



Benjamin Franklin Classical  
Charter Public School

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***EXCLUSIVVE FOR MILFORD DAILYNEWS/COUNTRY GAZETTE***

***Award Winning Month for Local Charter School***

By now, the back-to-school rush has lost its fury and most are settling into the school routine with an air of nonchalance. Most that is, except for The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS). This year has been anything but rote at the small K-8 charter school in Franklin, Massachusetts. Dr. Kevin O'Malley, the school's Head says, "Every day I'm here, I say it doesn't get any better than this. Then I come to school the next day, and it does!" Just last week, three national organizations agreed with him when they recognized the school for its superior assets and awarded them with three top honors.

The first such honor was the "**2008 Teacher of Year**" award that the Bellingham branch of Wal-Mart asked to present to the charter school's first grade teacher, Ms. Susan Weidman. Ms. Weidman has taught at BFCCPS for six years and is a graduate of Framingham State Collage. This past summer one of the school parents read about the store's contest and she and her son filled out the contest form. Within the week, nearly her entire class had heard about the contest and cast their votes with words of praise and appreciation for Ms. Weidman too. The store had hundreds of entries and nominations, but it was easy to tell, the "Teacher of the Year" was The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School's, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher. Wal-Mart presented Ms. Weidman with a generous gift certificate and presented the charter school, with a check for one thousand dollars this past week, at a surprise assembly.

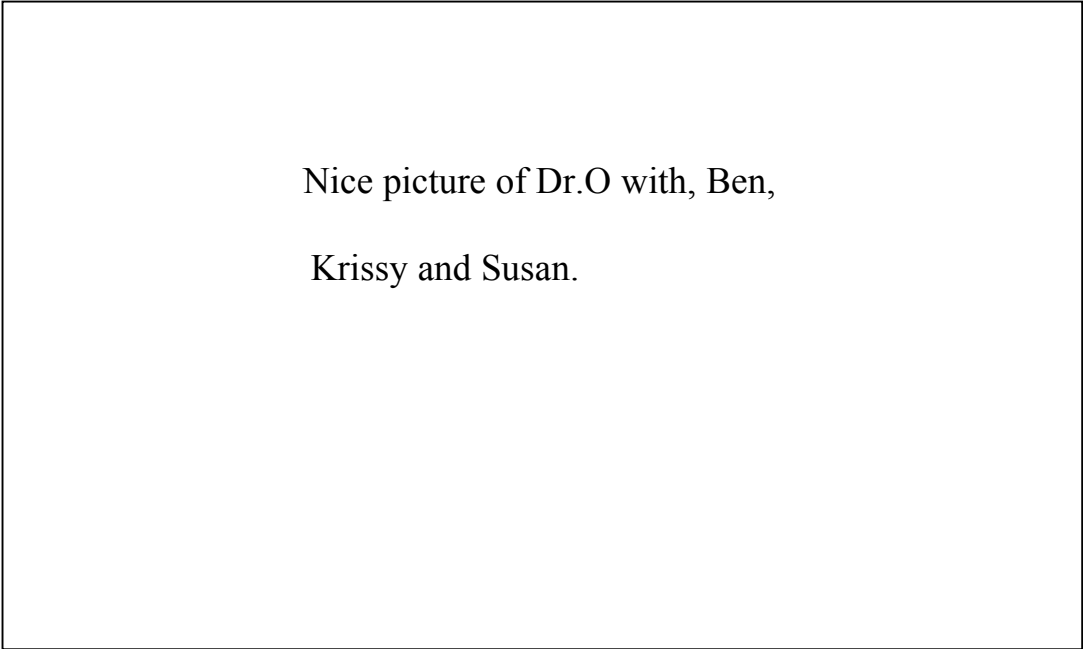
The second honor bestowed upon the school that same day, was the **"2008 Poetic Achievement Award,"** which was presented to them by Creative Communication Inc. The award accompanied the 320 page hardbound edition of A Celebration of Poets, in which 22 of their eighth grade students (from last year) had been published. These worthy poems were the result of a poetry class Ms. Kristina Salley taught. Ms. Salley is the English Language Arts middle school teacher for The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, and more than half of her eighth grade students' poems were chosen through a national creative communication contest. Only schools that had 15 or more poets published in the Spring 2008 edition were honored with the "2008 Poetic Achievement Award."

Ms. Salley, a graduate of Wheaton College, has been teaching in Massachusetts for five years, including the last two years in Franklin at BFCCPS. Her students, whose poetry is now published in the Spring 2008 anthology, live in Franklin, Medway, Mansfield, Foxboro and Norfolk.

The third accolade to be made and delivered to the charter school this past week was from the NAMM Foundation (an international music advocacy foundation) who held their ninth annual nationwide survey to determine the **"Best Communities for Music Education."** For the second year in a row, The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School earned the highest recognition to be amongst the top 100 schools in America for its commitment to the inclusion of music education as part of the overall curriculum. Rick's Music Shop in Cumberland R.I. was asked by NAMM in California, to present a plaque of recognition to the BFCCPS's Music Director, Mr. Ben Benjamin and to Dr. Kevin O'Malley.

The NAMM Foundation, like BFCCPS, supports research that reveals strong correlations between quality music education in school and academic achievement. After compiling the detailed statements of fact from the busy charter school, they determined BFCCPS has a good reason to "blow their own horn!"

**The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School** in Franklin is a free public school that clearly achieves impressive results, and has anything but ordinary days. As they start their second month of what has begun as "The Best" year ever, we asked Dr. O'Malley what was in store. "More good news I'm sure," he replied. "We just have super kids, excellent teachers and wonderful parents who all know how to make that happen." Whatever their formula is, it's all working here and the day they had last week just might prove it.



Nice picture of Dr.O with, Ben,  
Krissy and Susan.

**BACKGROUND:** **The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School** (BFCCPS) was founded in 1995 and currently enrolls 417, K-8 Massachusetts students. Using state of the art instructional strategies, the classical BFCCPS education offers Theater Arts, Fine Arts, nationally recognized French, Latin, Instrumental Music and Choral programs, as well as a core curriculum that is aligned with Massachusetts Frameworks. This free public school achieves impressive results by embracing a unique philosophy of developing both the mind and the character of its student body; they recognize the vital role of parents, they teach the full scope of classical studies and encourage social responsibility.

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