjects. We did a lot of projects. 5th graders have good personalities; they're more responsible and can do a lot. I like being able to do more with the kids.

Joe: *Did you ever have to send a student to the principal's office?*

Burns: No, I handled trouble with students in my classrooms.

Joe: *What was your favorite subject to teach?*

Burns: I like Social Studies. I liked learning about the things that happened in the past so we can improve things for the future.

Joe: *What town did you teach in?*

Burns: I've always taught in Burlington. I taught at Memorial Annex, Memorial School, Marshal Simonds Middle School, and Francis Wyman. I was a Guidance Counselor at Memorial and Wildwood.

Joe: *How old were you in your first teaching year?*

Burns: I was 22.

Joe: *If you could go back to being a teacher what would you teach?*

Burns: 5th grade Social Studies.

Principal

Matt: *What do you like best about being a principal?*

Burns: Trying to make a difference for the whole school, instead of just one classroom.

Matt: *What do you like least about being a principal?*

Burns: That I can't be in the classrooms more because I have meetings, and other responsibilities. I really miss the kids.

Matt: What was your favorite year?

Burns: Well, the first was the hardest. Then, it got better every year except this year because I'm leaving, so I guess it was last year, 2005-06.

Matt: Did you ever have a student who was in trouble and in your office a lot of the time?

Burns: No. There have only been a few kids coming down. Not that often.

Matt: Will you miss being principal?

Burns: Yes! I'll miss the kids and the staff. I'll really miss being with the kids.

Retirement

Kelsey: *Why are you retiring?*

Burns: It's time to go. Time to spend time with family.

Kelsey: *What are your hobbies?*

Burns: Photography, dance (Tap, Ballet, Irish Step), golf, sailing.

Kelsey: *What is your dream destination and will you go there?*

Burns: Ireland. I've done a lot of traveling, but I've never been to the place where my forefathers are from. I'd like to go there.

Kelsey: *Is your family glad you're retiring?*

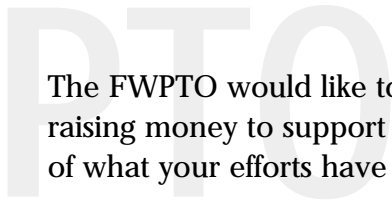
Burns: Yes. I think so.

Kelsey: *Are you old enough to retire?*

Burns: Yes, old enough.

Kelsey: *How do you feel about retiring?*

Burns: (with tears in eyes) Emotional, sad. I'll really miss the kids. After working with kids your whole life, it's hard to go. You know, there's no such thing as bad kids. Sometimes, they just make bad decisions.



The FWPTO would like to thank everyone who has helped by volunteering their time as well as raising money to support our programs, which have made this year a true success. Below is a list of what your efforts have produced for our students at Francis Wyman!!!

What has the PTO done lately? (2006/2007)

1. 12 Field Trip Buses - 2 per grade	\$4,200
2. Enrichment Programs - 3 per year	\$3,400
3. Family Carniv	\$2,750
4. Nat'l Education Week Gift - \$50 per teacher	\$2,500
5. 5th Grade Yearbooks/T-shirts 1 per graduate	\$2,000
6. Magazine Subscriptions - 2 per class	\$1,500
7. Artist in Residence Sponsor	\$1,500
8. Teacher/Class Wish List (Laminator)	\$1,000
9. BHS Scholarships - 2 @ \$500 each	\$1,000
10. Summer Reading/Writing Camp 2 @ \$375 each	\$750
11. Reading a-z Program	\$700
12. Box Tops - Students' Choice	\$700
13. Benches for Reading Garden (back courtyard)	\$700
14. Camp Bournedale (multiple tuitions)	\$600
15. Hospitality for School Events	\$500
16. MCAS snacks / Field Day Supplies	\$500
17. Hand Sanitizer Refills	\$400
18. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon	\$300
19. Landscaping Fall & Spring	\$300
20. Adopt-a-Class Donation	\$300
21. Holiday Giving Tree	\$300
22. Burlington Ed Found (STAR AWARDS)	\$180
23. 5th Grade DARE Graduation Party	\$160
24. BHS Graduation Party Donation	\$100
25. Shawsheen Tech Grad Party Donation	\$50
26. DARE Donations	\$25
Total:	\$26,415

**Special thanks to our
2006-07 Officers**

Faydeen Sateriale, Co-President
Wendy Czerwinski, Co-President
Tanya Ikier, Vice President
Sue Frost, Treasurer
Joann Terrio, Co-Secretary
Amy Small, Co-Secretary

**Introducing our
2007-08 Officers**

Wendy Czerwinski, Co-President
Joan Ford, Co-President
Barbara Mozzicato, Vice President
Sue Frost, Treasurer
Mary Sweeney, Secretary

The PTO is a collaborative effort of many. Your involvement is crucial to the success of the PTO.

Consider helping out next year and see how your kids will love it!!!

The FWPTO says ... THANK YOU MRS. BURNS for caring for our children, watching out for their best interests, socially, emotionally and academically, and for leading our school over the past five years. In addition to the watercolor portrait of Francis Wyman School painted by BHS student & FW graduate, Shauna Leva, presented to you at Arts Night, we would like to dedicate the recently purchased and installed reading benches and reading garden planted by the 2006-2007 Francis Wyman Girl Scouts to you. We appreciate all you have done for our children and wish you all the best in retirement. **Enjoy it but know we will miss you!**