



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

District Announces **Teachers of the Year**

Congratulations to Robin Jenkins, Sheldon Santamaria, and Tyler Westerhof – our 2024 Fraser Public Schools' Teachers of the Year!

The three educators were nominated by their colleagues and celebrated at a building staff meeting. They will be recognized at an upcoming Board of Education meeting and invited to be on stage at graduation.

They will also be honored at a banquet this month hosted by the MISD. Below are excerpts from their nomination forms.

Robin Jenkins Emerson Elementary



During her 20-plus years at Emerson, Mrs. Jenkins has brought her teaching expertise in curriculum and her amazing ability to build rapport with

students, families, and colleagues to each position. She has always been more than willing to take on responsibilities outside of her classroom to better the educational experience of all students and to provide professional growth for colleagues. She is a leader at Emerson and staff often look to her for guidance, advice, and support. Mrs. Jenkins comes to school each day and works as if the children in her class are her own; she not only effectively imparts curriculum, but day in and day out she teaches life lessons and social emotional skills to better her students' lives.

Sheldon Santamaria *Richards Middle School*



Mr. Santamaria is an outstanding teacher who meets kids where they are, sets high standards and expectations, and becomes a champion for every student

that he teaches. He does a phenomenal job building relationships with students while they are in middle school; however, that relationship carries over into high school and even beyond. He cares deeply about his students and their success, and every day he inspires kids not only to build upon their skills and challenge themselves as musicians, but to be the best versions of themselves.

Continued on page 2 ...

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fraser Families,

I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing spring break and is ready to return to school and finish the year strong.

This time of year is special because it is time to honor our students and staff who have accomplished great things. I am so thankful to recognize our three teachers of the year. Combined, these individuals have more than 45 years of experience teaching in Fraser.

Mrs. Robin Jenkins from Emerson Elementary, Mr. Sheldon Santamaria from Richards Middle School, and Mr. Tyler Westerhof from Fraser High School were selected for this honor by their colleagues. They represent the characteristics of amazing teachers – compassion, leadership, and kindness. They build lasting relationships with their students, and they are leaders among their fellow teachers.

You can read more about what makes them outstanding teachers in the feature story on this page.

I also want to take a moment and thank everyone who came to our Community Conversation on School Safety. I am proud to be part of a proactive district that puts such a high priority on both physical safety and the mental health of our students. Those in attendance that night had excellent questions and contributed

Continued on page 2 ...



CURRICULUM CORNER SCIENCE

Macomb Science Olympiad is dedicated to inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and doctors through an extracurricular education program that emphasizes a hands-on approach and develops problemsolving and teamwork skills (macombso.org, 2024).

Students who take part in Science Olympiad are able to learn and demonstrate knowledge through various assessments, projects, models, and exhibitions.

Through this program, students can participate in a science focus that aligns to their interests. They will be partnered up with other teams and attend practices to prepare for the practice tournament in March and main tournament in May at Macomb Community College. Fraser High School hosted the elementary practice tournament on Saturday, March 9. This tournament brought in over 20 different schools in Macomb County and hundreds of students to compete in a healthy, educational way. All of Fraser Public Schools' elementary buildings were represented. This year's practice tournament was especially exciting as Fraser's own Disney Elementary brought home first place for the overall team award for the second year in a row! Salk Elementary took fourth place in the overall team category as well.

In addition to the elementary programs, Fraser Public Schools also is fortunate to have a middle school Olympiad team that we are actively working on growing in hopes of continuing to expand to the high school level.

The success of the Science Olympiad program is truly dependent on the wonderful parent volunteers who give their time to work with and coach our students to guide them through tournament preparation. If you are interested in assisting with this program or feel you can offer support in any way, please reach out to your child's building principal.

District Announces Teachers of the Year

... Continued from front page

Tyler Westerhof Fraser High School



Mr. Westerhof is an outstanding teacher because he loves what he does and is continually active in school. He serves on committees,

works with staff, and enjoys being in

front of students. He is a student of history and loves discussing it with colleagues and students. He rarely says no to anyone who needs his help and goes out of his way to make sure everyone is on the same page when it comes to his PLC. Mr. Westerhof maintains an excellent working relationship with everyone at Fraser High School. He is a great role model for students because of his mild-mannered personality and his knowledge of the subjects he teaches. He is the best of what teachers have to offer and brings that with him every day to his job.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

... Continued from front page

to a meaningful conversation around safety. If you were unable to make it to the meeting, the recording is posted on our **website**.

I am looking forward to the spring as we celebrate the achievements of our students and staff. I am proud to be part of the Fraser Family.

With Fraser Pride, **Dr. Wozniak**

2

OUR FOCUS IS WHERE YOU'RE GOING.





Charity Week

Each year the Fraser High School Student Council chooses a charity to support.

This year they chose a charity founded by a Fraser family, Luciana's Legacy. Luciana's Legacy assists families with medical and special needs children who are experiencing financial hardships while also raising funds for organizations that impacted Luciana's life.

The high school students organized many events,

including restaurant fundraisers, sporting events, an ice cream social, a bingo night, a movie night, a "Mr. Fraser" night, and coin stalls, and they involved other schools in the district!

Our amazing Fraser community raised \$13,500 for **Luciana's Legacy**! Thank you to our students, staff, and families.

Elementary Heart Challenge

Engaging in regular physical activity, eating a heart-healthy diet, and avoiding tobacco are important to wellness. But do you know that so is mental health? It can positively (or negatively) affect your health and risk factors for heart disease and stroke. That's why Kids Heart Challenge, a fundraising, servicelearning program, provides lessons, tools, and activities to support both mental and physical well-being for students, families, and staff.

Through fun activities, elementary students across the district discovered ways to take care of their hearts and brains while practicing kindness, gratitude, and learning ways to de-stress. Some of the activities these students participated in





were stair steppers, hula hoops, long jump rope, speed ropes, Tarzan rope swing, and more.

In addition, some students participated in Finn's Mission Completion and Hands-Only CPR Training update eight challenges including writing down what they are grateful for each day, completing an act of kindness, and learning the dangers of vaping.

Our elementary students raised over \$14,000 for the American Heart Association. Fifty-five students completed Finn's Mission and 73 families learned Hands-Only CPR.

Mock Trial Club's Verdict Is In

The Mock Trial Club at Fraser High School finished its inaugural season in March. Twelve Fraser students worked together on a civil trial about a drone that crashed into a gnome collector's gnome garden and was suing the estate of the drone flyer. Unfortunately, the drone flyer died moments before his drone hit the gnomes.

Student lawyers from our team participated as both the plaintiff and the

defense. FHS student lawyers questioned their student witnesses, who were tasked with answering questions based on previous statements they had "made" in the case. The student participants presented their cases in front of real judges during a tournament at the Macomb County court building after working since November on the case.

The student witnesses received accolades from the judges and lawyers judging the competition. Angelina Headrick (lawyer), Yostena Akladyous (lawyer), and Mitch Nummer (witness) were the seniors



who participated. They enjoyed their experience, and their teacher mentors hope to use it and word of mouth to prepare for next year's tournament. Dan Gallina and James Socha are truly proud of the performance by their students.



Edison Welcomes Mayor Lesich



The students and staff at Edison Elementary had a special guest on March 11. Fraser Mayor Michael Lesich stopped by for the day to read and talk about voting and leaders in our government. He read either "Duck for President" or "My Teacher for President" to our excited students.

"I love kids and I love reading, so this is a great day for me," said Mayor Lesich. Students asked questions, shook his hand, welcomed him with cards and letters, and even got his autograph! Edison holds special memories for him because he was an active member of Edison's PTO when his daughter was a student there in the early 2000s. The staff loved having him visit to see the amazing students and wonderful learning going on in his city.

Working Together to Avoid **Spring Attendance Slump**

In the weeks before and after spring break, drops in attendance are common. In Fraser, attendance is tracked each week and students are categorized into tiers based on their percentage of days absent.

Tier 1 students have missed 19% or less of school days, including excused absences. Tier 2 students have missed 20-29%, and tier 3 students have missed 30% or more.

In mid-March, data showed 93.68% of students were in tier 1. While that was a slight dip from December's data, it was still an improvement over last September's attendance rate, which was 92.70%. Further, the percentage of tier 3 students decreased by nearly half when comparing September to March, from 2.70% to 1.48%.

	March 2024	December 2023	September 2023
Tier 1	93.68%	94.11%	92.70%
Tier 2	4.82%	4.68%	4.60%
Tier 3	1.48%	1.20%	2.70%



This is the result of teamwork among building and district leaders, teachers, support staff, and families reminding students of the importance of coming to school.

This month many students will be participating in state

and national standardized assessments, and it is crucial that students come to school as long as they are healthy.

The district will continue to monitor attendance data, and through continued collaboration with all stakeholders, we hope to avoid a spring attendance slump in Fraser.



Our staff works hard every day to ensure that all students feel they are part of a safe and trusting community. When students feel connected to their school, they can succeed.

In mid-March Superintendent Carrie Wozniak, Assistant Superintendent Dan Waters, and Special Education Director Jane Sturgell hosted a community conversation on school safety. During the meeting, the three shared the steps the district has taken to provide physical safety and mental health support to all students.

A recording of the presentation, as well as the top questions asked during the conversation, are available on our **website**.



Macomb Intermediate School District

44001 Garfield Road • Clinton Township, MI • 48038-1100 • 586/228-3300



Leadership, Service & Support in Education

March 26, 2024



Dear Ms. Laseck,

Congratulations, your school district has chosen you to be a 2023-2024 Macomb Reads Literacy Ambassador! It is an honor to have you join the Macomb County Literacy Ambassador Team!

The ideal Literacy Ambassador is:

Passionate: Literacy Ambassadors believe in the importance of reading and share their excitement with the school community.

Leads by Example: Literacy Ambassadors actively engage in reading for pleasure and serve as role models for our youth.

Determined: Literacy Ambassadors work to ensure that Macomb County youth have the tools needed to acquire literacy skills to reach their full potential.

In recognition of this honor, you are invited to select a time to have your professional photo taken at the MISD on April 12^{th} , from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. At that time you will receive:

- A Literacy Ambassador pin to wear to events to encourage literacy
- A Literacy Ambassador lawn sign to promote literacy in your community
- An award-winning hardcover children's book
- Bookmarks to distribute to your district's elementary schools, which include the date of the upcoming **Macomb Reads Carnival on November 2, 2024**.
- Additionally, a personalized Literacy Ambassador poster will be sent to you after the photo session!

Please use the **Professional Photo Session Sign-Up Link** to reserve a time slot as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Mil De Van Ot

Michael DeVault Superintendent Macomb Intermediate School District

cc: Dr. Carrie Wozniak Ms. Katie Fitzpatrick Mr. Kyle Ray

Alun L. Alye

Dr. Alesia L. Flye Assistant Superintendent for Instruction/ Chief Academic Officer Macomb Intermediate School District

Theresa J. Genest, President • Donald R. Hubler, Vice President • Edward V. Farley, Treasurer • Brian White, Secretary • Michael A. Schulte, Trustee Michael R. DeVault, Superintendent





There's No Bullying in **Our House!**

Officer Pettyes and three Fraser students from Richards Middle School and Fraser High School visited Salk's sixth-grade students in March to share an anti-bullying presentation. They used the chant, "There's no bullying where? In our house!" to get students engaged and motivated to share their thoughts and ideas. The presentation focused on bullying and why it is important to be kind.

They had discussions on how to be kind, inviting students to speak about how you can make people feel better with something as simple as a smile or a wave. They also talked about what bullying is, how to react to a bully, and ways that witnesses can help. The presentation ended with a great reminder for students to love themselves and to remember to show their love and kindness to others. Thank you to Officer Pettyes, Brooklyn (Simone) Purry, Alex Wyer, and Tanaya Tate for an awesome presentation and for being distinguished role models for our sixth graders!

Kindergarten Career Exploration at Twain

Twain kindergarten students worked closely with Fraser High School students while exploring careers! The Future Teachers program gives high school students opportunities to observe and interact with younger learners in the district. It gives them a wonderful perspective on the teaching profession is like and a chance to see if this may be a career path for them!

Kindergarten students began their morning with career-based songs, vocabulary, and stories. The future teachers joined the kindergarten classes with some exciting coloring books and a career dress-up station. Students visited each station and were engaged in discussions about what they may do in the career outfits they chose. Children



also discussed the importance of various jobs. To end this fun learning experience, the students listened to the "Alphabet Occupation Song" by Jack Hartman. They were delighted and surprised to see some of the careers they chose in the song. They had a wonderful time learning and discovering occupations with the Future Teachers of Fraser High School.

Reading Is Elemental

Eisenhower's kindergarten students had a wonderful time participating in March is Reading Month!

Their theme this year was "Reading is Elemental," focusing on everything science. The children loved the reading activities that they participated in daily. Some of the fun activities they participated in were "dress like a scientist" and "flashlight Friday." The kindergarten students were eager to read and participate



in all the March is Reading Month activities. The children were given a choice board to choose reading activities at home.



RMS March Madness

The Castle Crew at Richards Middle School kicked off the month with their own version of March Madness. Seminars and grade levels are competing against one another to earn the highest minutes and skills leveled up in Khan Math and Grammar, a digital program that targets instruction in an individual way to support skill development. Students participated in Khan activities during seminar every Tuesday and Thursday all year, but as a final push in preparation for testing



and to finish strong before Spring Break, the Castle Crew faced off to show they "KHAN" succeed. Winning grade levels and seminars will vote on their incentive. We are so proud of our Knights' efforts.

First-Grade Lucky Charm Math

First-grade students at Disney Elementary have been learning how to collect data and organize it into a graph.

They celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a fun math project. Students sorted Lucky Charms marshmallows on their mats. Once sorted, they counted each category and colored their graphs accordingly. They finished the activity



by comparing graphs with one another, while munching on Lucky Charms!

Battle of the Books

Emerson fifth-grade students participated in the Clinton-Macomb Library Battle of the Books competition on Sunday, March 3. Teams read a total of 12 books and had to answer 50 questions based on the books.

Students also were invited to attend an award ceremony and author signing the

following Tuesday. Students listened to author Matt Faulkner speak and met him to get their books signed. Emerson is proud of every student who participated, as they worked incredibly hard to read their books and work with their teams at the event.

Congratulations to Quinn Courtney, Hannah Kraus, Charlotte Hardy, Tori Hardy, Parker Stanczak, Dominic Paletta, Enzo Rastelli, Gavin Kelley, Noah Holland, Aspen Swift, Katherine Sutherland, Rhniya Williams, Elizabeth Jackson, Ava

Critter Man Visits Dooley



The Critter Man visited Dooley students! He educated the students on various animals, like chinchillas, tarantulas, bullfrogs, alligators, parrots, tortoises, chameleons, and snakes. He has been visiting Dooley for many years to pass on his knowledge of all these magnificent animals. The students loved learning about them and even touching most of them! It is such a joy to see the love of learning blossom in these students through fun experiences like this one.



Sutton, Kate Chasney, Ember Miller, Brianna Gray, Lilly Wojnowski, Kennedy Jones, Grace Trevorrow, and Shanasia Eanes. You all make Emerson proud!



Disney Students Learn About Pi

Disney fifth- and sixthgrade students celebrated Pi Day on 3/14 to recognize the amazing mathematical constant pi and its importance in understanding circles, geometry, and baked goods. Students learned about the importance of circles and the very important number, pi, that is used to measure them. They engaged in pi-related books and math activities that involved circumference. diameter, and more.

The big event for sixth grade was an organized assembly that gave students an opportunity to participate in circle-related



games, a pie eating contest, and competition reciting the digits of pi. The winner, lan, recited a recordbreaking 200 digits of pi. Disney's Pi Day was filled with knowledge, learning, fun, and delicious pie!

Camping Out in Second Grade

Second-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary participated in a Camping Day Room Transformation.

They rotated through several stations that focused on language arts, math, and map skills. They also enjoyed s'mores after they completed a writing on how to make them. Students dressed up like campers with a camping bandana and wrote with real stick pencils!



MSBOA State Solo & Ensemble Results

Congratulations to the Fraser High School band students who participated in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association State Solo & Ensemble Festival on March 16 at Rochester Stoney Creek High School. Fifteen events qualified at the District Solo & Ensemble Festival.

The soloists in grades 10, 11, and 12 compete at a sequenced proficiency level, which includes performing a solo piece, memorized scales, and sightreading music they have never seen before. The proficiencies get increasingly more difficult as they progress by grade. For the proficiency ratings, a First Division is a score of 85 – 100, and a Second Division is a score of 70 – 84.

Thirteen events received "Superior" First Division ratings, equivalent to the overall grade of an "A," and one event received an "Excellent" Second Division rating.

Included in the State competition were six chamber ensembles, each comprising of nine to 20 students. Receiving First Division ratings were the Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir, Brass Ensemble A, Brass Ensemble B, Saxophone Ensemble, and Percussion Ensemble. Their talent, hard work, and dedication are exemplary!



MSBOA District 16 Band Festival Results

Congratulations to the Fraser High School Varsity, Concert, and Symphony bands that participated in the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association District 16 Band Festival at Anchor Bay High School.

The bands are adjudicated in performance by three judges, competing in five musical categories of Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique, and Interpretation, for a total of 15 grades. Grades of A through E are assigned to each of the five categories, and using a four-point-calculation method, overall ratings are assigned by each judge from First Division (Superior) to Fifth Division.

On Friday, March 8, the 40-member Varsity Band (all 9th graders) competed in Class D and received straight Second Division ratings in Performance, and a Second Division in Sight Reading, for an overall "Excellent" Second Division rating.

Also on Friday, the 89-member Concert Band competed in Class C and received straight First Division ratings in Performance, and a Second Division rating in Sight Reading, for an overall "Superior" First Division rating.

On Thursday, March 7, the 41-member Symphony Band competed in Class A and received straight First Division ratings in Performance, and a First Division rating in Sight Reading, earning an overall "Superior" First Division rating.

As a result of his exemplary performance at the MSBOA State Solo & Ensemble festival, Declan Johnston, who received a 99 out of 100 in Proficiency III for his French horn solo, has been nominated to audition for the concerto competition *and* to perform with the Honors Chamber Brass Ensemble at the Spring Honors Showcase Concert! This is a prestigious annual culminating event that brings together the finest student musicians from around the State of Michigan to perform in concert at Western Michigan University on May 10. Congratulations to this fine young musician!

A special thank you to Mrs. April Fiedler, FHS band assistant, for her assistance with each of the bands throughout the school year and the festival weekend. Also, thanks to each of the elementary general music teachers, and Ms. Peyton Krantz, elementary band director, Mrs. Shana Fleming, elementary band assistant, Mr. Sheldon Santamaria, RMS band director, Mr. Mike Perkins, RMS Choir director, Mrs. Karen Hagerty, FHS Piano Studies, and Mr. Nic Charland, FHS choir director, for their support, preparation, motivation, and assistance with the students in the Fraser Music program.

PLANNING AHEAD

APRIL 5

Cabaret Dinner Fraser Performing Arts Center, 5:30 p.m. (performance follows)

APRIL 6 Cabaret Dinner Fraser Performing Arts Center, 5:30 p.m. (performance follows)

APRIL 8 Board of Education Meeting Mark Twain, 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 10 11th Grade SAT Testing 10th Grade PSAT Testing

APRIL 11 11th Grade WorkKeys 9th Grade PSAT Testing

APRIL 15 11th Grade MSTEP

APRIL 16 Early Release All Levels DPPD Elementary: 8:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. RMS: 8:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. FHS: 7:30 a.m. – 11:44 a.m. APRIL 16 8th Grade PSAT Testing APRIL 22

Board of Education Meeting Idea Lab, 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 26 Pat Pascaretti Dedication Concert Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 29 Edison Vocal Music Concert FHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 30 Disney Vocal Music Concert FHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 1 Emerson Vocal Music Concert FHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 2 Salk Vocal Music Concert FHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. **MAY 3 FHS Early Release** 7:30 a.m. – 11:44 <u>a.m.</u>

MAY 3 Prom Mirage Banquet Hall 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

MAY 6 Board of Education Meeting Idea Lab, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 6 District Art Show 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

MAY 6 Twain Vocal Music Concert

FHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. MAY 7 District Art Show

7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Open House** 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. MAY 7 Eisenhower Vocal Music Concert

FHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. MAY 8

District Art Show 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MAY 9 RMS & Elementary Early Release DPPD Elementary: 8:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. RMS: 8:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MAY 9 Piano Recital FHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 9 Elementary Band Concert FHS Gym, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 9 Honors Convocation FHS Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

MAY 9 District Art Show 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.









MONDAY, 4/15: Magnificent Mind Celebrate how amazing it is that all of our minds work in different and unique ways! Wear a fun hat, head band, and/or crazy hair

TUESDAY, 4/16: Be a Hero! We all need heroes in our lives, especially if every day things are challenging at times.

Dress up as your favorite superhero!

WEDNESDAY, 4/17: Sensory Friendly People with autism often have sensory sensitivities. Do you? It isn't uncommon – we are all sensitive to something.

Wear your most comfortable clothes (PJs, workout gear, etc.)

THURSDAY, 4/18: We're on the same TEAM! Everyone wants to belong. Show people with autism and other disabilities that they can be a part of your team!

Wear sports apparel from your favorite team

FRIDAY, 4/19: Love & Acceptance People with autism want to be loved and appreciated for who they are – just as we all do! Show your friendship for people with autism and all people.

Wear this year's Autism Acceptance shirt

(or any shirt that advocates for acceptance of a differentlyabled group)













K-12 District Art Shouu May 7 – 9, 2024 FHS Media Center

Show Hours:

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 • 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, 2024 • 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, 2024 • 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Opening Reception:

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 • 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.