

FRANKFORD HIGH SCHOOL, 100 YEARS OLD AND STILL THRIVING!!

Frankford High School is celebrating a milestone in 2010. The public high school officially turns 100 years old! In those years, the school has graduated over 56,000 men and women, many of whom have gone on to lead very productive and noteworthy lives. Among the ranks of graduates are attorneys, doctors, engineers, educators, professional athletes, as well as ordinary good citizens who give back to their communities, their city, their state and their nation. Biannually since 1963, the school awards its prestigious Pioneer Achievement Award to graduates who distinguish themselves for achievement, leadership and service. To date, ninety-four individuals have received this award.

Frankford opened its doors in September 1910 with 37 students as an annex of Central High School. The original school was housed in an estate mansion. It wasn't until January 1916 that the school acquired its present building on the grounds at Oxford Avenue and Wakeling Street. February of that year saw the admittance of the first girls.

Throughout the decades, Frankford has been steeped in traditions encompassing excellence in academics, character building, and extracurricular activities. The school is renowned for its athletics, including championship football, soccer, baseball, basketball, and field hockey teams. Students at Frankford often graduate and then return to teach and work at their alma mater.

They also have an award-winning Culinary Arts department headed by Mrs. Wilma Stephenson, whose students were featured in the documentary movie, "Pressure Cooker" (2009), that chronicles their struggles and successes as they compete for scholarships and recognition in a cooking contest.

The school also boasts as having the only fully functioning pipe organ in a public school. The organ was installed in 1926 and continues to be maintained by the Alumni Association. Its curator is Charles Hackenyos, a former English teacher, who plays the beautiful instrument at least twice a year.

The school will celebrate its centennial with an Open House on Saturday, May 15th with the involvement of alumni, faculty and current students. Displays of memorabilia, sales of anniversary keepsakes, musical performances, tours of the building, refreshments and more are planned.

In the fall, Frankford will also hold a gala banquet on Friday, November 26th open to all alumni at the Savoy Caterers on Route 73 in Pennsauken, New Jersey. Tickets are on sale now for \$60.00/person.

For more information call Terry Tobin at 215-331-3644 or visit the Alumni website at Frankfordalumni.com.

Tom