

Franklin Towne

DECEMBER/JANUARY

NEWSPAPER



Tinsel Towne

In 2023, a new tradition was introduced at Franklin Towne. Tinsel Towne, a celebration of winter and the upcoming New Year, allowed students to move throughout the campus and partake in various games and activities. In the main building, students were invited to participate in the viewing of various holiday films, hot chocolate, and even karaoke.

In 215, students participated in various games to win prizes ranging from candy and dress downs to lunch provided by Franklin Towne. By playing games such as Santa Ring Toss, Oven Mitt Gift Unwrapping, and a Snow Ball toss, there was no end of fun to be had during Tinsel Towne.



An abundance of gifts

Led by the incomparable Mr. Bennett, students were given their Winter Wishes. Students throughout the school were gifted some of their biggest wishes from Crocs and Uggs to vinyl records, to school supplies, whatever the students wished for, Franklin Towne did their best to make as many wishes as possible come true. Consider what you want to wish for for next year. You can also wish for others!

Towne Connections helped supply many of the wishes given out during Tinsel Towne.



TINSEL TOWNE

FRANKLIN TOWNE'S MONTH OF TINSEL AND FUN



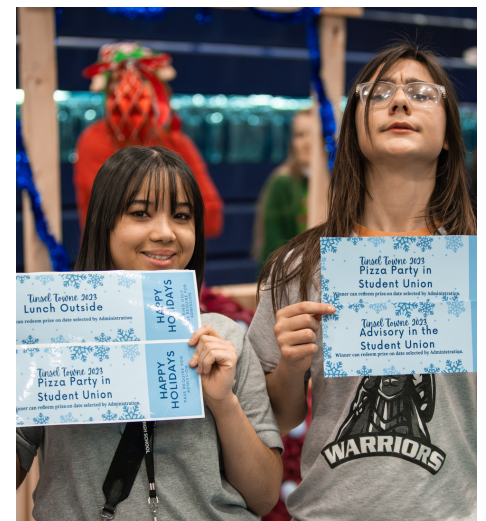
Door Decorations

Teachers and students helped spread the cheer across the school with merry door decorations



Everyone Was In the Spirit

Between the main building and building 215, students and teachers everywhere got into the festivities by playing games, winning prizes, watching holiday movies, and getting their Winter Wishes.



ACADEMICS

HIGHLIGHTING THE STUDENTS OF FTC

Princeton Patricia

By Abigail Pennisi, '24

Franklin Towne student Patricia Palanik was accepted to Princeton University with a full ride scholarship. Recently, Abigail Pennisi had the opportunity to sit down with Patricia and talk about her future.

Patricia Palanik has always been top of her class, never passing over a chance for a new experience. She puts all her effort into everything she sets her mind to. However, when she opened her letter from Princeton University and saw the word "Congratulations" even she was surprised

Surrounded by her parents and little sister she says, "I just broke down into tears because I never expected to get into one of the best colleges in the world". Being a first-generation college student, this moment is a culmination of all the hard work both she has put into her schoolwork and her extracurriculars.



Patricia Palanik poses with the Princeton Tiger / Photography Department

Everything she has dedicated herself to paid off in the end. Patricia also mentions how she is a first generation American and how proud her parents are of her and her accomplishments. Saying how everything she has accomplished made coming to America worth it.

Patricia says she is mostly proud of how she got to this point with her own hard work. Despite the feeling of doubt when first applying, she took a chance and it paid off in the end.

Following her dreams of becoming a veterinarian and opening her own nonprofit clinic, she plans on studying Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and eventually plans on going to veterinary school at Princeton University. With such big dreams and goals, what better school to build and support her than Princeton University. We here at Franklin Towne are so proud of Patricia and all her accomplishments and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Abigail Pennisi

Staff Writer

Many Franklin Towne Seniors have been accepted to colleges

By Editor

As the school year marches into the second semester and the end of the year, many seniors are receiving their acceptance letters and many are still eagerly awaiting theirs.

Recent acceptances include Inis Lamaj to Saint's Joseph's University; Sienna Cruz to Alaska Pacific University,

Samuel Garcia to Villanova University; Sophia Malinski was admitted into Drexel University; James McDowell received admission to Holy Family University; Abigail Pennisi to Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, and Savannah Goral was admitted to Thomas Jefferson University.

Be sure to update your guidance counselor when you receive your

admittance so Franklin Towne can spread the news and celebrate you.

All college acceptances are posted to the TVs throughout the hallways.

WHAT'S UP IN 215?

215 shares its talents

By Gabby Torres, '24

Every student at Franklin Towne recognizes that we are one family; one with rich drive, culture, and capability. But with the well-deserved praise and attention given to athletics and academics, there is one aspect of our Towne family that often goes unnoticed: the opportunities of our 215 building.

Despite many students recognizing that classes and extracurriculars take place here, the expression and authenticity behind this building is just as important. From its unique classes to its dedicated teachers and faculty, 215 is quickly becoming a staple of what it means to be a Towne Warrior.

And as more students grow their love for the building, so do their teachers.

Art and fashion teachers, Ms. Griffiths and Ms. Holmes, discussed their continuous collaboration in the building, as their classrooms went from separate floors to next-door neighbors.

With close relationships and free space for creativity, Ms. Griffiths and Ms. Holmes have been able to collaborate with administrators from a wide range of subjects, whether it be decorating for pep rallies or painting the campus walls.

Ms. Griffiths and Ms. Holmes will even be hosting the first return of the Franklin Towne Art show this spring, all thanks to the dedication of their students, fellow faculty, and those contributing to the artistic experience of 215.



The historic Franklin Towne Bell resides in 215 / Photography Department

Photography and videography teacher Mr. Cella expressed the importance of having a space dedicated to their crafts. With building 215 being only four years old, teachers often had to work around the main building to properly teach their students.

"I can't even remember how I did it!" Cella said, pointing out that they can now fully express and teach their individual skills, allowing their students to express themselves in the same light.

Woodshop teacher, Mr. Spinozzi, pointed out his unique appreciation for the historical architecture of the building. Following 215's historical background, the school has maintained the outside of the building, making it like "walking through a moment in history," he said.

However, this is only the beginning of its benefit. Spinozzi and his students have even been able to build structures for student events, including Tinsel Towne and the Junior Prom.

As well as the building's physical benefits, music teacher, Mr. Judge, highlighted how 215 has become a safe space for many students to be their true, authentic selves.

With the new building, everyone can follow their passions that may not be possible elsewhere, allowing them to create unique bands and even hold student-led concerts.

With the new building, everyone can follow their passions that may not be possible elsewhere, allowing them to create unique bands and even hold student-led concerts.

Having the ability to speak to only a fraction of our beloved teachers in 215, these are only the beginnings of everything that the building has come to offer. From art and music to fitness and business, building 215 has become a staple here at Franklin Towne.

With such love for creativity, expression, and authenticity spreading from its faculty, 215 will only continue to prove that we truly are One Towne, One Family.

Gabby Torres
Staff Writer

FTCHS NEWS



FTCHS Students volunteered their time Monday, January 15 to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr/ Photography Department

Franklin Towne students help out

By Zara Khan, '24

On January 15, 2024, on what would have been Martin Luther King, Jr's 95th birthday, students and staff of Franklin Towne gave back to their community.

In the days leading up to MLK Day of Service, students and teachers of Franklin Towne brought in various toiletries to create kits to help support the unhoused community and others facing hardships.

Throughout the day, thirty volunteers came to Franklin Towne to take the donations and turn them into kits. Through the school's efforts, those volunteers were able to create thirty two boxes and two full reusable bags with toiletries.

Volunteers displayed incredible enthusiasm for both organizing toiletries going to Lutheran Settlement House and during the creation of the mural of quotes from inspirational Black Americans chosen by the students. State Representative Joseph Hohenstein opened the event talking about the importance of service to our community and how MLK Day of service honors the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

The event would not have been possible without the support of the entire Franklin Towne community donating toiletries, the help of the related arts department for the mural, Ms. Jones and Mr. Gesior with No Place For Hate and Student Government, Mrs. Kavanagh and Ms. Perfetti and the community service

club, Ms. Hall, National Honor Society, and the support of our entire administration.

Zara Khan
Staff Writer



FTCHS Students put together care packages for MLK Day of Service/ Photography Department



FTCHS Students create a mural of inspirational quotes/ Photography Department

FTCHS NEWS



FTCHS Students spoke with various government officials with ideas about crime prevention / Photography Department

Franklin Towne students speak about crime prevention

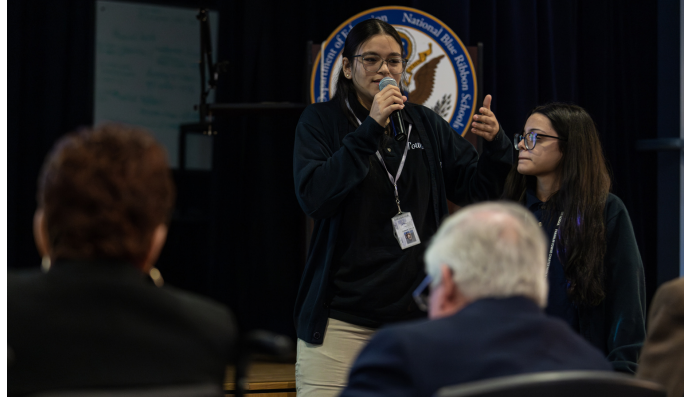
By Editor

Students of Mr. Murphy's Criminal Justice course led a Crime Prevention Symposium on Wednesday, January 17. This student driven initiative was held to discuss innovative ideas to help prevent and reduce crime in Philadelphia.

In front of a panel developed by Chief of Staff, Mr. Wisniewski, student presented their ideas to faculty members, government officials, Department of Recreation leaders, local business partners, and youth support groups designed to improve safety in Philadelphia.

Ideas discussed at the symposium involved Kids Development Camp, increased participation in youth basketball, community

outreach programs (Dare2Heal), programs for Black and Hispanic teens and adults (A Chance to Heal), supportive environments for at risk youths, programs to increase career opportunities, ways to decrease recidivism, more rec centers for young children, and initiatives to help young people in Juvenile Delinquency centers within Philadelphia.



Victoria Guerrero (left) speaks to a panel about crime prevention / Photography Department



FTCHS Students hear their peers discuss different measures to prevent and reduce crime / Photography Department



Meiara Staton presents her "Basketball Over Bullets" Program / Photography Department

SPORTS & CLUBS

Boys Wrestling

By Jacob Hudson, '24

The most recent senior night match was a great victory as the Boys Wrestling Team beat Overbrook 48-18 to continue their 4-match winning streak. The seniors and athletes stepped up and played smart during the matches.

One surprise was sophomore Cayden Levy, who went up two weight classes that night to wrestle and ended up pinning his opponent in less than two minutes, according to a senior wrestler.

Following the victory, Cayden was asked about what helped them keep up their winning streak and get out there. "The coaches beliefs, great advice, and dedication" were all what led them to this long winning streak.

Girls Basketball

By Jacob Hudson, '24

Much like any other team, the girls basketball team is motivated not only by each other but by their teammates too. The team is working harder than ever to make sure that they do the best they possibly can on court, they are looking to make sure that they stick to their plan of playing as a group and making sure that they are able to execute their skills on and off of the court.

Asyah Hampton, class of 2024, said of the remaining season, "We are always looking to keep moving and growing, when we are on the court we just want to make sure their is communication and confidence across the board."



The Boys Wrestling Team gathers before the start of the match/ Photography Department

Boys Basketball

By Jacob Hudson, '24

The boys team has had a triumphant rise in the ranks and in skill plays for the games.

They secured a 7-game winning streak in the month of December and January. Joe Hill, class of 2024, when asked about their success said, "Our goal is to win the conference while working to make our defense and offense as solid as possible for the upcoming games of the season."

Hill praised his teammates who have played well the last few games, noting Corey Moore as a "monster" on defense and offense, as well as Jacob Andracki, who played on injuries and was still able to dominate both defensively and offensively as best as possible.



The Girls Basketball Team plans their strategy / Photography Department



The Boys Basketball Team huddles around Coach Boyd before taking the court / Photography Department

Cheer

By Jacob Hudson, '24

The Cheer Team recently placed second in Districts and their next competition is Sunday, February 4 at Ridley High School.

Emely Rosa, class of 2024, says cheer is "physically demanding at times" but she "loves it, especially the coaching and hard work Ms. Adams puts them through to improve every day."

Cheer Team is working hard and it without a doubt shows through thanks to the efforts of coach, Ms. Adams.



The 2023-2024 Cheer Squad/ Photography Department

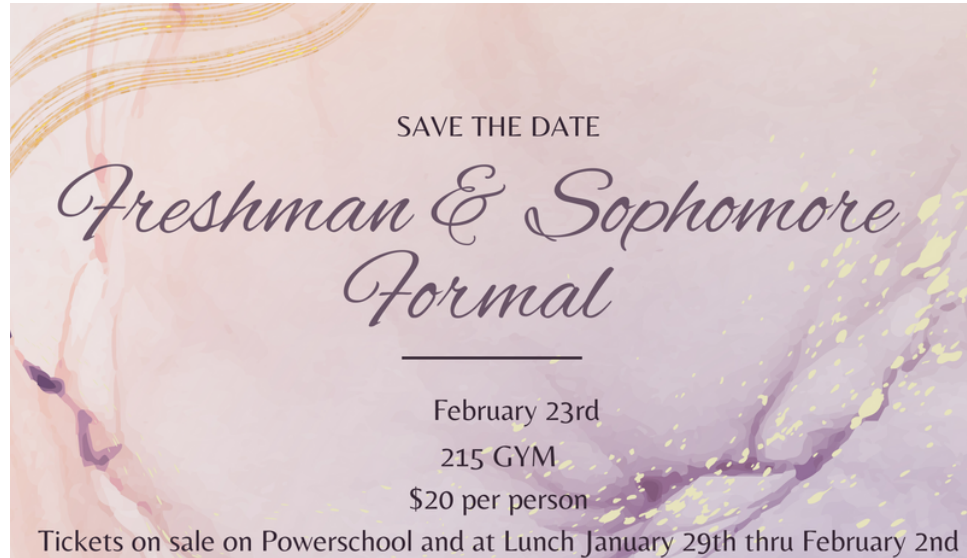
Jacob Hudson
Staff Writer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Freshmen & Sophomore Formal

Freshmen and Sophomores have the opportunity to attend the upcoming formal and spend quality time with their friends and classmates.

Be sure to purchase your tickets between Monday, January 29, 2024 and Friday, February 2nd, 2024. Tickets can be purchased through PowerSchool and at Lunch.



Philly Rises Civic Engagement Tour

Juniors and Seniors of Franklin Towne who are 18 years or older are invited to attend an event designed to provide students with meaningful civic engagement and information regarding voting and the electoral process.

This event, in collaboration with City Commissioner Omar Sabir, PA Youth Vote, the Urban League of Philadelphia, and the NAACP Philadelphia Branch, also holds great significance because it marks the beginning of celebrating Black History Month and its 2024 theme of "African Americans and the Arts" which will feature student performances from Franklin Towne's Step Team, Drumline, Dance Team, and showcase student artwork.

The Philly Rises initiative was launched in 2022 by Commissioner Omar Sabir, who also serves as the Philly Rises vice chairman.

Commissioner Sabir is determined to make sure that every eligible student has access to voting, understands their voting rights, and is educated on the importance of voting. During tour stops throughout the city, Commissioner Sabir's office will register eligible students to accept mail-in ballot applications and accept applications for student poll workers.

The Philly Rises Tour attempts to prepare students who will become first-time voters with the necessary information and process, teach students the importance of exercising their right to vote from a civil rights perspective, and to educate young people across Philadelphia on how the government works, what's on the ballot in 2024, and to help the youth understand their power to create change via their votes and their voices.

The event will be held Thursday, February 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Kick-off begins in the gymnasium with Commissioner Sabir and

Junior Prom is fast approaching

Junior Prom is a wonderful event for all juniors to experience. All juniors are welcome to attend and dance and have one of the best and unforgettable nights.

Get your tickets as soon as they go on sale March 11. Tickets are \$50 and dinner will be included.



Superintendent Tony. B Watlington, NAACP Branch President Catherine Hicks, executive director of PA Youth Vote Angelique Hinton, chairman of the Urban League of Philadelphia Kevin Bethel, Franklin Towne Charter High School Social Studies Department, other state, and local representatives.

Performances by the FTCHS Step Team, Dance Team, and Drumline will be held as well.

IN MEMORIAM



Sadly, the Franklin Towne family lost a member on December 20, 2023.

Isaiah Pagan, class of 2022, was known for his sense of humor, kindness, and his talents on the baseball field.

Pagan was an integral part of the Franklin Towne's 2021-2022 team, which went 12-5, thanks in part to Pagan's 1.35 ERA, 2-0 record, and 14 stolen bases that season.



On January 17, 2024, Franklin Towne's Crime Prevention Symposium was dedicated to Isaiah Pagan, an instrumental member of the Class of 2022, who passed away on December 20 in a shooting near Oxford Circle in Frankford.

You can read more about the symposium on page 7.



STUDENT ARTWORK



We would like to use this section of the newspaper to highlight student work. The next two pages feature artwork from students here at Franklin Towne.

If you would like to have your work displayed in the newspaper, please submit it to scunningham@franklintowne.org. You can submit your artwork, writing pieces (prose or poetry), and other creative work for submission.

Please note: not all submissions are guaranteed to be published.



Thank you to all the students who made this issue possible; Gabby Torres, Zara Khan, and Jacob Hudson.

If you would like to participate and have an article featured in next month's issue, please see Mr. Cunningham in room 355.

Thank you to all students who took the time to read through this issue. See you next month.