

Franklin Regional Heritage Elementary

Pillars **outside**,

Pillars—There are three.

There's a home here.

Come in from the outside

To where all of us *are we*.

A portal . . . tunnel . . . **entrance** to a think tank, opening my doors each day to windows upon windows of opportunities to grow, collaborate, express, reflect, and succeed.

I love **teamwork**: I love the idea of everyone rallying together to help us succeed and achieve excellence—dedicated to success.

My doors lead to a **pathway** to education for hundreds of students, year after year.

I have a label of **Elementary** School, and my insides are filled with elementary-age people with exciting, extraordinary minds.

I fortify fabulous-forever **friendships** from five years old to fifth grade.

Weathered **walkway**, skip on me, quickly trot, fancy feet, tiny toes, rubber soles, clickety click Christmas shoes, have fun at recess, my dear sweet souls, weather me always, but watch for skinned knees.

Like a healthy breakfast, **teachers** are the fuel that energize me each morning.

Waking, wonderful, **wondering**, why.

The **students** bring so much excitement to me.
Inside my walls, minds are growing like weeds.
Listening—I hear so much more about your secrets,
your laughter, your learning—*Listening*.
Laughter and learning go hand in hand.
Talking softly, talking loudly: so many words and ideas
over the years!
Watching the **running**, jumping, skipping, playing, I always
stand tall and proud.
I am strong, long, proud; wrapping my **caring** still heart
around all those who enter.

We take **pride** in our school family and stand strong together.
Panther **pride** promotes preparation and a powerful
presence.
Character is built in every classroom and hallway throughout
a building that has many stories.
Bronze, silver, **golden**—looking back—awards for games
well played.
Memories of milestones made moment by moment over
the years.
I am the extraordinary **hope** that our trusting community
believes in.
I lend a space to the future of our nation, a place to love
learning,
Welcoming everyone each and every day.

Franklin Regional Heritage teachers in Grades K through 2 composed this poem on November 10, 2014 during a workshop with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. They were asked to use personification and pretend they were the school. Each teacher was given a word (highlighted in bold) and was asked to use that word in a sentence of poetry. Then, the individual sentences were arranged to create this group poem.