

Over the FENCE

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2022 //

School Safety Is **OUR TOP PRIORITY**

As the district continues to work on enhancing school security, our team is utilizing and applying for eligible grant funds to maximize our budget and remain fiscally responsible. We are always reviewing, practicing, and exploring opportunities to make our buildings as safe as possible. By applying for both competitive and state grants, we have been able to make significant improvements to our campuses.

Recently the district was awarded \$450,000 through the Section 97 Student Safety Improvement grant, as well as a competitive school safety grant from the Michigan State Police for \$250,000.

"We know how important it is to be deliberate in how we spend our taxpayer dollars. By leveraging these grant opportunities with potential bond dollars, we can make safety enhancements that are critical to keeping our schools safe and creating an environment that allows for all children to learn," said Superintendent Dr. Carrie Wozniak. "Along with these grants, the board is considering a no-tax-rate-increase bond proposal next spring. These one-time grant funds will allow us to leverage potential bond funds in an even more strategic and targeted way."

Grant Funds Will Enhance Safety, Security

Section 97 funds will be used for several security improvements.

First, all classrooms will be fitted with an interior lock/unlock indicator. During annual school safety meetings, teachers expressed a desire for the indicators

to be sure their door was locked in the event of an emergency.

Second, the Section 97 grant will be used to purchase additional Columbine locks for all remaining doors in our schools. The locks allow any building staff member to lock the door from inside the room. Classrooms already had Columbine locks; the additional locks will secure the remaining doors, which include social workers' offices, conference rooms, and breakout rooms.

The final portion of the Section 97 funds, along with the Michigan State Police grant and a portion of the Childcare Stabilization Grant, will be used to purchase a new state-of-the-art PA system for all schools and the Dooley Center.

"We are always looking for ways to be proactive when it comes to school safety," said Dan Waters, director of operations, maintenance, and transportation. "The new PA system is one of the best in the country and will give us a quicker response in the event we need to lockdown or lockout."

The updated PA system will allow for two-way communication with classrooms and between buildings and will make it easier to adjust bells for speed days or early releases. It also allows for emergency notifications such as lockdown, lockdown, or evacuation.

Work is expected to begin in the coming weeks and should be completed by the end of the school year.

We are grateful for the support of our community, staff, and students who continue to keep their focus on doing what is best for our school community's safety and well-being.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fraser Families,

As 2022 comes to a close, it is time to reflect on all we've accomplished and look forward to the new year.

The November election brought some changes to our Board of Education. Dr. Kathleen Moco won a seat on the board, edging out Trustee Autumn Ochoa. I want to thank Ms. Ochoa for her service during the last 13 months on the board. She provided a unique perspective and feedback, and made decisions in the best interest of our students. I look forward to welcoming Dr. Kathleen Moco to the board and working with her once her term begins in January.

The season of giving is upon us, and throughout the district our students and staff are working to support our community. It is heartwarming to watch our Fraser Family come together to help each other.

Our schools collected canned goods and nonperishable items to support the Clinton Valley Kiwanis, which then donated boxes of food to families in our community. The 2nd-grade students in our district continued the tradition of writing letters to Santa for the Fraser Goodfellows. The Goodfellows print the letters in their annual newspaper, which funds their No Child Without a Christmas program. Finally, our Fraser Family also generously supported the Fraser Giving Tree,

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CURRICULUM CORNER

LITERACY

"We are all teachers of literacy." This sentence has been the focus of much of Fraser Public Schools' professional learning sessions this school year. Literacy is defined as the ability to read, write, speak, and listen in a way that lets us communicate effectively and make sense of the world. While teachers often are experts in specific areas of content, literacy weaves its way through all content areas. As educators, it is our responsibility and obligation to seek to produce literate citizens for our society. As we consider Fraser's Portrait of a Graduate, producing students who possess

literacy skills to navigate the world is a top priority across the district.

In that light, on November 8 during our K-12 District Provided Professional Development all staff members participated in activities that highlighted the importance of literacy within their content area. This work was also embedded through the lens of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL is a teaching approach that works to accommodate the needs and abilities of all learners and eliminates unnecessary hurdles in the learning process. After participating in discussions centered on literacy, teachers were given time to

collaborate with their professional learning communities to build lessons and small-group activities with a focus on literacy and differentiation through UDL.

Ultimately, as outlined in our Portrait of a Graduate, the 6Cs Deeper Learning Competencies are qualities that Fraser hopes all our graduates will embody when they walk across the stage and receive that handshake at graduation. The 6Cs are Critical Thinking, Communication, Creativity, Character, Collaboration, and Citizenship. Our continued work in differentiating content through UDL with an embedded focus on literacy is a step in the right direction to achieving that goal.

Welcome **PRINCIPAL** **BIRKMEIER**

*Mr. Anthony Birkmeier
is the new principal
at Salk Elementary.*

Mr. Birkmeier comes to us from Richmond Community Schools, where he is currently the principal at Richmond Middle School, which is a grade 4-8 building. He has also served as the dean of students, director of curriculum and educational services, and director of curriculum and technology integration during the past nine years in Richmond. Before that, he was a science teacher in L'Anse Creuse Public Schools.

Mr. Birkmeier has an education specialist degree from the University of Michigan-



Flint, as well as a master's degree in educational leadership: principalship from Saginaw Valley State University and a bachelor's degree in human biology from Michigan State University.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Birkmeier to our Fraser family.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

... Continued from front page

which will provide more than 120 children in our district presents this holiday season.

As we look to 2023, I want to thank everyone who provided feedback on our potential bond. We heard your suggestions and are taking them into consideration as we finalize the list of projects. What was clear is a priority for the safety and security of our students and staff. We try to be proactive when it comes to safety, and our board has recently approved the purchase of security enhancements with grant funds. You can read more about these enhancements in the story on page 1.

The potential bond would help to further improve our safety measures, as well as address other building infrastructure needs. More information on the bond will be shared once the project list is finalized in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

With Fraser Pride,
Dr. Wozniak

Foundation Surprises Teachers with Grants

The Fraser Educational Foundation board continued their tradition of surprising teachers with the news their grant idea would be funded. The Foundation funded all five grants that were submitted this year, for a total of \$5,140.

The FEF was established more than 30 years ago. Its mission is to provide opportunities that enhance teacher creativity, student enrichment, and community involvement through activities that go beyond the scope of normally funded school budgets and responsibilities.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

1. MARISA FETT AND KARA MICHAEL
Mark Twain Elementary
Single Grant: \$1,600

The Special Education Department at Twain will provide more social-emotional learning opportunities for our students. With this grant, the team will purchase specific sensory materials to create our sensory room.

2. JACQUELYN CARTER
Richards Middle School
Mini Grant: \$1,000

High-interest books will be purchased with this grant for five English-language arts classroom libraries (both 7th and 8th grades). This will help cultivate a passion for independent reading among students.

3. AMY LAIDLAW
Eisenhower Elementary School
Mini Grant: \$582.35

Ms. Laidlaw will purchase the Kimochis Tool Kit to teach her Young 5s students how to recognize and manage

their emotions, demonstrate caring and concern for others, establish personal relationships, make responsible decisions, and handle challenging situations constructively.

4. KATE PIONK
Fraser High School
Mini Grant: \$982.55

The grant will be used to purchase data collection technology that will provide chemistry lab experiences and a learning advantage to help deepen the understanding of scientific concepts.

5. CHRISTINA VRZOVSKI
Fraser High School
Mini Grant: \$975

The grant will be used to bring a dance teaching artist to facilitate creative movement activities and explore the topic of successes and failures in learning and life.

The FEF is a nonprofit, tax-deductible foundation. If you would like to make a donation and support future grant projects in our district, please [click here](#).





VFW RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

Three Fraser teachers were named Teachers of the Year by VFW Post 6691. Members of the VFW Post 6691 held a ceremony at Fraser High School to honor Mr. Jim Rodgers, Ms. Kelly Jenks, and Ms. Milene Farkas.

The VFW program is part of the National Citizenship Education Award program. The three teachers were selected for their commitment to teaching citizenship, American history, traditions,

and civic responsibility. Post 6691 Public Affairs Officer Mike Sand and Auxiliary President Shannon Tennant presented each of the teachers with a plaque, certificate, and check for \$200.

Salk Remembers OUR VETERANS



Salk Elementary's kindergarteners and 3rd graders, together with staff and students from SACC, took the time to learn about what a veteran is and to show respect to the men and women who have served our country. They each created an art project using construction paper to make a flag pattern inside a heart. Altogether, the students made 192 signs to give to veterans. This was SACC students' seventh year honoring veterans.

Ms. Sarah and Ms. Sally then delivered the heart signs to the Vietnam Veterans of America, located on 15 Mile Road, where they were very grateful to receive the signs to distribute to veterans on Veterans Day.

2nd Grade Measures Up



Eisenhower students in 2nd grade have been working hard to practice their measuring. They recently put their skills to the test when their classrooms were transformed into a construction site. They put their hard hats on and got to work measuring tools and other objects around the classroom, and building structures using Popsicle sticks and Legos.

It is important for children to learn how to measure. Eventually a young child's sense of measurement develops to include new skills. They build on their abilities to compare and learn to order three or more objects. They come to understand that objects can be measured in different ways, depending on the attribute of interest.





Edison Immersed in LITERACY

First-grade students at Edison Elementary have been working on literacy this fall. Thanks to the help of Mrs. Kristin Reilly, the students were assessed and placed in groups based on their reading instruction needs. Each student receives small-group instruction using the Differentiated Reading Instruction model. The students love the hands-on small-group learning, and everyone feels comfortable learning in their zone. The 1st graders' progress is monitored throughout the process, and they are moved into new groups as they grow. The skills-based groups are currently working on alphabet knowledge, letter sounds, letter patterns, and blends/digraphs. All groups also study the Fry word list.

While students are working in small groups with Mrs. Cabe or Mrs. Krajewski, the rest of the students work through a reading choice board. Some of the students' favorites are poetry reading, listening to books on EPIC, reading books, taking comprehension quizzes on Raz-Kids, partner reading, and various word work activities. The students are motivated and on task because the work is driven by their own preferences. They have had a trimester of really hard work in 1st grade, and the teachers and students are so proud!



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Mark Twain's 6th-grade students visited Camp Howell. While on this trip, students were introduced to the concept of global citizenship during an activity called Global Village.

The goal of this activity is to learn about the causes and effects of hunger and poverty. The 6th graders were able to experience how different cultures live around the world and what challenges they face.

Once back in the classroom, they learned that 1.1 billion people on Earth live on less than \$1 a day. Students have been researching to learn what this means in terms of education, health, and overall well-being. They learned about a small village in Peña Blanca, Guatemala, and the different things the people who live there go through and how they make a living. Twain's 6th graders have really shown a lot of empathy through their exploration of people who live differently from them.

GROWING IN GRATITUDE

Disney Elementary's kindergarten students spent the month of November focusing on what it means to have gratitude and be thankful. Their PBIS theme of the month was gratitude – showing appreciation for others and returning kindness. There are many things that we can be thankful for, including our families, teachers, friends, food to eat, toys that we love, and so much more. When we grow with gratitude, we become more understanding of the needs and feelings of others. We learn to appreciate what we have and are more likely to become healthy, optimistic adults. Ask your students to share some of the things that they are grateful or thankful for. Your child would love to hear about the things that you are thankful for as well!



CALCULATING Area and Perimeter



Mrs. Collins' 4th-grade math classroom at Emerson Elementary was transformed into an area and perimeter construction zone. The 4th graders had to measure their "blueprints" and calculate the area and perimeter of rectangles and other more complex shapes. They got to practice their measuring, addition, multiplication, and geometry skills, as well as their teamwork and communication skills, while working in small groups. The students had fun and prepared themselves for their upcoming Math Module on multiplication and division.

ROSEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT VISITS DOOLEY

Squeals of delight were in the air at the Dooley Center thanks to a visit from the Roseville Fire Department for Fire Prevention Month.



Students were so excited to see firefighters and a fire truck at their school. The children learned safety awareness tips and got an up-close-and-personal look at the fire truck.

Students were taught to get out and stay out of their house if there's a fire; to call 911 in an emergency; and to stop, drop, and roll if their clothes are on fire. The children were able to see what was inside the different compartments of the fire truck and what the firefighters used each item for. Most of all, Dooley staff hope this visit started a conversation about firefighters being our friends and other important fire safety rules.

1-2-3-4 Seahawks Declare A PENNY WAR!



Salk Elementary Student Council members met with their co-sponsors, 2nd-grade teacher Mrs. Jill Sutter and 5th-grade teacher Ms. Kelli Provost, to brainstorm ways to help the victims of Hurricane Ian. They decided that each grade level would team up to compete in a schoolwide Penny War. Each grade level had its own container outside the main office, and throughout the week of October 17, students from grades K-6 and Salk's SSLI classes contributed to the War. Pennies and dollar bills in each container added points to that grade level's total, and all silver coins deducted points from that grade level's amount.

One could sense the buzz of excitement as the week progressed and the height of the coins in each container grew taller and taller. Many grade levels strategized throughout the week, as they tried to determine which grade levels needed more silver added to their containers. Ms. Provost recalled overhearing a student in the hallway saying, "I don't even care if we win, I feel good just because I donated and am helping the people in Florida." In the end, Salk's 5th graders came out on top with the victory and earned a grade-level pizza party provided by the Student Council.

In total, the Salk Seahawks raised over \$2,550 for Hurricane Ian relief. The money raised went to All Hands and Hearts, a volunteer-powered nonprofit that addresses the immediate and long-term needs of communities impacted by natural disasters. Way to go, Seahawks – your generosity is simply amazing!



STUDENTS BUILD AN OFRENDA

In Language Acquisition, students at Richards Middle School built an ofrenda, or altar, for Day of the Dead.

Ofrendas are shrines built to remember and honor close loved ones who have died. They are a way to keep the memory of that person alive through the annual tradition of remembering what they looked like and what they loved to do, eat, and drink.

The class offered our staff members an opportunity to honor a passed loved one as well by taking submissions to be added to the ofrenda. This holiday is recognized and celebrated on November 1 in many countries across Latin America as a celebration of life and for family and friends who have passed.

STORY CHAMPS!



The kindergarten students at Eisenhower Elementary are doing an amazing job with their Story Champs program and have become great storytellers! The students love to share these wonderful stories with a partner and a Champ Checker.

The Champ Checker helps the listener keep track of the story elements as the speaker retells the story. The children retell the main character, setting, problem, feeling after the problem, action to fix the problem, ending of the story, and how the character feels at the end of the story. The kindergarten students are so excited when they use a big vocabulary word and get to add a sparkle word sticker to their retelling. Keep up the great work, kindergarteners!



4th-Grade PALEONTOLOGISTS

Fourth-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary have been learning about landforms in social studies and about how the Earth's surface has changed over time in science, which contributes to the formation of these landforms.

Students used digital media to design their own Book Creator projects on landforms. They also used hands-on materials to

create models of the layers of the Earth representing fossils in the deeper layers. This demonstrated how paleontologists use this evidence to decipher how the Earth has changed based on what organisms used to live there.

A celebrated tradition at the end of this unit is when students create their own fossil kits that they may take home and keep.



5th-Grade Battle of THE BOOKS

Emerson Elementary students will be participating in a 5th-Grade Battle of the Books through the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. Four teams of 3-5 students will be reading a total of 12 books and will work together to answer a total of 50 questions at the event in March. In addition, students will be working in teams to complete practice questions during meetings at school to prepare. This is the second year that Emerson 5th graders have participated in this event. They have 21 5th graders participating this year!

Fraser SHOUT-OUTS

Fraser Shout-Outs recognize staff members who go above and beyond for their students, colleagues, and the community. 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.



**Teresa
Van Sickle**

Teresa is close to completing her first year in human resources [HR] and has done amazing work. Teresa did a great job this past summer processing an extremely high number of new hires and other HR transactions.

Teresa tackles each task with a positive attitude and is always looking for ways to make our processes streamlined and accurate. She brought many years of district experience to HR from her time working in the business office and her knowledge of

how our systems work has been valuable during her transition. She is a great team player and a joy to work with.
Submitted by Kerry Terman



**Nancy
Wallace**

I am new to the building this year, and Nancy is my secretary. From the very first day, Nancy has been nothing but helpful to me. She is kind, always pleasant to guests and substitutes coming into the building, and goes above and beyond anything that is asked of her. She never hesitates to help anyone in need.

Submitted by Lindsay Samassa

PLANNING AHEAD

DECEMBER 1

Elementary Half Day – Records

DECEMBER 1

Disney Vocal Music Concert

7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center

DECEMBER 2

Elementary Half Day – Records

DECEMBER 5

Twain Vocal Music Concert

7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center

DECEMBER 6

Eisenhower Vocal Music Concert

7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center

DECEMBER 7

All Levels Early Release –

District-Provided

Professional Development

DECEMBER 7

FYC/RMS Vocal Music Concert

7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center

DECEMBER 8

Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry

9:00 a.m., FHS [Klein Side]

DECEMBER 8

FHS Vocal Music Concert

7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center

DECEMBER 12

Board of Education Meeting

7:00 p.m., IDEA Lab

DECEMBER 12

Piano Recitals

7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center

DECEMBER 13

FHS Full Day of Schools – Exams

[Blocks 4&9]

DECEMBER 13

RMS Band Concert

7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center

DECEMBER 14

FHS Half Day of School – Exams

[Blocks 1&2]/Records

DECEMBER 14

FHS Concert & Jazz Bands Concert

7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center

DECEMBER 15

FHS Half Day of School – Exams

[Blocks 3&6]/Records

DECEMBER 15

RMS Half Day of School – Records

DECEMBER 15

FHS Varsity & Symphony

Bands Concert

7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center

DECEMBER 16

FHS Half Day – Exams

[Blocks 7&8]/Records

DECEMBER 16

RMS Half Day – End of First Semester/Records

DECEMBER 17-JANUARY 2

Winter/Holiday Break

DECEMBER 22

Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry

9:00 a.m., FHS [Klein Side]

JANUARY 3

School Resumes

JANUARY 5

Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry

9:00 a.m., FHS [Klein Side]

FALL SPORTS WRAP-UPS

Boys Soccer

The boys soccer team started the season attending their annual camp. The team enjoyed canoeing and volleyball in between team-building sessions to strengthen comradery and learn the Rambler way of developing quality young men.

Character development is at the backbone of the team's success. They demonstrated that character and the value of giving back by raising over \$5,600 for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, by playing a charity game with alumni.

After winning the MAC Blue division last season [2021], they set their sights on the challenge of the MAC White division. Throughout the season, the team faced adversity and challenges and the boys found a way to rise above those and bring home the district title. They are looking forward to next year to continue to grow and be better young men, better students, better teammates, and a better team. Let's go, Ramblers!



Football

The 2022 Fraser varsity football team battled week in and week out even though plagued by injuries the entire year. They finished with a record of 1 and 8 but continued to work as a team. They were led by the seniors, especially Anikan

Askew, Alex Keuning, Zach Reedy, Amir Collier, and Marcellous Avery. The underclassmen got a lot of experience that will benefit the team next year. Even though the outcomes were not what they wanted, the team stuck together and played with Fraser Pride!



Girls Swim and Dive

The girls varsity swim and dive team had a very successful fall 2022 season. Their overall record was 5-3 and they finished ranked third in the MAC White division standings. They also finished sixth at our county championships, which was the highest finish of any Division II level school in the county.

The season was highlighted with new freshman/sophomore records being set and by Quinn Savage and Addison Lasley earning League Champion honors at our Division Championships. Quinn was the 500 Free champion for the second year in a row, and Addison was the League Champion in the 200 IM. Addison set two new freshman/sophomore records this season, one in the 100 backstroke at 1:03.97 and another in the 200 IM with a time of 2:22.53. The ladies truly gave a tremendous effort throughout the season, and many had their lifetime best swims. Their team was led by a very solid group of sophomores, which is great because they will be around for another two years!

This also wrapped Dave Nowinski's final season as the head coach of Fraser swimming after 36 years. "I cannot express the amount of gratitude, trust and what an honor it has been to be a part of this program. My thanks to all who have been a part of my journey, and I know the program is in good hands and will continue to be very competitive for years to come," said Coach Nowinski.

FALL SPORTS WRAP-UPS *cont.*

Boys Tennis

Coach Wu was very optimistic with just over half of his varsity squad returning. Seniors Jared Wu, Nathan Kisell, Benjamin Marcus, Zachary Rhodenizer, Xavier Sink, and Logan Arbitter would again lead the Ramblers squad. Underclassmen Carson Bennie, Camden Townsend, Wynnies Chan, Landon Keil, Hunter Black, Lucas Centner, and Cooper Norbeck also contributed to the team's success. The team competed in a tournament-heavy schedule and started the season with nine matches their first week of play. They had many stellar individual flight results and had a second place finish at the Lancer Invitational. League play was a battle this year for the top spot, and the Ramblers finished third in their division with a 4-2 record. They are celebrating their 2022 season with many victories and triumphs and are sad to see seven of their seniors go, but they always look forward to driving hard and bettering themselves, and the 2023 season is just a few months away.



Volleyball

The 2022 Fraser volleyball teams had a season full of fun and competition. All of the freshmen, JV, and varsity players have improved throughout the season. The girls learned many different aspects of the game, including team defense, team serve receive, covering hitters, hitting placements, and understanding opponents' defense for offensive strategies. The players worked together as a team for each game. We would like to thank seniors Paige Slone and Megan Smith for their outstanding careers – good luck in your future endeavors! The coaching staff would also like to thank parents, staff, administration, and everyone who helped throughout the season.

Boys Cross Country

For the first time since 1986, the Rambler men qualified to the MHSAA State Finals as a team! The state finals trip capped off a season filled with impressive accomplishments. In addition to qualifying for the state finals, the men, led by senior Justin Roose, won their first-ever MAC White Division meet championship, were co-regular-season champions, and had a program-best fourth-place finish at the Macomb County Championship. With many young runners looking to move up, the men are primed for a repeat performance in 2023 and beyond!



Girls Cross Country

The women enjoyed nearly equal levels of success this season as well! Narrowly missing a team state finals berth by finishing fourth at regionals (the top three teams qualify), the women were led by sophomore Grace Grupido, who qualified for her second state finals in as many years as an individual. The women's team repeated as back-to-back MAC White Dual and

Conference meet champions, with all eight varsity entrants receiving All-Conference honors. At the county meet, the ladies finished in fourth place, marking a new all-time program best. Returning nearly everyone from an already top-tier team, the women will use this year as a benchmark for all future successes in 2023 and beyond!

FRASER HIGH SCHOOL **ROARING 20S** **ACTIVITIES AUCTION**

SILENT & LIVE AUCTION

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT

STUDENT COUNCIL AND THE CLASS OF 2023, 2024, 2025, AND 2026

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7-11:30 PM

VINTAGE HOUSE

31816 UTICA ROAD, FRASER

\$35 PER PERSON

TICKET INCLUDES DINNER, DRINKS, AND DANCING

MUST BE 21 AND OVER



**AUCTION PRIZE PAYMENT
DUE THE NIGHT OF THE AUCTION.
CASH OR CHECK ACCEPTED.**

QUESTIONS?

**CONTACT MEGAN SCHAEFF
MEGAN.SCHAEFF@FRASERK12.ORG**