

November 18, 2016

[PARENT/GUARDIAN NEWSLETTER](#)



In this issue

[From the Dean of School](#)

[School News](#)

[Thanksgiving Break Schedule](#)

[October Volunteers of the Month](#)

[From the Curriculum Coordinator](#)

[From Mrs. Linda Blakeney](#)

[From Mrs. Samantha Blakeney](#)

[Craft Fair Update](#)

[From the Registrar](#)

[From the School Counselor: Honesty](#)

[Art Supplies Needed \(and Thank You for Recent Donations\)](#)

[FIRST Lego League Teams - Research Findings](#)

[Events](#)

[Food Drive \(UPDATE\)](#)

[UNH Manchester Hosts CS4NH Launch Day on Nov. 5](#)

[Fundraisers](#)

[Founders Annual Fund](#)

[Outreach Committee Meeting - Dec. 8](#)

[Bowling Night Fundraiser for the Lego League - December 3](#)

[Bird Seed Wreaths for Sale](#)

[Other News](#)

["Most Needed" Items at Founders: A Desperate Need!!](#)

[Admissions](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Follow The Founders Academy on social media](#)

From the Dean of School



Happy Friday!

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! Please remember that the Thanksgiving break for students includes November 23 through 28. November 28 is a professional development day for teachers so there is no school that day for students. Students return to school on November 29. Founders is thankful for the outpouring of support from its parents!

There will be no parent newsletter next Friday, which means reading this one is all the more important!

Due to life circumstances, we'll soon be saying "goodbye" to two teachers (see within this newsletter for details), but also saying "hello" to more. Please keep on top of the [job opportunities page](#) of the web site to refer careers at Founders to your networks.

Congratulations to the Volunteers of the Month for October - **Kylene Normandin** and **Robin Gage**! Founders is consistently grateful for its volunteers.

Have a great weekend, and a good Thanksgiving break!

Sincerely,
Maureen Mooney
Dean of School

School News

Thanksgiving Break Schedule

Thanksgiving Break is Wednesday Nov. 23 through Monday Nov. 28; we will return to school on Tuesday the 29th.

October Volunteers of the Month

We are pleased to announce our volunteers of the month for October, Kylene Normandin and Robin Gage!



How fortunate we have been to have both Robin and Kylene! They both picked up the ball 6 months ago after initiating the idea of bringing a Craft/Vendor Fair to the school, and kept running with it. They were able to bring a wonderful fundraising event to the school that involved all aspects of the Founders community, from students, parents, teachers/staff, and the outside community.

They are a great team and as they have worked together since June putting all the pieces together to have a successful event. Robin was the record keeper and organized all of the crafters/vendors and previewed all of their products on social media. Their tireless efforts brought over 70 sellers to our 1st time event, which are amazing results. They had color coded, charts, table assignments, and professionalism throughout the process.

Kylene was the cheerleader and marketer, constantly trying to get the word out to the public, soliciting donations, and paying attention to all of the small details involved in an event like this. The enthusiasm and constant motivation to make it a great event for the school was uplifting!

All of your efforts are appreciated by everyone here at Founders!



From the Curriculum Coordinator

Dear Parents,

The first quarter ended well here at The Founders Academy. Heading into this next session of school, the faculty will be working hard on creating curriculum maps, and begin the process of establishing academic benchmarks. We will be doing this on the Monday following Thanksgiving, and hope to complete the process by the spring. These curriculum maps and benchmarks will help to not only provide transparency of what we are offering in our courses, but also act as a much needed method to judge our academic offerings against the state.

Around the school, the faculty and students have been going to great lengths to begin observing the multiple holidays and days of observance throughout the months of October and November. For Halloween, your

students did a terrific job of showing off their spirit by displaying a variety of costumes. The Art and Foreign language departments also got involved by completing Dia De Los Muertos face masks and drawings, which are on display in our main hallway. Just last week, our student body hosted a Veteran's day assembly, and honored several veterans who were in attendance.

Coming up in December, we have a Middle School drama production of King Wenceslas, which will be held on December 2nd and 3rd. Also in that month, the Band will be putting on their Winter Concert on the 19th. The students of our school have worked very hard on both of these productions, and your attendance would be much appreciated.

~Chris Kline

From Mrs. Linda Blakeney

"Dear Faculty and Students:

As some of you are aware, I have been dealing with some serious health issues affecting members of my family. It has become clear to me that I will need to focus my time and energy for the foreseeable future on these important issues, and will not, therefore, be able to continue working full-time as well. My last day here at Founders will be Friday, December 2.

I would like to thank the administration for giving me the opportunity to work here at Founders, the faculty for being incredibly friendly and caring peers, and the students for their enthusiasm, effort, and smiling faces. I wish you all continued success and a great year."

Sincerely,
Linda Blakeney

From Mrs. Samantha Blakeney

"It is with a mixture of regret and excitement that I inform you of my resignation. I will be leaving to pursue my M.S. in counseling at-risk children and their families. I have been offered a position that will allow to me to work on my degree while receiving clinical hours and credit toward my degree. I had a hard time deciding if I should take this opportunity, but ultimately I have to follow my true passion which is to help those who are in critical need.

I have enjoyed working with the children at The Founders Academy and have met some truly special people in my time here. I will miss collaborating with the incredible members of the Science department and working with you all to give our students the tools they need to be successful persons of good character.

I will be staying on until December 9th in order to help ease the transition to a new teacher and to work on curriculum planning. I want to thank you all for your help over the last few months and will miss you as I move on to my next adventure."

Samantha Blakeney
Science Teacher, Levels 1 and 3

Craft Fair Update

Hello Founders Community: It is with great pride that I congratulate all of the parents, students, teachers, and faculty that volunteered, donated, and attended the Craft/Vendor Fair on October 22nd! It was a huge success for the school and a amazing result for this first time community event being held at the school. The fundraising event generated over \$4,600 for the school and also showcased the school and its mission to the public! It is already on the school calendar for next year.

Well done to all that made this event so successful!

Thank you,

Brenda Lombardozzi
Parent and Board Member - Outreach Committee Chair

From the Registrar

Parents -

A new feature has been added to the parent Portal which allows parents to receive automatic updates about your child's grades by email. There are a number of different options you can use including the frequency of the updates, what information will be sent, and what email addresses they will go to.

To access this feature, follow these steps:

- Log in to your Portal
- At the top right, you should see your name - click on it
- A dropdown box should appear - click on "E-Mail Notifications"
- Look through the various options and change the settings to what you want. Be sure to change the first option to "Yes" to actually receive the emails and remember to save the settings with the button at the bottom of the page.

That's it! You will now receive the automatic email updates. If you choose the Weekly, Every Two Week, or Monthly options, they will be sent on Mondays. (The Monthly option will send it on the 1st Monday of every month.)

You should still check in to the Portal frequently to see information about specific assignments and have the most up-to-date information, but this feature should make it easier to see where problems might be arising.

Greg McKenzie
Registrar

From the School Counselor: Honesty

Dear Founders parents/guardians,

Raising children to become happy, independent, and productive individuals is an incredibly profound and important commitment. Parent figures are leaders whose words and actions directly affect how their children view and interact with the world. Many lessons must be taught from birth through adulthood, and those lessons become the values held and lived by young people for the rest of their lives. One critical value children must learn is the value of honesty. The Founders Academy Leadership Code of Conduct, which was developed by students, lists honesty as a value that must be practiced daily by all students who attend our school. As parents, we must also reinforce the importance of honesty to our children daily.

One effective way to teach young people about honesty is to talk about it. The value of having daily conversation with your children cannot be underestimated, especially with how busy the daily lifestyle of an average family can be. Find time each day to reconnect with your child and use the time to share about your days and discuss important and meaningful topics. Another effective way to reinforce the importance of honesty is to model it. As children closely watch what adults in their lives say and do, no example of honest living can be too small. One way to teach honesty in a way that relates to the academic environment is to teach children to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined by the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary and listed on www.plagiarism.org as,

to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own

to use (another's production) without crediting the source

to commit literary theft

to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

Once young people understand what it means to plagiarize, ways to prevent it can be learned and practiced. Sources such as www.plagiarism.org list ways to prevent plagiarism as well as how to cite sources properly.

Together, all adults can empower children to aim for living a life characterized by honesty and integrity. Seeing adults living lives of honesty and integrity is the best way to show them and the epitome of leading by example.

~Colleen McInnis

Art Supplies Needed (and Thank You for Recent Donations)

Sending a big shout out to The Bisson Family for donating new student brushes and tempera paint to our Art Classes! We are so thankful for your generosity!

Also, big thanks to all the parents and students that have been bringing in magazines, paper towel tubes and newspapers for our Art classes! Keep them coming!

I am continuing to compile a complete list of materials we are in need of. Some that we could really use are: Large White Drawing Paper, Watercolor Paper, Small Metal Manual Pencil Sharpeners, Rulers, *Bottles of Acrylic Student Paint, Boxes of Elmer's Paper Mache Powder Mix. (*If you would like to donate Student Acrylic Paint, email me and I'll share with you what type/colors we can order.)

I have ordered extensively online through Dick Blick for my student's Art Supplies in the past. They have great discounts on bulk and can usually get free shipping too! If you have any questions or if you would

rather have me place your order, I would be very happy to assist you! You can email me at:
t.strub@tfanh.org

Thank You so very much for your support and generosity! Mrs. Strub

Art Wish List, from Mrs. Strub

Here is a list of things that you can collect from home to bring into Art Class for our projects!

Magazines

Newspapers

Paper Towel Tubes

Rinsed-out Plastic Yogurt Containers

Throughout the year we will also be sharing lists of supplies that we would love to have donated to our Art Classes.

Some items that we are hoping to use in upcoming projects are:

Rubbermaid containers with covers (to be used to store paper mache)

Sketch paper (white - small and large)

Newsprint

Paper Mache Powder (can be found at Michaels and Amazon in small boxes)

Bottles of Tempera paint (red, white, blue, yellow, black, brown, purple)

Bottles of acrylic paint (same colors as Tempera)

Large drawing paper (white)

An electric pencil sharpener

Paint brushes (small, medium, large)

We totally understand that purchasing extra art supplies may not work into your budget at this time. We thank you for whatever you can share with our class!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions!

-Mrs. Strub

t.strub@tfanh.org

FIRST Lego League Teams - Research Findings

The TFA FIRST Lego League teams have been working really hard since the beginning of school on both their robots and their projects. For their projects, they researched human and animal interactions, and picked a specific human/animal interaction to try and improve. FLL Team #12158, Robotic Dogz (Aaron, Callen, Logan, Nathan, Sophia, and Cameron) worked on improving the interactions between veterinarians and dogs. FLL Team #22347 (Aarush, David, Jack, and Saaket) worked on improving the interaction between a therapeutic riding horse and their rider.

If you are interested in finding out more about what each team completed for their project, please click on the links to their project summaries:

FLL Team #12158 Project Summary -

<https://drive.google.com/a/tfanh.org/file/d/0B9gpAPxw5aTFN0h5T2JMcXNndnc/view?usp=sharing>

FLL Team #22347 Project Summary -

<https://drive.google.com/a/tfanh.org/file/d/0B9gpAPxw5aTFMERRVINMdVpwS0k/view?usp=sharing>

Thank you,
Kari Karwedsky
Amy Forcier

Events

Food Drive (UPDATE)

The Random Acts of Kindness Committee is organizing Founders Academy Annual Food Drive to benefit the Liberty House. The Liberty House provides safe, supportive, substance free housing community for American veterans transitioning out of homelessness in Manchester. **The Food Drive has been extended until Tuesday November 22nd.** Thank you for your support! We have already received so much, and we're so grateful to all who donated. Let's keep it coming for a few more days and make this a year to remember!

UNH Manchester Hosts CS4NH Launch Day on Nov. 5

Founders Academy has three teachers attending a conference at the University of New Hampshire for CS4NH Launch Day, a day of "free professional development focused on the expansion of computer science education...Computing careers are in high-demand in New Hampshire and nationally, so building computer science into the curriculum early on is crucial...We need to start by supporting and empowering educators to learn computational concepts and practices in order to inspire and prepare all students to be successful in their studies and careers." To read more on the conference, see this [link](#).

Fundraisers

Founders Annual Fund

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to welcome all of the students and families to The Founders Academy. I hope that the year has started strong for all of our students! As we close the first quarter of the 2016-17 school year, this letter announces two exciting happenings: the kickoff for raising \$50,000 toward the Annual Fund and obtaining

100% Founders' families donation participation!

Goal 1: Raise \$50,000 for the School's Annual Fund

The Annual Fund was established to help bridge the gap between the school's operational costs (i.e. heating, lease, salaries, etc.) and those funds paid by the state for each student that attends. The annual campaign runs from September 2016 to June 2017. Most public charter schools are only funded by about 70% of what is needed to operate the school. Therefore, Founders relies heavily on parent support and donations to meet its annual expenses. Your donation will allow our students to receive an exceptional education and assist with operating expenses.

Goal 2: Get 100% Founders' Family Participation

This fall, the school welcomed an additional 100 students to the school! The growth that the school has made in three years is astounding. This continued growth can only be possible if all families of the Founders community pledge to support the Annual Fund. Last year, the school established The Founders Academy President's Club, which is a [pledge form](#) outlining commitment levels. On average, most families pledged to support the school with a donation of \$500.00. As a public charter school, it is important that the Annual Fund receive support by 100% of its families! This 100% commitment by all Founders' families will open doors to the school and allow them to become qualified for various grants. This qualification will enable the school to reach otherwise, untapped resources and provide more opportunities to its students. We understand some families are not able to contribute the average but ask everyone to donate what they can.

Please consider supporting the Annual Fund this year to support the school in achieving its two goals. I will be in touch with the Founders community again, to provide an update on the campaign's progress. Please contact me at brenda.lombardozzi@tanh.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda Lombardozzi
Parent, Board Member and Outreach Committee Chair

Outreach Committee Meeting - Dec. 8

Hello Outreach Committee: Just wanted to let you know that the next meeting will be on Thursday, Dec. 8th at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing upcoming fundraising events for January / February and looking for some volunteers to help with holiday Scripts program.

Mark your calendar and have a wonderful Thanksgiving !

Thank you, Brenda Lombardozzi

Bowling Night Fundraiser for the Lego League - December 3

ALL STUDENTS & PARENTS:

Please mark your calendar to attend a fundraiser on December 3 at Merrimack Ten Pins for bowling. Cost is \$20/person and we will be looking for baskets/items to be DONATED to FLL & FTC for silent auction/raffle (not sure which). All monies raised will support both FIRST teams.

Coaches will be setting up a signup page for you to signup for both donations and attendance.

Thanks for your support
Coaches, Amy Kari & Chris

first@tfanh.org

Bird Seed Wreaths for Sale

Bird Seed Wreaths are for sale at the Front Desk - \$15 - proceeds to benefit the school.



These hearty, handmade wreaths are made with fresh, dense and delicious bird seed -- using an exclusive blend from Duncraft Wild Bird Superstore in Concord, NH.

This blend will fully satisfy your feathered friends. The wreath is the perfect gift for bird lovers, that hard to buy for Christmas gift, or a unique Yankee Swap.

Made with the freshest black oil sunflower seed, whole sunflower hearts and safflower seed with no filler. So birds eat every bite. Trimmed with a red raffia bow ready to hang on your fence, tree, shed or post. Includes a natural jute hanger.

Check, cash or credit card will be accepted.

Other News

"Most Needed" Items at Founders: A Desperate Need!!

Founders heavily relies on contributions and donations. As of now, the most needed items include:

- Copier Paper
- Scotch Tape
- Gallon jugs of Expo Whiteboard cleaner
- Cough drops

- PAPER TOWELS
- Lunches and snacks for the food pantry
- Tissues

Items can be dropped off at the school or call in advance at 603.952.4705.

Thank you very much!

Admissions

The application for the 2017-2018 school year is now online here:

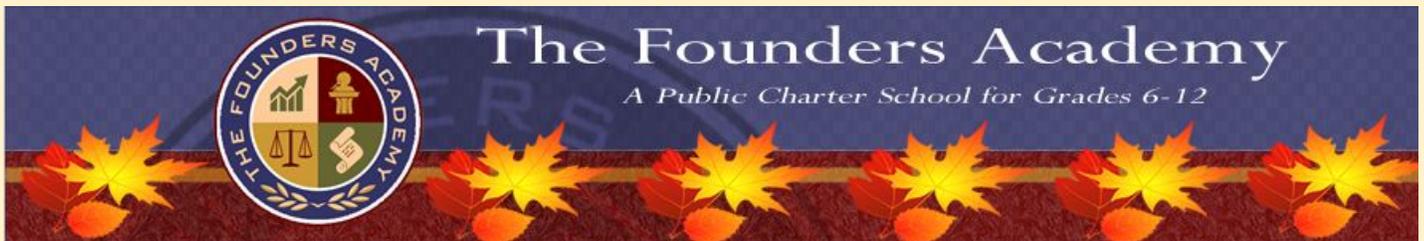
<https://appro.rediker.com/apwebonlinereg/index.aspx?schoolid=0075BFD66E3E4EA0A7C23AA580B0F762>

Thank you!

School Calendar

Regularly check the school calendar online link: <http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/calendar>

NOTE: Dates are continuously added and possibly changed throughout the year. Please check the online school calendar regularly.



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