

**October 23, 2015**

**In this issue**

[From the Dean of School](#)

[Welcome State Senator Sharon Carson](#)

[Welcome Ms. Kelly Griffin](#)

[Best Wishes to Mr. Greene](#)

[Welcome Mrs. Steiger](#)

[The Founders Academy Snow Shovels](#)

[School Cancellation Notifications](#)

[Washington D.C. School Trip](#)

[Sign Up for the Europe Trip!](#)

[Retake Picture Day - Nov 5](#)

["Inside the Classroom"](#)

[Adopt-A-Plot](#)

[Wanted: Substitute Teachers, Lunch & Study Hall Monitors](#)

[Admissions Information Night - November 16](#)

[Absent/Tardy Students](#)

[Karate Opportunity at TFA](#)

[Tiny Owl Fundraising](#)

[Hannaford Fundraising Opportunity](#)

[School Store](#)

[Club/Committee News](#)

[School Dance Today!](#)

[Costume Day - October 30](#)

[Important Dates](#)

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

## From the Dean of School



Happy Friday!

A lot of new people to meet in this edition of the Friday Email to Parents, and ways to help. Founders is so thankful for parents and those in the community who have such a great interest in Founders. But remember, we always welcome new volunteers, partners and talent to make our school great! Sign up today!

Enjoy your weekend!

Sincerely,  
Maureen Mooney  
Dean of School

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On October 21, 2015, the Founders Board of Trustees welcomed its newest member, N.H. State Senator Sharon Carson! Founders is fortunate to have Senator Carson contribute her time and efforts to Founders!

Sen. Carson is currently the President Pro Tem of the State Senate and in her fourth term as a State Senator. She lives in Londonderry. Her complete bio can be found [here](#) on the nh.gov web site.

Welcome and thank you, Senator Carson!

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TFA is pleased to welcome Ms. Kelly Griffin as the new science teacher for grades 7, 9 and a section of grade 6!

Ms. Griffin has a Bachelor's degree in biology from Wheaton College and a Master of Education degree from Rivier University. We are very pleased that she will be teaching Mr. Greene's classes for the remainder of the year and wholeheartedly welcome her to the Founders family!

Here is a message from Ms. Griffin:

"Hello and thank you for your welcome to The Founders Academy! I am very excited to join the wonderful faculty here as the new Science Teacher. As I acclimate to this new adventure I have come to recognize the accomplished leaders as astute learners who are on a path of their very own. I am more than excited to help these students on their journey in the classroom and hope to inspire curiosity for the future."

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"TFA Students, and Parents,

It is with sadness that I must announce my departure as a teacher from The Founders Academy, effective October 30th. For a variety of personal and family reasons, I will be pursuing a different path. I have enjoyed my time working with the teachers and staff here, and particularly with all the fabulously creative students I have come to know over the past several weeks. The Founders Academy has a unique mission and future, and every student I have had the pleasure of working with has exhibited the various traits necessary to foster future leadership skills. I will miss my classes and the work that we were beginning to do with the new laboratory facilities. However, with their new science teacher, I know that they will continue to pursue exciting avenues of scientific discovery. Education has the ability to break down barriers, and I know that each and every student I have taught here will continue to excel.

Nathaniel Greene"

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Founders welcomes Mrs. Lenka Steiger as the long-term substitute math teacher while Mrs. Lopez is on maternity leave!

Mrs. Steiger will be teaching the Course 1 and Course 2 Math classes. The Founders family has known Mrs. Steiger since its beginning both as a parent and trustee. We are fortunate to have her help us for the weeks during Mrs. Lopez's leave!

Mrs. Steiger's bio can be found [here](#). NOTE: As of the time of this writing, Mrs. Lopez has not begun her leave yet.

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Winter is fast approaching! What better way to prepare for winter and to help your student's school than by buying one of The Founders Academy snow shovels. These SnoFighter 18" heavy-duty snow shovels are manufactured in Frankfort, Maine by Mount Waldo Plastics, and are the only snow shovels manufactured in New England. They are made with a solid ash shaft and D-grip handle for ease of use, and the shovel is made of heavy duty plastic that is easy on deck edges.

Support The Founders Academy and prepare yourself for this coming winter! Tell all of your family and friends about this exciting opportunity to support a local New England business and your student's school.

Please feel free to send the link to this [pre-order form](#) to family and friends.

Sincerely,  
Rick Hyotte

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In the event school is cancelled (or delayed) due to weather, the cancellation (or delay) will be announced by the following means of communication:

- Email to parents,
- Facebook,
- [www.thefoundersacademy.org](http://www.thefoundersacademy.org),
- ch 9 - WMUR,
- 90.7FM WLMW
- 610AM WGIR,
- 95.7FM WZID,
- 96.5FM WMLL,
- 1370AM WFEA,
- NECN
- Automated call system.

When school is cancelled, each student is responsible for completing work that is posted on the portals and emailed from the teachers. School work (i.e., "snow packets") will be posted by teachers on snow days by 8 AM.

Additionally, teachers will be monitoring the [portals](#) and their emails throughout the day. It is a **requirement** that students (contingent on having electricity and internet) log into the portals and complete assigned work on snow days.

***It is essential that all students complete the work during the snow day. If we demonstrate participation from our students we will avoid having additional days added at the end of the school year in June. If less than 80% of our students choose not to login and perform the assignments the day counts as a snow day and may result in the school needing to extend the year.***

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Spots are filling up for the Washington D.C. trip!



All 7th, 8th, and 9th graders are invited to join TFA as it explores history in our nation's capitol! The itinerary, parent letter/payment plan is on the website under [Student Life](#). If you have any questions, contact Deb Waitt at her email, [debra.waitt@tfanh.org](mailto:debra.waitt@tfanh.org). The trip is in May, 2016.

We can only accommodate the first 40 students. Please return your permission slip and non-refundable \$50 deposit as soon as possible.

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Bonjour!

I just want to remind everyone that our Explorica web page is up and running, and you are welcome to now sign up for the trip! You simply go to [explorica.com/Barlow-5126](http://explorica.com/Barlow-5126), and then go to the student sign up tab. Please remember that there is a \$200 discount for anyone who signs up **before October 31, 2015**. You will need to type in the code **2017earlybird**.

We had a great turnout at the meeting last week, and I'm really looking forward to traveling with our fabulous TFA students. If you were unable to attend the meeting and have questions for me, please do not hesitate to ask.

Merci,  
Madame Barlow =)

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Retakes have been rescheduled for **Thursday, November 5**. We're also still working on getting the individual photos available for view on the website. If you have any questions, [C3 Photography](#) invites you to contact them directly.

Thanks!

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A message from Ms. Henry:

About three weeks ago, I changed my method of teaching to a 'flipped classroom' approach. Prior to this, students had to sit through a half hour lecture, practice a few problems, then go home and write out 30 problems between every class. When they returned for the next class, I would give the answers so they could grade their papers. I then collected papers and entered grades -- then moved on to the next lecture. This did not leave time for me to go over homework problems in detail and it did not give me a good feel for how much the students actually knew about the topic. I couldn't tell if they truly understood the concept or if they had received a lot of help at home. After reading "Visible Learning" by John Hattie and watching some TED talks on the flipped classroom approach, I felt this was the best method for teaching my students.



A 'flipped classroom' means the 'lecture' and 'homework' portions of the class are 'flipped'. Students read a new concept in math each night -- generally one to two pages in their text, then do 5 to 10 practice problems to be sure they have at least a basic understanding of the new concept. If they are confused, they come to class ready with questions. In class, students work collaboratively. They sit at round tables with 4 to 5 students per table. I briefly review the lesson, which they have already read about, and then students do the problems from the text (what used to be the 'homework') in teams on individual whiteboards. After each member gets an answer, they compare. If all answers match, they hold up the boards for me to see. If they don't agree on the answer, they look at each other's work and determine where the error was made -- this way they are teaching each other. If they get stuck, I help guide them with questions and hints.

There are so many things that I love about this new method of teaching! I get to see students doing the math problems so I can tell when students are stuck and what type of problems they are having trouble with. I've already identified particular topics that individual students need more help with using this method. I can then work one on one with the student for a minute in class or I can assign a khan academy teaching video specific to the topic that the student is having trouble with (differentiation). For the students, they are working together and helping each other. They are actually having FUN doing MATH!!

This week we tried having contests between each team/table. Whichever team answered the question correctly first (meaning all students had to have the correct answer and understand how to do the problem) got a point. The team with the most points got a small reward. It was a lot of fun and created a lot of excitement in the classroom.



I look forward to incorporating more videos as homework and more hands on activities in the classroom. It's exciting to see the students engaged in math and really thinking through problems and helping each other. This is what makes me love my job!

Read Mrs. Henry's full syllabus for her classes [here](#).

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**From the Garden Committee and Adopt-a-Plot:** *Via { ^/•Åa} a•&a} ã \** has completed the prepping of the soil. If you have signed up for a plot(s), please check with Deb Waitt for payment and the adoption process will be complete!

Each plot will be marked with yellow flags and you will be given your plot number.

There is a pile of mulch at the end of the parking lot for you to use to complete your landscaping.

**Ideas for fall:**

- \*plant bulbs for a beautiful surprise in the spring
- \*design a fall landscape with a pumpkin or scarecrow, perhaps
- \*think ahead for some ideas for fall/winter.....or at least until the snow flies!



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Founders is seeking volunteer substitute teachers, study hall monitors, and lunch monitors! If you are interested in helping Founders for full days, half days or even a period or two, please contact Deb Waitt at 603.952.4705 or [debra.waitt@tfanh.org](mailto:debra.waitt@tfanh.org). We'll add you to the list!

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Our next Admissions Information Night is on **November 16**. Again, this is for incoming students and parents to hear more about the school and meet the faculty. It'll start at 6:00 p.m. and will go until 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about TFA is welcome to come.

Those current parents who wish to apply for a sibling must complete the application process with the newly established deadline including placement tests. **The application deadline is January 29, 2016 at 4:30pm.**

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Please remember to email [attendance@tfanh.org](mailto:attendance@tfanh.org) if your child is absent. Additionally, every third unexcused tardy shall constitute an one- full day unexcused absence. Please review the TFA's entire Attendance Policy in the handbook [Section 2.2](#).

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Karate classes will be offered at TFA by the House of the Samurai! They'll be held in six-week sessions **starting November 2**, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM at Founders. At the assembly on October 9, students saw and learned about the exciting opportunity the House of the Samurai will be bringing to TFA.

**There will also be a FREE TRIAL week starting October 26 for students to try out classes.**

Watch for information and the registration form [here](#).



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Hello Fellow Parents and TFA Fans!

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The Halloween Dance on is today **from 6:30 to 8:30pm**. Please keep in mind that the dance is only for students who attend Founder's Academy. Costumes are allowed, but there are no masks or weapons. **Admission to the dance is five dollars** at the door.

Thank you, Dance Committee, for ALL the work you do! We hope to see a lot of students there.

Halloween is sneaking up! On Friday, October 30, the Student Spirit Committee will host a Costume Day during school. To those who want to participate, all costumes must be Dress Code appropriate with these additional rules:

- No face masks (partial or full) worn during the school day.
- No fake or real weapons can be part of the costume.
- No fake blood.
- But moderate face paint **is acceptable**.



If the costume is disruptive to the school environment, students will be asked to change. If there are any doubts about the appropriateness of a student's costume, please bring a change of clothing. All costumes at the October 23 school dance follow the same guidelines. For more information on the dance, look under Club/Committee News.

We hope to see some fun and creative outfits!

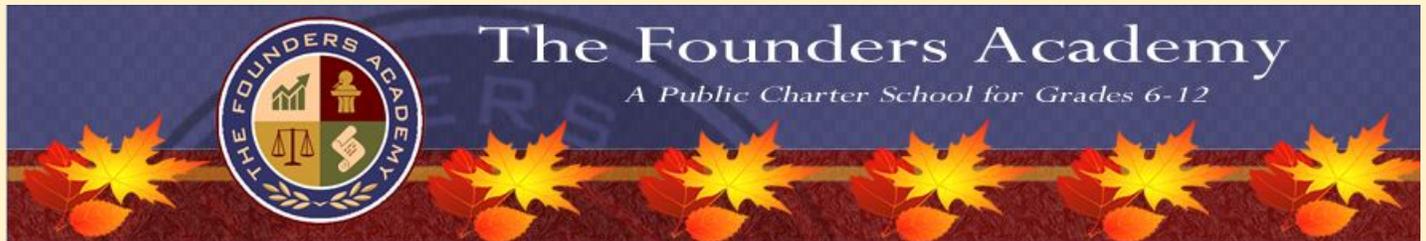
## Important Dates

School calendar online link: <http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/calendar>

October 23, 2015	Field Trip: Tour of Freedom Trail
October 23, 2015	Halloween Dance from 6:30-8:30pm at Founders.
October 30, 2015	Friday Morning Assembly: Student reenactment of Battle of Lexington and Concord.
November 5, 2015	School photo retakes.
November 5, 2015	Outreach Meeting at 7pm.
November 6, 2015	First Quarter grades close.
November 6, 2015	Friday Morning Assembly: Keith Howard of the Liberty House

November 11, 2015	Veterans Day. No School.
November 13, 2015	First Quarter Report Cards emailed to students and primary parent/guardian.
November 13, 2015	Student-led assembly honoring Veterans at 8:00am.
November 16, 2016	Parent Teacher Conferences. No School.
November 16, 2015	Board of Trustees Meeting (School Board) at 4pm at Founders.
November 16, 2015	Admissions Information Night at 6pm at Founders for prospective students and parents.
November 18, 2015	Field Trip: Museum of Science in Boston.
November 21, 2015	Science and Inventors Club Fundraiser.
November 25-29, 2015	Thanksgiving Break. No School.
December 14, 2015	Chorus Concert at 7pm.
December 15, 2015	Band Concert at 7pm
<del>December 15, 2015</del>	<del>Band Concert at 7pm</del>
December 19 - January 3, 2016	Holiday Break. No School.
January 18, 2016	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. No School.
January 19 - January 22, 2016	Mid-Terms
January 22, 2016	Second Quarter grades close.
January 29, 2016	Second Quarter Report Cards emailed to students and primary parent/guardian.
February 20-28, 2016	Winter Break. No School.
March 25, 2016	Professional Development Day. No School.
March 28, 2016	Combined Concert at 7pm.
April 1, 2016	Third Quarter grades close.
April 8, 2016	Third Quarter Report Cards emailed to students and primary parent/guardian.
April 15, 2016	Friday Morning Assembly: Drama Production Play Preview
April 15, 2016	Drama Production. Time: TBA
April 16, 2016	Drama Production. Time: TBA
April 18, 2016	Gen. John Stark Day at Founders
April 22, 2016	Field Trip: Shakespeare Folio at the Currier Gallery of Art. More details to come.
April 23 - May 1, 2016	Spring Break. No School.

May 9 - 10, 2016	Science and Inventors Fair.
May 13, 2016	Field Trip: 8th, 9th grades on a lake cruise.
May 16, 2016	Field Trip: 6th, 7th grades on Field and Forest Trip.
May 18 - 21, 2016	Trip to Washington DC for grades 7, 8, 9. For more details, contact Ms. Mote at <a href="mailto:k.mote@tfanh.org">k.mote@tfanh.org</a> .
May 27, 2016	Great East Music Festival Field Trip.
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day. No School
May 31 - June 3, 2016	Final Exams.
June 6, 2016	Field Trip: Walden Pond
June 6, 2016	Chorus Concert at 7pm.
June 7, 2016	Band Concert at 7pm.
June 10, 2016	Last Day of School.
June 10, 2016	Fourth Quarter grades close.
June 17, 2016	Fourth Quarter Report Cards emailed to student and primary parent/guardian.



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