

# Franklin Towne Charter

## TOWNE TIMES

MARCH 2024

### Franklin Towne Junior Ring Ceremony

#### The Franklin Towne Class of 2025

#### receive their class rings

by Shannon-Marie Rolon

Members of the Class of 2025 received their Class Rings on March 20, 2024. A memorable experience and the marking of a major milestone in their lives, the class ceremony was attended by friends and family and celebrated the junior class as they continue their journey to graduation.

Principal Dougherty was on hand to distribute the rings to the class and remind them of the importance of the moment. Other remarks were made by CEO Ms. O'Donnell and other members of the faculty.

Parents, guardians, and other family members were present and took in the ceremony with pride and excitement as they watched their children cross the stage and accept their rings with their own elation and anticipation.

Next up for the juniors is Junior Prom, which will be held at Franklin Towne on April 12, 2024.



Jayden Ocasio shows off his new class ring / Photography Department



Jaedyn Sanchez and his parents beam with pride / Photography Department



Principal Dougherty distributes the juniors their class rings / Photography Department



Elianys Mata-Maldonado and Kiara Batista flaunt their new rings / Photography Department





# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## INSPIRING VOTERS EVERYWHERE

### International Women's Day

March is Women's History Month and takes the time to celebrate the many amazing accomplishments by women throughout history, such as the Nineteenth Amendment, which guaranteed the right to vote regardless of sex. As part of this celebration, Franklin Towne held an assembly to highlight the importance of the voting process.

The event was put together by Franklin Towne in collaboration with Philadelphia City Commissioner Seth Bluestein and Melissa Wright, the League of Women Voters of Philadelphia President, along with Jane Grabias. Together, these organizations put together an event to provide students with necessary information about the election process and voting rights as well as the importance exercising the right to vote from a civil rights perspective.

To help the students become prepared with the voting booth, the assembly had students participate in a mock election to determine the most important and influential woman for their contributions in the women's suffrage movement.

Featuring candidates such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, Sojourner Truth, and Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, the students cast their vote to decide which of the many contenders would receive the honors. The winner of the election was Ida B. Wells for her many great contributions to the women's suffrage movement, in addition to being one of the founders of the NAACP in 1909.



Seth Bluestein speaks to FTC students / Photography Department



Melissa Wright of League of Women Voter's (upper left), Jane Grabias of Philadelphia250 and Seth Bluestein (upper right) and Abby Pennisi casts her vote / Photography Department

### Franklin Towne Character

#### Champion: Trustworthiness

Last month, Franklin Towne introduced its Towne Character Champion Awards. February focused on respect and awarded those students who best demonstrated that characteristic.

As the year progresses, each month focuses on a different and important character trait. The month of March was centered on trustworthiness. Trustworthiness is demonstrated in a variety of ways, most notably through students who borrow, use, and return classroom supplies, clean up their work area and classroom, advocate for themselves, demonstrate high levels of academic integrity, such as attending appointments, participating in group work, and helping with directions,

and maintaining strong social integrity through positive comments and seeking out trusted adults with major issues.

Once again, Franklin Towne would like to thank every student who demonstrates this characteristic day in and day out. While the school cannot thank every student, Franklin Towne would like to highlight the following students for their contributions and commitment to making Franklin Towne a great place for all students and staff:

Jazmine Richardson, Ava Potter, Lila Kull, Tyler Lawrow, Symeer Ziegler, Julie Semler, Robery Colomy, Brennan Egrie, Daijah Mojica, Kelly Ferraro, Kayla Bielawski, Brooke-Lyn McLean, Carter Maddox, Emma Janiszewski, Isabella Boyce, Dominick Mecca, Frank Bousono, Joseph Young-Bigio, Chasity Gagne, Catie West, Ardit Lamaj, Ethan Mayne, Naheyan Khan, Dariel Gutierrez, Erin Markert, Sarah McCullough, Kylee Wise Smith,



# ACADEMICS

## HIGHLIGHTING THE STUDENTS OF FTC

### Towne Character Champions: Trustworthiness

Jesily Rodriguez, Antonia Marchino, Simeon Bowne, Jason Schaffer, Nicholas Thornton, Zach Derr, Gabriel Hall, Arianna Mitchell, Camryn Campbell, Couture Davis, Brandon Pyatt, Camryn Dawkins, Kenneth Mesidor, Jenna Beltle

Olivia Scott, Ryan Burns, Serenity Evans, Maria Janjanin, Baba Baloch, Hector Ramos, Aleksander Bojko, Sinead Intal, Ariel Santiago, Aiden Nevedomsky, Jaylen Moore, Lauren Donofrio, Giavannie Grantano, Autumn Perez, Sadie Stanicky, Kiara Batista, Abigail Pelczar

Shane Rhodes, Liam Forbes, Adam Whalen, James Ford, Meghan Stewart, Nicholas Arniotis, Olivia McCormick, Jayden Quattrone, Antonio Miranda

Congratulations to all the recipients of March's Towne Character Champion Award





# HAPPENING AT TOWNE

## EVENTS

### Franklin Towne holds its annual Hunger Games with a slight change in 2024

by Gabby Torres, '24

The Franklin Towne 2023-2024 school year has been one of the most eventful ones yet, and this doesn't end with the third quarter. With the year soon to be ending, the competition is only beginning. And April will bring one of the most exciting and competitive events to date: Towne Challenge.

This month, from April 15th to April 19th, students will compete for their grades through field-day challenges, games and activities. By purchasing the new \$25 Towne Challenge t-shirt, students can participate in each of these activities with their friends, peers, and classmates, and are welcome to dress down every Wednesday for the rest of the year! Not only this, but the winning grade of the Challenge will receive an individual, student-led Pep Rally.

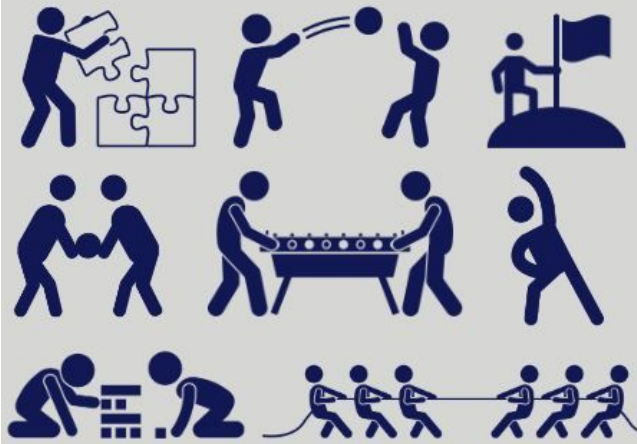
Students are welcome to purchase their own Towne Challenge shirt through PowerSchool, either online, at lunch, or at the front desk at the end of the day. Your receipt can then be brought to the school store, where you'll receive your grade-specific shirt.

All proceeds of this event go towards our Towne Connections program, which helps our school aid Towne families in need, and host more school-wide events like this. So, get your shirts before next week, and let's get ready for the Battle of the Bell.

## TOWNE CHALLENGE

### BATTLE OF THE BELL

A grade level challenge competition that allows students the opportunity to test their skills, knowledge, and creativity in a competitive environment.



Gabby Torres, '24  
Staff Writer

### Franklin Towne hosts an Art and Craft Fair this April

by Gabby Torres, '24



On April 6th, Franklin Towne will be hosting its very own Art Show! Families and friends are welcome to join the related arts department in displaying a year's worth of student work, from portrait sketches to abstract paintings to interesting sculptures.

The show will represent students from a variety of styles, skill levels, and interests, each with unique work to stand out in the crowd. And with this, our first ever Community Arts class has been working tirelessly to bring exciting new pieces to represent everything that has come of the 2023-2024 school year.

Whether it's to applaud an artistic friend, gain inspiration, or spread some school spirit, Franklin Towne welcomes anyone and everyone to what hopes to be an ongoing, school-wide tradition, showing the importance of not only academic success, but creative and artistic growth in students.

Gabby Torres, '24  
Staff Writer



# SPRING BREAK

## Franklin Towne relaxed for the last week of March

by Juliet Capone, '25

Our own Juliet Capone sat down with a few students and asked them what they did over Spring Break:

“Playing Siege and sleeping” - Kevin Bakeoven

“Nap, nap, and Fortnite” - Aubrey Pomerantz

“Babysitting” - Nyla Hawthorne

“Hanging out with friends” - Dianne Aigbokhaevbo

Whatever you did for your spring break, we hope you had a peaceful and relaxing one. Now let's get ready for the end of the year.



Juliet Capone, '25  
Staff Writer

## Franklin Towne teachers take a pi(e) to the face for Pi Day and Towne Connections

In what has become a grand tradition at Franklin Towne, teachers raised money for Towne Connections by letting students throw pies at them on March 14, known as Pi Day.

When it was all said and done, the mess on the ground was worth it for the money raised to help the Franklin Towne community and have a bit of fun.





# UNION LEAGUE HONORS

## Franklin Towne students received honors from the Union League of Philadelphia

The The Union League of Philadelphia Legacy Foundation has hosted Good Citizen Day, an all-day civics education program for several hundred high school students annually since 1947. Nearly 19,000 students have participated in this impactful program and received the Good Citizenship Award. FTCHS Honorees include:

- Jason Gillich (First Tee of Philadelphia)
- Disaya Pinkney (Girl's Inc. of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey)
- James McFadden (Boy Scouts Troop 290)
- Nina Loh (Ed Snider Youth Hockey)
- Nyel Waters (The Boys and Girls Club of Philadelphia)
- Jercell Sandiford (The Boys and Girls Club of Philadelphia)

Congratulations to these students who exhibit excellence every day.



Left to right: Disaya Pinkney, James McFadden, Jason Gillich, Nyel Waters, Nina Loh, Jercell Sandiford / Photography Department

# DRAMA CLUB

## Franklin Towne students get dramatic

by Rory Szumski, '25

Franklin Towne decided to add a bit of drama to this school year as we will be holding our very first ensemble.

We will be doing one acts from *Passing Period Purgatory*, *Juliet Wakes Up*, and *Bottom's Dream*.

The date for our school's very first play is set for May 2. The cast list was released the week of the 2/16, so if you have not already checked out who will be performing, check it out and support your friends and the rest of Drama Club, directed by Ms. McClay.

While you may have missed your chance to audition for this year's play, Drama Club is always looking for more stage crew to help this first performance go off without a hitch. Stage crew are needed at rehearsals starting the week of May 8.

Rehearsals are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school in room 340.



Rory Szumski, '25  
Staff Writer



# STUDENT WORK

Each month, we would like to highlight student submitted artwork or writing. If you have something that you would like to submit, please email Mr. Cunningham ([scunningham@franklintowne.org](mailto:scunningham@franklintowne.org)).

Please note that not all work submitted may be published.



Andrew Cummings



Andrew Cummings

## Cherry Cola

I don't like the taste of soda.  
I don't like the way it feels,  
a million sharp little knives  
stabbing one after the other,  
in perfect little circles around my tongue.

I don't like soda but I knew you did.  
Pulling out your wallet every Christmas  
Eve waiting for us to run to you,  
racing down the stairs trying to be first to  
grab you a can from the big gray fridge in  
the garage,  
with only the thought of being first to  
reach your hands on our minds.

I don't like soda but you smiled when you  
saw it.  
You smiled when you saw us,  
our little Christmas sweaters wrapped  
around our bodies,  
our fingers holding that bright red metal  
can,  
it's curved edges sinking into our creased

I got used to the taste of soda,  
although it'll never be mine.  
It used to resemble knives  
but now there's peace to it,  
a wave of unexplainable calmness  
because I knew it was yours.  
It'll always be yours  
even though you left.

My friends hand me soda and although I  
don't like it,  
I crack open that can and take a sip for  
you.  
One little sip.  
Just so you know i'm always thinking  
about you.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Best Buddies Friendship Walk

Franklin Towne's Best Buddies Chapter has created a team to walk in this year's Friendship Walk. This year's Friendship Walk for the Philadelphia area will take place on Sunday, April 28th at the KOP mall. Check-in begins at 8:00am, Opening Ceremonies begin at 9:00am, and the walk will begin at 10:00am.

If you're interested in being part of our team and walking, you can join by clicking the link at the bottom of the email that will take you to our team page! If you're unable to participate but would like to donate, you can do that by clicking the same link.

Once registered, you have the ability to create your own personal fundraising page that you can share with your family and friends to raise even more money for the Best Buddies Friendship Walk. There is no obligation to do this, but one incentive is if you sign up for the walk and raise \$50+, you receive a 2024 participant t-shirt at the walk. There are other incentives as well, such as Best Buddies Bracelets, shirts, back-

packs, water bottles, and much more.

If you'd like to learn more about the incentives or the walk itself, you can visit: [the website here](#). If interested in walking with us, here are the steps to join:

- Visit our team fundraising [page](#)
- Register for the Best Buddies Friendship Walk under our school name
- Start your own fundraising efforts for Best Buddies International!

Please join to help spread inclusion throughout the FTC community and around the world.

**BEST BUDDIES**



## Junior Prom is here

Junior Prom is Friday, April 12. 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.

Have fun this weekend!

This edition of Towne Times could not have been completed without the excellent work of our staff writers: Gabby Torres, Abigail Pennisi, Jacob Hudson, Shannon-Marie Rolon, Nyla Hawthorne, Rory Szumski, Juliet Capone and Zara Khan. Additional contributions by Andrew Cummings, and Jordyn Davis.

If you would like to join for the next edition, please see Mr. Cunningham in room 355.

All of us here at Towne Times thank you for reading this edition. We look forward to next month.

-Mr. Cunningham

Save the date

# JUNIOR PROM

April 12th  
7pm-10pm  
Tickets on Sale March 11th-22nd  
\$50 per person  
Dinner Included