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St. Luke Catholic School
Mrs. Murphy

Dear Committee,

As Benjamin Franklin always said, "Hide not your talents, they for use were made." When I saw your add in the newspaper for this contest, I knew that my classroom teacher, Mrs. Murphy, who loves everything about the Revolutionary War, would appreciate my sharing my talents and my trying to win a trip to the Constitution Center for my class. My Uncle Michael lives in Olde City, and we frequently pass by it when we got to his house on Willings Alley. So, here goes...

I am in the fourth grade at a small Catholic School in South Jersey (Stratford). My school always seems to be scraping for money to keep going. Luckily, we have a modern day Ben Franklin who runs our school, Mrs. Kathryn Dugan. Mrs. Dugan used to be a Science teacher, just like Ben Franklin, who loved Science and inventing. And, although she loved sharing her love of science with her students, she had so much more to give, by becoming principal of our school. Mr. Franklin said that the working man is the happy man, and that the idle man is the miserable man. Well, Mrs. Dugan must be a very happy person, because she never sits down. (And, she is always smiling!). I was reading in Mr. Franklin's Almanac the many wise sayings he shared about life and being a good citizen. Our principal not only shares wise sayings like Mr. Franklin's, she also lives them. Always with an new idea, Mrs. Dugan finds a way to keep everything going and is always open to try new things, or create them when there is the need!

“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest” according to Mr. Franklin. I know that I must continue to do the best I can at school, in order to have more choices when I grow older to love and serve others. I learned this from two great heroes, past and present: Mr. Benjamin Franklin and Mrs. Kathryn Dugan. Please let all your readers know that our small school is our original colony, and our states person, Mrs. Dugan will be plugging away in service to her teachers and student family.