

## **Description Of What You Are Looking For From Other Schools:**

**School built, what is the story about your community school.**

**Might talk to a current teacher and one who had taught here for a long time.**

**Maybe you could do a video interviewing someone who had lived in the area for a long time.**

Have you ever wondered about other schools? Do they have the same qualities as your school? I don't know if you do, but I wonder a lot. The original school what built in 1850. It is also the most visited place in Franklin Township by people from outside of the town. People visit the school for school programs, meetings, community athletics, school sporting events, recreation programs, and more.



Our school welcomes all people of all different kinds of backgrounds and skin color. There are about 300 students here. Something really interesting about the school is that the original schoolhouse is still sitting right next to the school, we are standing in. The original Little Red Schoolhouse was built in 1850 and was torn down and replaced by a wooden school. They finally decided to build a bigger school made of brick called Franklin Township School and it has been standing in the same location for almost 73 years! In its early days, the Capoolong Creek, which runs through the community of Pittstown, was an attraction to early settlers. They planted crops they built some of the oldest churches still standing, one of them being the Quaker Meeting House. The Little Red School House was founded by Joseph Clifton when he got the idea of starting public school in Franklin Township.

There used to be many vegetable, fruit, and dairy farms in the Quaker area, but now there are a lot of houses. Now, many people are selling their farms to build houses, but every home in Franklin Township still has to be on a minimum of 5 acres each.

Now we are going to write down what some teachers have said about the school history as we interviewed them. The teachers we interviewed have worked at our school for a very long time and who have experienced changes in curriculum and school size and who have been through good and bad times at Franklin Township School. We also interviewed teachers who have only taught here for only a few years, or even a few months! This will let us see what our school was like years ago, and what it is like now. So, let's get started.

### Mrs. Johnson

“When we had construction we lost our classroom and ended up in the library, there was a flood in the theatre and it was a NIGHTMARE!!!!!! There were so many classrooms in the gym you had to be so careful. The heat didn't work in the library. Rachel Schultz's family brought hot chocolate in the winter and lemonade in the summer. It was a pain to have to knock on the gym door and go in and out, and we were worried about the children being out by themselves. We learned how to go with it because we were in there for such a long time.” She said. “ I have been here for 33 years. My worst experience with teaching was when I had to teach in a trailer and the door fell off the hinges because it was so windy and we were struck by lightning once.” She laughed. “One of my best experiences is when we went to the community nursing home, we made huge candy houses, and we would sing holiday songs to the elderly. It is an ongoing experience of the Ahaaa! moments. We have used the Little red schoolhouse for other things besides learning because for Halloween we would decorate the little red schoolhouse as a haunted house and have the whole school go through the schoolhouse. I also know that where the custodians do their work, it used to be the library! If I could change anything about the school I would move some of the classrooms outside, we would have nature walks, and have to examine different kinds of plants. Yes, I would want to teach in the little red schoolhouse and I would have all the student have bagged lunches, having to write with chalk on the little slate board, have them dress in the olden day clothing, and I would even do it in the winter so we would be allowed to start the stove. I would also like to have bigger desks to house all technology.” She said excitedly.

### Dr. Kramer

“The construction was five or six years ago. We had no walls, so the fifth grade teachers had to work together. I was teaching here for about 32 ½ years. The worst experience I had was when I taught in the library, there was no heat and it was freezing. I taught a little bit of history when I was teaching fourth grade. One of my best experiences was when I taught fourth grade and I got to perform puppet shows. The actual school was named Quakertown Academy because the school was actually in

another location in the 2nd story of the building and that is where people had to go to school. I want more technology and a more modern classroom. I wanted all the students to have a laptop and an iPad. I want students to have tables instead of desks. I also want I want the smartboard to be a plasma screen for teaching and another one for students,” he said.

### Miss Rainaldi

“ I have been teaching at the school for about 10 years. During the rural awareness I teach a lot on the history of Franklin Township. One of my best experiences of teaching was when one of my students from past years that already graduated 8th grade said that he remembered the class and enjoyed it very much. I learned a lot when the my students interviewed teachers of past years. If I could change the school in one way I would make the school larger that way more students would attend giving the school more diversity and you would be opening up to more families. Yes, I would teach in the Little Red Schoolhouse for a day because it doesn't matter whether you're in a little room or a huge building, you are still connecting with the students either way.” She said.

### Mrs. Braco

“One of my best experiences is the summer fun program and teaching the children how to bake yummy treats. One of my worst experiences is having to say goodbye to all of the eighth graders when they graduate to high school. If I could change one of my experiences, I wish they would allow me to have a cooking class during the school year. I would enjoy having to teach a class in the little red school house because it would remind the students what school was like in the past.” She said.





## Stories

### The Construction

The construction is the time where all of the teachers had to learn how to teach in difficult conditions. For example, the second, third, and fourth graders had to go in the gym because their wing was under construction. The “classrooms” had to be separated by dividers. Fifth graders were stuck in the library. In the library, people were banging on the roof. There was no heat and the classrooms were freezing. Our whole gym wasn’t even connected to our classrooms! The library felt like they were separated from the school. They called themselves “The West Wing”. The teachers had to stop their teaching and make sure the kids were safe when they had to travel over to the other building. They needed to have an adult to go with the kids because the teachers had the key to the doors to get into the buildings. There was so many leaks coming into the library. The music teacher and the gym teacher had to teach gym and music in the students classrooms! At the time, the resource center was in the library where the fifth graders were. Again, it was divided by dividers. When the music teachers were playing music, the resources were interrupted by the noise. Whenever someone knocked on the door the teacher had to make sure it wasn’t a stranger. On the bright side, the kids still learned and the teachers did too.

### The Teachers

At our school we have different teachers and faculty members. Some of our teachers include Dr. Kramer, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Weinhold, and many others. Our teachers help us learn many new things and help us get prepared for life.

We have a little bit more faculty members than teachers, but they all get the same amount of credit towards the school. Some our faculty members include Mrs. Findley, Mrs. Pellegrino, and much more. Mrs. Findly helps us with pain and checks us

for certain things. Mrs. Pellegrino will tell our parents certain things and will dismiss us early if we need to.

### The School Programs and Budget Cuts

Our school has had many different programs in the past, and I would like to tell you about some and how they were taken away. I will also tell you about how budget cuts cost us some of our teachers. So, let's start with the programs. One of the school's old programs is safety patrol, we had it for a little while, but then we had lost it for about 3 years. Now we have safety patrol and the halls are safe, hopefully we won't lose it again. Now, let's talk about some of the teachers we lost because of budget cuts. Mrs. Rainaldi was here for 6 years and then when we had construction, she had to leave the school for a little while. A few years later, when the construction was finally finished, Mrs. Rainaldi came back to the school. She didn't keep her post as first grade teacher though, but we were still glad to have her back. Due to budget cuts we also lost our librarian, Mrs. Brokaw. She too, left for a few years and later came back to the school. Mrs. Brokaw came back to the school when we finally had enough money to start full-day kindergarten for the students, before that we had a morning and afternoon kindergarten classes and only one teacher. When the school started full-day kindergarten, they needed another teacher, so Mrs. Brokaw came back and joined Dr. Peterson as a kindergarten teacher and remains in that post today. Another program that was taken away from us due to budget cuts was the gifted and talented program. The gifted and talented program is a program for students who are learning above the level being taught in class. The gifted and talented program was taken away from us for about 4 years and returned this year. Finally, one of the programs we lost was our cheerleading squad. That went away for many years and was brought back last year. We have a cheerleading squad, but it's not as big as we might have hoped, but at least we have someone to cheer us on! So, that about wraps up all of the programs and teachers who were taken away and given back to us. I hope you enjoyed the story! Bye!

### ABOUT MY SCHOOL

#### History

The history of Franklin Township goes back to 1837. The Little Red School House was first made in 1850. The school was replaced with a wooden school in 1912. It was then approved in 1936, on June 5th 1959 the school bought 4.8 acres of land that cost 2,000 dollars. Residents voted to add an additional 4.52 acres. The first addition was approved on June 28th 1988. It included an office complex, few classrooms, and a gymnasium. Many, many years later another addition was started in about 2009 and ended in 2012. The school ended up having classes in the gym and the library. The office was in a different place classrooms where switched a lot. Some classes were disconnected from the school. My school has changed over many years and probably will keep changing for a long time. My school will never be the same, it will keep changing over and over. Hope you enjoyed!



Written by:  
Madison P., Alex R., Anabelle T., and Kaitlyn M.  
Grade 5  
Franklin Township School  
Quakertown, New Jersey, USA