

Over the Fence

FPS STUDENTS ATTEND MACOMB DIVERSITY SUMMIT

For the fourth year, Fraser Public Schools sent 15 students from Fraser High School and Richards Middle School to represent the district and have dialogues regarding diversity and culture at the Macomb Diversity Summit.

More than 500 students, representing every district in Macomb County, attended the summit on November 27 at the Macomb Intermediate School District building. The purpose of the summit was to provide an opportunity for middle school and high school students to discuss relevant race relations and cultural matters.



All students participated in a session called "Keeping it 100," where students were taught about "The Cultural Proficiency Continuum," a spectrum that can be used to assess where individuals are in regard to cultural awareness and competence. Students had a conversation regarding ways they see our society exhibiting varying degrees of cultural proficiency to cultural destructiveness.

Cultural proficiency means knowing how to learn from other cultures and interacting effectively in a variety of cultural environments. Cultural destructiveness is the elimination of other cultures. It is represented by attitudes, policies and practices destructive to culture and, consequently, to the individuals within that culture.

Other sessions included "How to Talk to People about Race," "Respecting and Recognizing Differences," "Having a Better Understanding of People," "You're Not the Only One Experiencing," "It's OK to Talk about Differences," and "Being an Active Listener."

After reflection, the FPS students felt empowered to bring back to our schools the following actions: dealing with each others' insecurities, reaching out to others on a daily basis by intentionally being inclusive and spreading positivity, acknowledging that everyone has issues they would like to hide, recognizing others' triggers, and reaching out to support others.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fraser Families,

As superintendent of Fraser Public Schools, I am humbled at the wonderful humanitarian and charitable displays throughout our district. As you read through the pages of this newsletter, you will find countless ways our students and staff have strived to better our community with kindness and caring.

The spirit of generosity that flows through the district is a valuable lifelong lesson for our students. Generosity is not only about giving to those in need. It can be giving a word of encouragement or appreciation. It may be the gift of listening and understanding. Generous people are those who are willing to appreciate someone who doesn't agree with them and know that the spirit of generosity is not limited to the holidays.

The look of pride on our children's faces as they volunteer is evidence that they are developing a generous mindset. Our children are fortunate to have so many caring adults in their lives. In Fraser, we have partnered with our staff and community members to teach and model responsibility to one another. We are a community that knows the importance of gratitude, and we work hard to give to others both in Fraser and the larger community.

Although the holidays are a joyous occasion for many people, for others they can be a tough time. For our students who go to homes that are not as comfortable or caring as our schools, this may not be a joyous two weeks. If you see someone who may not be enjoying the long holiday, find a way to make it better for him or her. Together, we can brighten the holiday for each other. And, when we all return in 2019, bring the happiness of your home to our schools, so they can continue to be a safe haven for those who need it to be.

I would like to thank each of you for what you do for Fraser Public Schools and, more importantly, for the Fraser Community. It is a privilege for me to work in such a caring community. Wishing you a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Ms. Wozniak



CURRICULUM CORNER

STUDENT-INVOLVED CONFERENCES

Fraser elementary schools recently completed their student-involved conferences. During these conferences, parents and students review the student's work, discuss strengths and areas of growth, and contribute to an improvement plan, with the teacher present.

Students share their goals and academic process with their parents. They set goals in reading, writing and math. During the conference, they celebrate and evaluate their learning. They reflect upon those goals and determine if they need to choose a different path to obtain those goals.

Parents get a much better sense of what is happening at school and how to continue that at home. The conference helps parents

determine their role in their child's education and gives them strategies that can be immediately implemented at home to help students be successful.

New this year, the special classes — gym, art, music, 21st century and HEART — presented artifacts or examples of the work the children have been doing in those classes.

By presenting a folder or digital portfolio, the children are developing their communication skills. They practice what they will say with partners. By developing these listening and speaking skills, students develop confidence.

"The student-involved conferences are more meaningful than a parent's simply receiving a report card. Being involved in the

conference helps students develop a growth mindset," said Dr. Donna Anderson, Assistant Superintendent.

She continued, "If a parent needs to speak to a teacher about a private issue, they are encouraged to set up a meeting with their child's teacher."

"The student-involved conferences are more meaningful than a parent's simply receiving a report card. Being involved in the conference helps students develop a growth mindset."

— DR. DONNA ANDERSON
Assistant Superintendent

DISTRICTS VISIT FPS

Recently, district leaders from Eaton Intermediate School District (ISD) and Owosso Public Schools visited our district. The focus of their visit was to learn about our Competency Based Education journey, digital ecosystem, Portrait of a Graduate, hybrid classes and multi-tiered systems of support. The Eaton ISD has come to Fraser before, and they continue to work with us on understanding Competency Based Education.

During the site visit portion at Richards Middle School, visitors were given an overview

of the learning environment at the middle school, both the social-emotional and physical environment. These two aspects are extremely important for our students, families and colleagues. Everything from our classroom and building walls to the arrangement of the desks sends impressions to the learners and affects the way our students connect to their learning and growth.

RMS staff highlighted their use of space around the building and classrooms, integration of technology, collaborative spaces for learning, and student choice opportunities. The visitors learned of the implementation efforts around flexible learning to meet the students' individual needs.

After visiting Richards Middle School, our guests moved to the high school where they visited the media center and the performing arts department, including the band room, choir room and piano lab.

While in the Career Technology Education Department, guests were taken through the Mechanical Design Lab, the Welding Shop and our new Cyber Lab where our computer programming, web design and new cyber



security programs were highlighted. In addition, FANUS professional robotics certifications, which allow our electronics students to transition seamlessly into the workforce, were discussed.

Visitors also wanted an opportunity to speak with our students and teachers regarding the changes we have made with our learning environments. The student and teacher panel provided our guests with wonderful insights and thoughtful reflections on the impact of our technology and instructional redesign efforts.



WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Throughout the year, Fraser Public Schools tries to encourage a sense of community and involvement in our students. During the past month, our students and families have demonstrated an outpouring of kindness and generosity, and an eagerness to help the community.

In November, students and staff collected canned goods for the Clinton Valley Kiwanis Club. Through their efforts, nearly 80 local families, including approximately 300 children, received two to three boxes of food.

Each year, a Giving Tree is set up in the Fraser High School media center, anonymously listing students in need. This year, Fraser families and staff adopted 135 students. Each student will receive four gifts they need, one fun gift and one book. The books were an addition this year through the generous support of the iEat Café and

FHS media center staff members who donated their tips and collected donations.

Three Fraser High School students developed the Hope for the Homeless Project, teaming up with a local non-profit organization called Feeding the Need. With the help of schools throughout the district, these students collected over 1,000 coats, hats, scarves, mittens, blankets, etc. to help homeless in Macomb County.

This was the sixth year for the Dominic's Wish program. This program was started by a Disney Elementary student whose goal was to collect over 500 pairs of new pajamas and books to support homeless children and those currently residing in battered-women shelters. Dominic surpassed the goal again this year.

Members of the 4As service organization at Fraser High School went to Gleaners Warehouse in Warren to package food for our neighbors in need. The students were given the task to package frozen zucchini in two-pound bags and box them for delivery. They were stationed in a room that was 50 degrees. Their fingers were cold but their hearts were warm when they had learned they packaged 1,344 pounds of zucchini to feed more than 1,000 people.

Thank you to the Fraser families, businesses, staff and students for helping to make our community a better one. Your generosity and willingness to go above and beyond not only helps those in need, but also serves as an example to our students.



RECOGNIZING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

Edison Elementary teachers Mrs. Cabe and Mrs. Krajewski have been working with the 1st-grade students on using interpersonal skills and being good citizens.

Each week, they have focused on a different character trait. At the end of the trimester, they had a ceremony to recognize students who were great examples of the various traits: kindness, honesty, responsibility, respectfulness, empathy, self-control, etc. Students earned tags to put on a necklace and will be able to add more tags throughout the year. The boys and girls were so proud of themselves and each other!

One of their social studies units focuses on getting along with others and being part of a community. Students talk about what is required to get along with others and how to resolve conflicts. This drives the yearlong endeavor to teach interpersonal skills and positive character traits, which will ultimately have a positive effect on behavior in the classroom.

"It has been great to see the students recognizing positive behavior in themselves and each other. When we explicitly explain a character trait and highlight it throughout the week, the students have concrete examples of how they should behave in and out of the classroom," explained Mrs. Krajewski.



FUTURE TEACHERS VISIT THE DOOLEY CENTER

Fraser High School students who are a part of the Future Teachers class visited four-year-old preschool classes at The Dooley Center. The four-year-olds were very excited to have them come into their classroom. This experience allowed the FHS students to see first-hand an actual group of preschool students and have the chance to interact with them in small centered groups.

The first group of high school students was given a two-step coloring activity to do with several preschool children. They asked the four-year-olds to find a specific color and color a specific item or items in a picture. The children were identifying the correct color and following a specific direction. If a child didn't understand the direction, the high school student gave them help by encouraging them to listen and look again. This interactive activity promotes color recognition and following a two-step direction.

In the next center, the preschool students were guided to decorate numbered Christmas trees with the correct number of pom-poms as ornaments. In this activity, the future teachers helped them to identify the number and count correctly for each Christmas tree. The purpose of this activity is number recognition, fine motor coordination and one-to-one correspondence.

The preschool students built 3-D trees using magnet tiles and decorating them with bells in the last center. The FHS students guided the children through the process of identifying how to manipulate the triangular tiles in a specific way to form the 3-D trees. To perform this activity, children needed to use special recognition, fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination. Once the trees were formed, they were asked to decorate them with different colored bells.



Class Assignment Benefits the Community

Fraser High School students Corinne Hinson, Rachel McMenamin and Isabella Palomba originally partnered on an English project their sophomore year. The goal was to help a specific group of people achieve the American Dream. They needed to hypothetically “partner” with a non-profit organization that could help them. They chose Feeding the Need, a local non-profit whose mission is to feed and clothe the homeless in our communities. As they planned a home donation drive, they began to realize that they were actually capable of putting it on — thus, “Hope for the Homeless” came to life.

During the week of November 12–16, donation centers were set up in five Fraser Schools where winter clothing items were accepted. All of the items collected were donated to Feeding the Need, where they will be given to the homeless in Macomb County.

The students didn’t know what to expect and set a goal to receive 500 donations. The first

week, they received 957 items including coats, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, socks and shoes. The drive continued for another week and nearly 1,500 items were collected.

“It is incredibly humbling to have so much support for something that started out as a simple English project. It has really shown me how much impact just a few students can have on the community,” commented Isabella Palomba.

Corinne Hinson continued, “I am honored to be organizing a donation drive that will impact the lives of many! I’m so thankful for the staff and administration who have helped us organize this event, as well as the Fraser community who donated to our cause.”

“Hope for the Homeless made a huge impact on me. I realized that simply collecting clothes for the homeless could make such a huge impact on the community and the lives of the homeless. I’m so grateful that we could get the district of Fraser to participate in such a great event,” added Rachel McMenamin.

Mrs. Short, their English teacher, and district administrators acknowledged the students’ initiative and determination.

“This group went well above and beyond the expectations and made their idea come to life. They are truly helping people turn a dream into reality. I am impressed with their work ethic, empathy and dedication to change the lives of others in need,” said Mrs. Short.



Fraser High School principal Mr. Ryan Sines beamed, “The Hope for the Homeless Project excites me to think about how the students identified a real-world problem they wanted to tackle; thoroughly planned how to execute their plan; met with administrators and district leaders to present; adapted based on input from others; carried out and successfully helped a group of people in need. Their drive, grit and empathy exemplify what future employers will be looking for.”

Fraser Public School Superintendent, Ms. Carrie Wozniak, said, “The Hope for the Homeless Project is an excellent example of our students applying their school experiences to a real-world context. We are very proud of the creativity, dedication, and empathy of these young ladies. They have worked hard for many weeks to put this project into action, and it is wonderful to see how their work has benefited our community!”



Students Realize Benefits of UDL

The Emerson Elementary 6th-grade teachers are leveraging the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to improve the 6th-grade students’ executive functioning skills by creating flexible learning environments, accommodating individual learning differences, facilitating student goal-setting, and providing multiple choices for students to “own their own learning.”

Executive functioning skills are working memory; the ability to recall information for use; flexible thinking; the ability to look at a problem from multiple angles for a solution; and self-regulation, the ability to stop and reflect before acting on impulse.

The Emerson UDL team had the opportunity to showcase 6th-grade classroom design, instructional strategies, and the students’ process for goal-setting towards academic and lifestyle goals, at the November school board meeting.

Developing lesson plans with UDL in mind helps give all students an equal opportunity to succeed, offers flexibility accessing materials and content, and provides multiple engagement strategies for students to show what they know.

“Throughout our implementation of UDL, I have

seen quite a change in the classroom culture. Our focus from the beginning of the year was to get students to increase their effort and to take ownership in their work. Since implementing goals and having students reflect upon them, we have seen students taking more accountability with their work. The flexible seating has also improved student engagement, they are excited to come to class and learn!” said 6th-grade teacher, Mr. Ryan McCoy.

“Universal design for learning is helping my students understand what they are learning and why they are learning it. Students know what is expected of them throughout the day. They get choices on how they are learning. With choice boards and flexible seating, this gives the children a chance to sit around the room and learn different ways,” added Mrs. Jennifer Beavnier, who also teaches 6th grade at Emerson.

Emerson 6th-grade students are noticing a difference with UDL. Sixth-grade student Peyton McKernan said, “I like the directions and choices in class, because you always know what you are supposed to be doing. Setting goals in math this year has really helped me improve. I practice every night with my dad.”



Keon Celestine continued, “The choice board is really helping me, because I always know what I am supposed to be doing. The seating area is great, everybody gets a turn and it is very comfortable and helps you relax. By setting goals, I always remember what I am trying to get better at; it is always a reminder.”

“UDL really works for student agency, putting a lot on them to solve their own problem. It gives them a self-drive and tenacity to do better,” said, Emerson Principal, Mr. Sam Argiri. “Our goal at Emerson is to create expert learners who are Purposeful and Mindful.”

FRASER SHOUT OUT

Fraser Public Schools has started a new initiative to recognize staff members that go above and beyond for their students, fellow colleagues and the community. This new initiative is called, "Fraser Shout Out."

The program will highlight any staff member, from any corner of the district, who goes that extra mile. As a principal or administrator becomes aware of an extra effort by a staff member, he or she will submit that member for a Fraser Shout Out.

Each month, Shout Out recipients will be featured in the district newsletter and on the district website, and will receive a certificate and letter informing them about why they were selected.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING NOVEMBER FRASER SHOUT OUT RECIPIENTS:

KELLY BARKER

Kelly Barker is always so positive and committed to supporting her students (and all of our Mark Twain Comets) each day. Mrs. Barker was heard talking to one of her 2nd-grade students in the hallway about an incident that had occurred in class. Just one day after our district training in Restorative Practices, she was already using the questions from the training to help the student understand the impact of his behavior. Mrs. Barker is also co-chair of the PBIS Committee at Twain and is helping to lead their building-wide efforts to support behaviors. She gives tons of her own time to help make Twain a wonderful place for students.



THERESA BOEHNE

Theresa is a productive member of the Disney Elementary Ancillary Team. She has worked hard to provide services for her caseload at Disney, and has been instrumental in guiding those students that need additional social-emotional help with programming, services, modifications and one-on-one assistance. She has also been observed mentoring other district social workers, providing guidance, advice and suggestions on how to proceed with student issues. She is a worthy recipient of a Fraser Shout Out!



MARIANNE MOUGH

Marianne went above and beyond during the PESG/EDUstaff transition. She did a great job of organizing all the details regarding the ending of PESG and the beginning of EDUstaff for our subs and other contract employees. She is a worthy recipient of a Fraser Shout Out!



JIM RODGERS

Jim Rodgers organized a trip to Fraser Villa for their annual Harvest Ball. Their leadership team was impressed with the way the students carried themselves and their interaction with the Fraser Villa seniors. The families shared how much they appreciated the connection the students established by talking with the seniors and taking them out on the dance floor! A few of his students have reached out to inquire about future volunteer events happening at Fraser Villa. Mr. Rodgers and his students were credited with making the evening a success. Additionally, the band received a #1 rating at Festival!



CLOWNING AROUND AT DISNEY

Student Council members at Disney Elementary have always been extremely focused on giving back to the community. Over the past few years, they implemented Pay it Forward Fridays and raised over \$3,000 for charities.

This year, the new Student Council officers plan on continuing to raise money for charities and are looking forward to having fun doing it! This year at Disney, they will be implementing Pay or Play with Mr. Sutherland. Each month, they will choose a charity and set a goal for the school. If they reach the goal, Mr. Sutherland can either participate in a fun activity or match the school donation.

The first organization selected was Feeding the Need. Three Fraser High School students teamed up with Feeding the Need and collected mittens, socks, coats and hats throughout the district to help homeless families. The Disney Student Council set a goal to raise 150 items.

The Student Council exceeded their goal by collecting 378 hats, coats, mittens, socks and scarves. Mr. Sutherland had a choice to either "pay" and meet this goal or to "play" and complete a fun activity chosen for him by the Student Council. He chose to play and students were delighted to learn that the "clown" walking around their school was their very own, well-loved principal!



DR. WEISS RETIRES

Dr. Kristi Weiss, principal of Edison Elementary, retired on December 7. Over the past 19 years, Dr. Weiss has been a dedicated instructional leader at Edison. She has led the district with her specific efforts in working with Title One and English Language Learners.

"Dr. Weiss was always willing to go the extra mile for her students and families. Even on her last day at Edison, she rode the bus home with her students. As a district, we are grateful for the service, compassion and energy she brought to Edison each and every day. She will be truly missed and we wish her all the best in her retirement," said Mr. Carrie Wozniak, Superintendent of Fraser Public Schools.

Mr. Jason Ohrt, Assistant Principal at Fraser High School, will be the interim principal of Edison Elementary. He began his temporary assignment on December 10, 2018, and will return to Fraser High School to begin the second semester on Monday, January 28, 2019.

Mr. Ohrt is a proud graduate of Fraser High School, as well as an alumnus of Richards Middle School and Mark Twain Elementary.

"I am excited to work with the Edison staff to help students better their best," said, Mr. Ohrt.

During this time, district administration will be conducting a comprehensive search and interview process to select the best candidate to lead the Edison community. Their plan is to conduct interviews and select a candidate prior to the holiday break. This timing will allow the candidate to transition from their current role and prepare to lead Edison.

Everyone at Fraser Public Schools congratulates Dr. Weiss on her retirement!

SCIENCE EXPLORATION AT IKE

While exploring the "View from the Earth" science concepts, 4th-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary investigated, "Why do some volcanoes explode while others do not?" and "Will a mountain last forever?"

Students compared homemade lava, thick vs. thin, to view what happens when air gets trapped in lava. They also used rock slide simulators to observe what happens when rocks collide together rolling down the mountain.

Students made their simulators out of sugar cubes and plastic tubs and partners took turns shaking 40 shakes each until they reached 200 shakes. Students observed the amount of rounding of the sugar cube rocks compared to the original squared off cubes.

Opening each tub was like unwrapping a present; students were so excited about their findings!



FIRST THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Emerson Elementary 2nd-grade classes held a First Thanksgiving Celebration to conclude their Project Based Learning Unit.

Students participated in a program in the library where they shared reader's theaters, a song, a timeline, a poem and what they were thankful for. Families and friends were able to attend the event.

Ms. Carrie Wozniak, Superintendent of Fraser Public Schools, stopped by to cheer the students on. Following the program, the audience was invited to the 2nd-grade classrooms where students shared artifacts or examples of their work. Each student chose and created an artifact about the first Thanksgiving. Next, each student explained what their artifact was and facts about it.

They were able to answer questions from their learning, as well. The celebration ended with a Thanksgiving feast in the gym.



Fraser Education Prize Patrol

Through their grant program, The Fraser Education Foundation (FEF) gave teachers throughout the district nearly \$5,000. This year, FEF President Deuane Martin, Trustee Chris Skruba and Trustee Sharron Henderson acted as the Foundation's Prize Patrol surprising teachers in their classrooms with a large check and balloons.

This year's winners were:

- **Kate Hojnacki**, Fraser High School teacher, received \$1,000 for Data Collection Technology. She will be purchasing Vernier Probeware and 10 Go Direct Motion Detectors.
- Twain Elementary teachers **Lena Sarnowski**, Ashley Lenard and **Jean DeBruyn** received \$2,021 for Peer-to-Peer Support. They will purchase a Robot Garage for students in grades 1–4 to work together on Lego/Robotics Activities.



- Salk Elementary teacher **Christina Sorrow** and Media Technician **Janet Kijek** received a \$1,000 grant. They plan to purchase materials, supplies and needed equipment to expand on the Makerspace Activities.
- A grant of \$899.65 was given to **Jarod McGuffey**, a teacher at Disney Elementary, to purchase six Droid Inventor Kits and one STEAM Student Set for a Makerspace Station which serves as an inventory for resources and housing for STEAM Challenges.



Each teacher was shocked as the "Prize Patrol" entered the room. Their shock quickly turned into elation. "I feel like I am going to cry," exclaimed Mrs. Lena Sarnowski. "This will benefit 145 kids!" Mrs. Skruba asked one of the students if they understood what was happening. The student responded, "My teacher just won \$2 Million!"

The Fraser Educational Foundation is a non-profit, tax-deductible organization. The objective of the foundation is to provide funding that will enhance teacher creativity, student enrichment and community involvement through activities that go beyond the scope of normally funded school budgets and responsibilities. Typically, the basis and intent of any educational foundation is to provide non-traditional funding for non-traditional projects, activities and classroom materials.

The grant program supports all levels, DK–12. It is funded by donations and a variety of fundraising events throughout the year. For more information about the foundation visit, www.fraser.k12.mi.us/FEF.



Learning to be Leaders

What is it like to be the principal of an elementary school? Henry Clark and Ava Paridee, both 4th graders at Salk Elementary, had an opportunity to learn after their raffle tickets were chosen at the Seahawk Walk. On November 2, these students took over Salk as principals for a half-day each.

These leaders helped at arrival and dismissal, and passed out FISH tickets to students, classrooms and staff who were following our PBIS expectations and FISH philosophy. Principal Paridee and Principal Clark both read to lower elementary classrooms and learned some of the roles and responsibilities of being a building principal.



BANDS CELEBRATE *the Holidays*

As you go around town, if you hear a band, look twice; it may be one of Fraser High School's bands. The marching band appeared in the America's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit. This was their seventh appearance. Their first appearance was in 2002.

Band director Mr. Jim Rodgers said, "Despite frozen valves on the brass instruments and the icicles hanging from the woodwind instruments due to the very cold and frigid temperatures, the members of the Fraser High School Marching Band performed admirably! It was a distinct honor to represent Fraser Public Schools and appear as the first band in this year's America's Thanksgiving Day Parade! As always, I am proud of our fine young men and women in the band program."

The Pep Band played at city hall for the annual "Christmas in Fraser" tree lighting ceremony. It was a cold rainy night, but the band warmed everyone's spirits by performing *Sleigh Ride*, *Jingle Bells*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* and other band favorites.

Jazz, Concert, Varsity, Symphony, and the 7th- and 8th-Grade bands will fill the Fraser Performing Arts Center with the sounds of the season during their concerts in December.



All-State Honors for FHS Senior

Fraser High School senior Rachel Gielghem, who plays the clarinet, has auditioned and been accepted to participate in the All-State Honors Band. This is a tremendous honor!

The MSBOA All-State program was established during the 2005–2006 school year. Five ensembles are selected from recorded auditions: a Middle School String Orchestra, a Middle School Band, a High School Full Orchestra, a High School Band, and a High School Jazz Ensemble. Students must prepare an announced etude, a series of scales and sight-read during each 10-minute recorded audition.

Each audition is submitted using only an identification number with no reference to the student or school. The auditions are evaluated by an adjudicator and placed in order. The required number of instruments is selected to fill each section. An average of over 2,000 students audition each year for the 400 seats in our five ensembles. In January, the students assemble for two and a half days of rehearsal with nationally recognized conductors. A concert will be held on January 26 during the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids.

TWAIN Rockstars

As part of their PBIS program, Mark Twain had its first trimester "Rockstar Breakfast" on November 29. The purpose of the breakfast was to celebrate the Mark Twain Comets who have exemplified the Mark Twain ROCKS traits: Respect, Organization, Cooperation, Kindness and Safety during the first trimester of school.

It was a wonderful time for the staff to celebrate these students with their families!





The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation

Salk Elementary 3rd-grade students from Mrs. Wolf's and Mrs. Gutow's classes had a great time visiting The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn.

The students had a chance to step back in time to see a variety of interesting, historical artifacts. Some of their favorites included the Allegheny Steam Locomotive, Ford Quadricycle, Model T, Rosa Parks Bus, Heroes of the Sky exhibits, and several presidential vehicles like the Kennedy Limousine. The students were joined by many of their parents who came along as chaperones for this fun-filled trip.

"The Henry Ford Museum was a great place for students to explore and learn about the creative minds that came together to develop innovations in agriculture, technology, transportation and so much more. Many of the students and their parents had such a great time that they said they would be visiting the museum again, because there was so much to see and do there," commented Mrs. Gutow. "This trip was a perfect fit for the 3rd-graders, because they study Michigan history throughout the school year."

LITTLE LEADERS

Within the Fraser High School Student Council, there are different committees that focus on working on certain projects throughout the year. One of the committees is Little Leaders, led by seniors Lauren Argiri and Vanessa Curtis, which works to connect the three levels of education at Fraser: elementary, middle and high school.

The FHS Student Council believes that the community truly benefits from the connections they make among all levels, while also providing educational lessons about leadership to younger students. Once a month, the high school committee members meet with the RMS Student Council to discuss upcoming events at each school, qualities of a good leader, how to prepare for high school, etc.

They also try to incorporate themes into the meeting agendas such as problem solving, communication/public speaking and event planning. The goal is to help younger students to grow as leaders and acquire important skills that they will not only be able to apply in school, but also in their lives outside of school. These meetings have created invaluable friendships, and it is inspiring to see our high school students bonding and serving as role models for the middle school students.

Because these meetings have been so rewarding for both schools, the FHS Student Council is hoping to schedule similar meetings in the future at each elementary school in Fraser to work with their Student Councils, as well. Along with the monthly meetings at RMS, for the past



three years, the Council has annually hosted a Valentine's Day Party at FHS for the elementary schools. At this party, they engage in a series of leadership activities, make crafts, decorate cookies and write letters to the elderly at the Village of Peace Manor. Their Valentine's Day Party is always a blast and the students have a great time!

Mrs. Kristy Weigand, Richards Middle School Student Council advisor, said, "RMS Student Council kids LOVE Little Leaders! It gives them an opportunity to see high-quality student leadership in action, which is so inspiring for them! The high school students do a great job of connecting with our students. All in all, each meeting is a new adventure and we all learn from each other."

RMS student Matilyn Bruce added, "One thing I like about Little Leaders, we do activities, but we can also learn from them! Another thing I like is the high-schoolers can show us what to look forward to in high school."

Twain Thinking of Others

The Mark Twain Student Council has been busy this holiday season. Not only did they participate in the district-wide food drive for a local Kiwanis Club, but also they participated in the "100,000 Thank Yous" campaign sponsored by NASH FM.

The entire school wrote thank you letters to our military to thank them for their service. The letters will be delivered over the holidays to service men and women who have to be away from home during the holiday season.

In addition, the students at Mark Twain raised money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Students wrote a letter to Santa to contribute \$2 to the Make-A-Wish Program through Macy's Believe program.

These activities help students with their writing skills and with developing empathy for others, and encourage a sense of community and involvement. The Mark Twain Student Council is encouraging all students to think of others during this holiday season. It's a time to reflect on the year, be thankful for what we have, and share our gifts and talents.





Exploring Artistic Expressions

In October, Fraser High School teachers Mrs. Marianne McGinnis, Mrs. Sara McCray and Mr. Roger Drabant presented at the Michigan Art Education Association conference in Kalamazoo. This year's conference theme was "Art for Everyone". The presentation was given to nearly 40 art teachers and school administrators.

They presented on the team-taught class at FHS called "Exploring Artistic Expressions," which is taught by Mrs. McCray and Mrs. McGinnis. This class, which has been taught since 2011, has the general-education art students teamed with the CI population in a mentor/mentee relationship.

In 2010, with the New Michigan Merit Curriculum rolling out, the Art and Special Education departments saw a need to give our certificate-of-completion students a new way of succeeding. Their vision was to pair the general-education art students with the certificate-of-completion students in a peer-mentoring program. The course, Exploring Artistic Expressions, is a culmination of that work.

Art, in this capacity, has been known to reduce pain, anxiety and stress. It has also been known to benefit students who are withdrawn or shy, or who, for some reason or other, have a difficult time functioning in social situations. The students learn that art is individualized and that everyone can be creative in one way or another. Art allows students to speak through their art, process emotions they might not comprehend or verbalize but can visually represent, and to be on the same creative level in an open, friendly, loving environment.

Since the addition of Exploring Artistic Expression in 2011, the program has also been introduced in the Life Skills and Physical Education Departments. These programs follow similar mentor/mentee relationships that were first initiated with the Art Department.



A Day at the Museum

After learning about all of the different careers, and doing lots of research, 2nd-grade students at Salk Elementary transformed themselves into their chosen career during their annual "Career Wax Museum."

Students made posters and dioramas, wrote a report, and dressed the part. Then, on November 20, students gathered in the gym and were frozen wax figures. Once museum visitors pressed their buttons, students were able to move and tell the visitors all about their career and show off all of their hard work.

Visitors to the museum had wonderful things to say. They enjoyed the event and were impressed with all of the careers students chose. There were a variety of jobs, such as professional athletes, teachers, artists, firefighters, police officers, zookeepers, veterinarians, video-game designers and even a United States president! This year, the museum showcased a few different careers including a Great Lakes freighter captain, a newscaster and a petrologist, a person who studies rocks and the conditions under which they form.

Preparing to Adopt

This spring, 5th-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary will adopt hermit crabs as part of their Science unit. To prepare for this, the students visited the SEA Life Aquarium at Great Lakes Crossing.

At the aquarium, students were able to touch the animals while learning about them. They discovered that a hermit crab is a crustacean, meaning they have a hard outer shell, and that hermit crabs find their shells from other animals. They found it interesting that hermit crabs are not picky eaters; they eat both plants and animals. Some students were lucky enough to catch sea turtles Benson and Carr eating their lunch.

Fifth-grade student Olivia Mukavec said, "It was fun and adventurous. My favorite part was the jellyfish and their being able to change their color with the different lights. I would go back again!"





FHS Athletes Win 4 Frenzy Fall Fan Choice Awards

Each year, WDIV, local channel 4, holds a “4 Frenzy Fall Fan Choice Awards” contest. During October, Metro Detroit was able to vote once per hour per category for their favorite people involved in high school athletics.

Fraser High School student Brett Anderson won “Favorite Freshman in Football,” while FHS student Nick Borowski won “Favorite Freshman in Soccer.” In November, both students received notification from Channel 4 letting them know they had won. They were highlighted on the WDIV website and received a jacket patch that is only given to Fan Choice Award winners.

Brett helped to lead his team to a 6–3 record as the top scorer. He is a leader on and off the field, a three-sport athlete who carries a 4.0 GPA.

Nick was the team’s back-up goalie and halfway through the season, he became the starting goalie. He had two shutouts this year against Anchor Bay and Romeo high schools.



Brett Anderson – Favorite Freshman in Football



Nick Borowski – Favorite Freshman in Soccer

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

After graduating from Fraser High School in 2004, Angie McGinnis-Hasseman went to the University of Florida. There she continued her volleyball career, becoming one of their most valuable players.

McGinnis started her career strong earning Southeastern Conference (SEC) Freshman of the Year honors. *Volleyball Magazine* named her Most Improved Collegiate Player during her junior year. That same year, she won SEC Player of the Year Honors. She joined the U.S. Women’s National team at the conclusion of her senior year.

When she left the university, she ranked first in career assists and first in assists per set. Eleven years after leaving, she still ranks 10th in total blocks with 388.

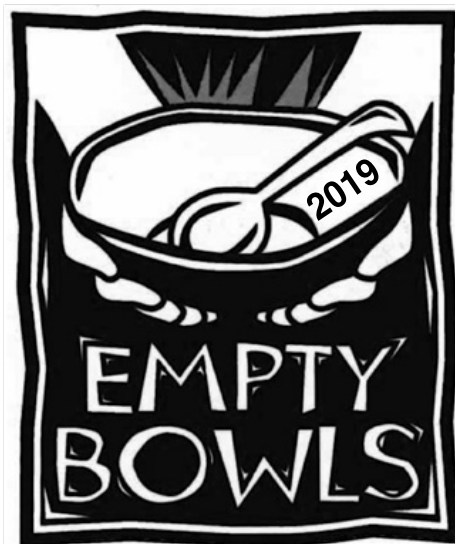
McGinnis is a three-time NCAA All-American, four-time All SEC, two-time Player of the Year and two-time Top Female Athlete at the University of Florida.

Recently, she was inducted into Florida Athletic Hall of Fame.

“Kim Argiri, Dave Kuppe and all my former teammates (at Fraser) helped lay the foundation for all my future successes,” said McGinnis.

She offered advice for current Fraser Public School students, “Don’t be afraid to give up the good to go for the great!”

12th Annual



Proceeds to Benefit Macomb County Habitat for Humanity

Join us to support the hungry in our community

January 24, 2019
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Fraser High School Cafeteria

TICKETS:

\$10 per person
\$25 per family

Includes a simple meal of soup, bread and water, as well as a student-created ceramic bowl, and an Artwork Auction.



FEATURING
First Robotics Team Robot

PRESENTED BY
Fraser Public Schools
K-12 Art Department

www.fraserk12art.weebly.com/empty-bowls

Sports Wrap-Up



Girls Swimming

The Varsity Girls Swim and Dive Team had a solid season. They started the year by winning the Tower Relays for the second year in a row.

At the County Championships, where they competed against approximately 23 teams from our area, they finished in 7th place. Emily Holsinger placed 2nd in diving; other medalists at the meet were: Morgan Johnston, Leah Avolio, and Miranda and Lexi Dobbins.

The team completed the White Division league with a 2-3 record (5-4 overall) and finished 4th at our League Championship meet. The White Division was very competitive, because three of the top four teams in the County are in the league. Many of the girls swam great while competing against the Division 1 teams.

Two swimmers qualified for the Division 2 State Meet Championships: Lexi Dobbins in the 50 free and Senior Emily Holsinger in diving. Emily earned a medal for finishing 16th. This meet is at Oakland University; Fraser Swim and Dive has consistently been one of the best Division II teams in Macomb County, and the girls did themselves proud once again.



Boys Soccer

The boys' varsity soccer team finished the season with a 2-13-4 overall record, which did not reflect the hard effort and work that all of the players and coaching staff put into the program this year. Throughout the year, the team played in several close, hard-fought contests that could have gone either way on any given night. The team stayed unified all season long through all of the ups and downs. Even when things did not go their way, they always played to the final whistle.

Boys Tennis

The tennis team finished the season well, defeating L'Anse Creuse North in a nail-biter, tie-breaker third set during the last match of the Dual; their number-one Singles player, Sophomore Ethan Wu, was the deciding point that clinched the win.

At the Regional match, every Doubles flight finished as a semifinalist. Number-one Singles, Sophomore Ethan Wu and number-two Doubles, Seniors Jackson Winbigler and Carson Balch, won All MAC Blue Division and 1st Team Macomb County Accolades. Number-two Doubles, Senior Devon Navarro and Sophomore Jacob Keuning, received "All MAC Blue Division" and 2nd Team Macomb County honors. Our number-3 Doubles, Seniors Matthew Sucharski and Luke Roberts, were recognized with Honorable Mentions, as well as number-4 Doubles, Senior Eric Higgins, competing in tennis for the very first time, was selected All Rookie Team honors in Macomb County.



Varsity Cheer

It was an awesome year for Fraser Varsity Cheer! The talent in this program is undeniable. Their program attends North American Spirit Camp over the summer, and staff members and coaches were complimenting the team on all the progress our program has made.

They went into camp with the goal to leave spirit champions and win the big trophy. Not only did they win the trophy and become spirit champions, but also they had a blast doing it and grew closer as a team. The team gained over 20 new tumbling skills in their program this year! It is the best tumbling Fraser has had in years. Varsity has set a goal to be a contender in the MAC Blue this year.



Varsity Football

The varsity football team competed day in and day out. They continued to stay together as a team, through good times and bad, and finished the season with a 24-12 victory in their last game. Senior quarterback Nick Benson led the team rushing and passing yards. On defense, seniors Montez Cruegar and Kenny Spendal led the team. Senior Anthony Cooper and Alex Triner led the lines. The program thanks our seniors for their hard work and dedication.





balance growth mature
safe determined
organized
Digital mindset
positive respectful
motivated

POSITIVE DIGITAL FOOTPRINTS

In 21st Century Literacy class, the focus is on digital citizenship and having a positive digital footprint. Students strive to be good digital citizens and make the right choices to stay safe online.

In November, Eisenhower students brainstormed words that described themselves as digital citizens and created a word cloud. Next, they “app smashed” their word cloud with the green screen app to place themselves in their word cloud.

Mrs. Zombo, 21st Century teacher said, “This will be a great reminder to always be a good digital citizen and create a positive digital footprint!”



PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Fraser Public Schools has been asking our teachers, students, Board of Education and community members to think about what a Fraser graduate should look like. We want to develop a Portrait of a Graduate that defines what skills, attributes and experiences our students need for success after high school. This Portrait will clearly articulate what it takes to get the Fraser handshake at graduation.

Because our current students will be future employees, business owners, elected officials, neighbors and community members, we know you have a vested interest in helping ensure their success. Which is why we are asking for your help in defining our Fraser Portrait, an important document that will be the foundation of our next strategic plan.

If you would like to learn more about the work that the district has done already, please [click here](#).

Please [click here](#) to participate in the virtual conversation for the Fraser Portrait of the Graduate.

Additional in-person conversations will be taking place in the coming months.

During these sessions, participants will engage in discussions about how we can adapt to better meet the needs of our students as well as develop the Portrait of the Fraser Graduate.

Cross Country

The 2018 cross country season was one of many firsts and filled with promise for the future. For the girls, freshman Emily Plouff became the 8th fastest girl in school history with an all-time freshman record of 20:36 for the 5k (or 3.1 mile) race distance. Plouff also is now the highest placing female in nearly a decade at the three major championship meets (County, Conference and Regional). Plouff (8th), along with her teammate sophomore Margaret Chandler (19th) earned All-Conference honors at the Conference meet in mid October. Plouff was recognized as the MVP, Chandler as Most Improved and senior Sara Froude as Most Dedicated, and Agusti received the Coach’s Award for Outstanding Effort and Achievement.

The boys captured the MAC dual meet title and the MAC conference meet championship. Earning All-Conference honors were senior Daniel Chandler (12th place), senior Derek Zbercot (8th), junior Brendan Cairney (4th), and junior Joey Tavalieri (1st and the overall MAC Champion). At the conclusion of the MAC Championship Meet, Tavalieri was honored as the new school record holder. Tavalieri’s time of 15 minutes and 33 seconds lowered the previous school record by 13 seconds. Cairney and Tavalieri also had tremendous success at the Macomb County Championship Meet by taking 3rd and 1st, respectively.

Tavalieri’s individual county championship was a first in Fraser history for a boy or girl. Tavalieri, at the regional meet, took 2nd place while lowering his own school record to 15:26.3 and qualified to the State Finals. There he placed 8th in Division 1, earning him All-State Honors. Tavalieri is only the 2nd male All-Stater in school history and only the 3rd overall. His 8th place finish was the highest of anyone from Macomb County since 2007 in Division 1. As with the ladies, the boys also earned several team awards including Tavalieri (MVP), Cairney (Most Dedicated), Zbercot (Most Improved), and Chandler (Coach’s Award).



Girls Varsity Volleyball

The 2018 Fraser Varsity Volleyball Team had another very successful 2018 campaign. The team finished the season with an impressive 29–17–2 overall record and was crowned tournament champions of the Birmingham Groves tournament. For the second consecutive year, the team won the MAC Blue division with a 9–1 record.

In districts, the Ramblers kept the streak going. The team defeated Lakeshore High School in three straight sets to win the first district title for Fraser Volleyball since 2010. In the regionals, Fraser defeated a tough Grosse Pointe South team in five sets to move on to the regional finals. The season came to a close with a 3–0 setback against Sterling Heights Stevenson in the regional final. Despite the loss, the girls showed determination, grit and teamwork and never gave up!

Individual honors awarded throughout the season: Isabella Grillo, Madison Grace and Jessica Pizzimenti were selected All league 1st team. Isabella Grillo was selected as the Conference Most Valuable Player, and Isabella Grillo and Madison Grace went on to receive all Region 1st team honors. Statistical leaders include, Madison Grace, 361 kills; Bella Grillo, 185 kills; Cassidy Victor, 145 kills; Danielle Babjack, 489 digs, 47 aces; Jessica Pizzimenti, 738 assists.



MOONLIGHT MADNESS

Silent/Live Auction

Friday, February 22, 2019

7:00 p.m. - Midnight

Location

Vintage House

31816 Utica Road, Fraser

\$30.00 Per Person

Includes: Hors d'oeuvres,
Dinner, and ALL Beverages,
Dancing and FUN for ALL!

Tickets On Sale NOW!

Contact:

Megan Saputo:

Megan.saputo@fraserk12.org

Lauren Smith:

Lauren.Smith@fraserk12.org

Must be 21 and over to attend.

Auction prize payment is
due the night of the
auction (cash or check).



Benefits FHS
Classes of
2019-22