

Over the FENCE

Safety Drills in OUR SCHOOLS



Every school is required to conduct safety drills throughout the school year for various types of emergency situations. These include severe weather, fire, and lockdown.

This past summer, the single emergency button in each school's office was replaced with five buttons, which correspond to different types of situations.

So far, all our schools have conducted their first lockdown drill of the school year in conjunction with Assistant Superintendent of Safety, Facilities and Transportation Dan Waters. As drills are conducted, the corresponding button will be pushed. The button plays a previously recorded message from the building principal indicating the type of situation.

This year, lockdown drills are not announced in advance to students. This is to help ensure the drill is practiced as realistically as possible. Once the drill is started, staff

will let students know it is a drill and continue with the necessary procedures.

Once a lockdown drill is completed, the building principal will send an email letting parents and guardians know the drill was conducted. Completed drills are listed on each school's website.

School Safety Drill Logs:

- Disney Elementary
- Edison Elementary
- Eisenhower Elementary
- Emerson Elementary
- Salk Elementary
- Twain Elementary
- Richards Middle School
- Fraser High School

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fraser Families,
As 2023 comes to a close, it is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the past year and look forward to the coming new year.

One continual point of pride in Fraser is our belief in giving to others. This happens throughout the entire year, and it demonstrates the high level of character and philanthropy of our school community.

This month, our students 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, which will provide more than 125 children in our district with presents this holiday season.

These are just a few examples of the leadership and character you will find throughout our schools. When combined with our strong academic foundation, our students continue to display the competencies that define our Portrait of a Graduate: Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking. For the past five years, they have been the focus of our Strategic Plan, and these competencies have

... Continued on page 2

CURRICULUM CORNER

AI IN EDUCATION

The past couple of years have seen tremendous advancements in the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Although AI is not new, as we use features of it in our cars, homes, and cellphones, the advancements seen in its ability to detect patterns and automatize decisions with more robust tasks offer new avenues. As AI can now produce and modify unique texts, analyze commonalities in texts, alter reading levels of articles, create images from written descriptions, and so much more, it is necessary that our teachers are prepared to properly utilize the benefits of it as well as educate themselves and others on the downfalls associated with it.

With this in mind, Fraser Public Schools brought in Tom Lietz, former Utica principal and current director of Training and Development for the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, to provide a full day of professional development on the topic. Mr. Lietz engaged our staff in discussions and topics defining what AI was and how it has grown, how it is useful to educators when building lessons and lesson supports, what to consider when teaching students how to work with it, and ethical practices of using AI.

The collaborative conversations among staff made certain items clear when it came to AI:

- The use of AI can assist in achieving educational goals for themselves and students in a timely, cost-effective, and individualized manner.
- Although AI can be very comprehensive in completing tasks, the need for educators to craft outcomes, identify inaccuracies, provide appropriate scaffolds, assess work with timely feedback, and educate students on making work their own is still a necessity.
- As with any new technology, there are clear pros and cons to its use, and proper planning is needed to build ethical and equitable policies.

More information on AI in education can be found in **Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Learning** from the Michigan Department of Education.

We look forward to continuing these conversations, and we encourage you to talk to your children about both the opportunities and challenges that can come from these powerful advancements in technology.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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provided us the foundation for designing learning for all.

Therefore, with this new year, we will also begin the process of reflecting, celebrating, and continuing the work of the 2019-2023 strategic plan. It is important to note our strategic plans have been a guide for our district for many years, and we have used a five-year timeline as the time marker for these plans. As a district, we believe in having a roadmap with guideposts to drive our work and keep student achievement and learning at the center of the plan.

As we end December, we will seek input from our families and students to provide insight to better understand our school community's needs. On page 3, you will find information regarding the U.S. Department of Education School Climate Survey. This survey will provide important information on the perceptions of our students and parents. We can then use this data as a component of guiding our future work. This data will help with both strategic planning and building level school improvement. Please take a moment to learn more about the surveys and participate in the process.

For the last four years, our plan has focused on four goals: learning partnerships, learning environments, digital ecosystem, and teaching practices. We will continue to work on these goals as we build the new plan. We look forward to working with our stakeholders as we move forward in strengthening our work in designing learning for ALL students.

I thank you for your unwavering support and wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

With Fraser Pride,
Dr. Wozniak

U.S. Department of Education School Climate Survey

The way students, families, teachers, and other school staff experience Fraser Schools and school-related activities affects student attendance, learning, and achievement.

Students in learning environments that are safe, supportive, and engaging are more likely to improve academically, participate more fully in the classroom, and develop skills that will help them be successful in school and in life.

As Fraser Public Schools strives to improve, we leverage our Building and District School Improvement Plans, including the **Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP)** and the District Strategic Plan.

For almost 20 years now, Fraser has developed five-year strategic plans that guide our district forward. These plans can be considered our North Star. As we prepare to embark on our next strategic plan, it is critical to use data to develop our next steps.

School climate is an important component. Therefore, we will be administering the U.S. Department of Education School Climate Survey (EDSCLS).

The survey assesses student engagement, school safety, and the learning environment. The EDSCLS measures a total of 13 school climate subtopics across 3 domains in each of its surveys.

Topic Areas (The EDSCLS School Climate Model)

The three domains of school climate and the topics within each (as shown below) are measured in the EDSCLS.

Engagement

Cultural and linguistic competence

Relationship

School participation

Safety

Emotional safety

Physical safety

Bullying/cyberbullying

Substance abuse

Emergency readiness/management

Environment

Physical environment

Instructional environment

Physical health

Mental health

Discipline

During the month of December, we will be asking parents and students to complete the web-based survey.

Parents will be asked to take the survey between December 4-18. A link to the survey will be emailed and posted on our district website and social media channels.

Students in grades 5-12 will be taking the survey during the week of December 11. Parents can request to have their child opt out of the survey through an online form that will be emailed home soon.

For more information and to see the survey questions, please visit the **EDSCLS website**.

Paleontologists at Eisenhower

Fourth-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary have been learning about how the Earth's surface has changed over time.

Students have been thinking like paleontologists, who use evidence of fossils to decipher just how the Earth has changed based on what organisms used to live there! One of their favorite activities included identifying what animals of long ago would have eaten based on their teeth and comparing them to what animals of today eat that have similar teeth! A celebrated tradition at the end of this unit is when students get to create their own fossil kits that they have the option of taking home and keeping.



Fraser Schools Help Families at Thanksgiving

Schools across the district joined together with the Kiwanis Club for its annual food drive during the month of November. FPS schools collected thousands of items, and with the help of Kiwanis, were able to assist 70 families in our district and in the Clintondale Community Schools!





Attend Today.
**Achieve
Tomorrow.**

Keep Up the Routine of **ATTENDANCE** Through the Holidays

As we prepare for the end of the first semester and winter break, we are grateful for everyone who has helped to restore a routine by showing up to school. This effort supports students and families. Daily routines are essential for reducing stress and creating a sense of security for students and adults.

Please take steps to keep your child healthy and send them to school unless they are truly sick. Every day of school is an important opportunity for students to learn and connect to peers and their teachers.

In Fraser, attendance rates continue to increase or hold steady at all our schools. More than 94 percent of students in Fraser were on Tier 1, which means they missed 19 percent or less of school days. That is an increase of more than 2 percentage points since the end of September.

We want to thank all our families, students, and staff for their continued support of our attendance initiatives. Thank you to our students and families who do their best to show up daily, even when it isn't easy, and our teachers and staff who go above and beyond to make school a welcoming and safe place for all students to learn.

Community Helpers at Dooley

Dooley little learners had a lesson on fire safety from the Fraser and Roseville Fire Departments. The firefighters came to the Dooley Center and put on a presentation for the preschoolers. The students learned about fire alarms, fire safety plans, how to get help, and the steps to take if there is a fire. A student demonstrated how to STOP, DROP, and ROLL. The visit ended by getting to see a fire truck! These wide-eyed children went home with their very own firefighter hats and stickers.

After learning about community helpers, Dooley staff said they wouldn't be surprised if, after learning about community helpers, some of the preschoolers have already decided what they want to be when they grow up!



Edison First Graders Enjoying **New Science Curriculum**

First-grade students at Edison Elementary have been enjoying the new science curriculum, Mystery Science.

This program gives them opportunities to ask questions and discover solutions on their own. The first graders work independently, with their science partners, and in groups.

They used straws and cups to mimic bird beaks as they discovered why birds have different shaped beaks. Boys and girls studied animals camouflaged in the wild, and then created their own moths and camouflaged them throughout the school.



Students and teachers had so much fun trying to find each other's moths!

Mystery Science has tons of unique mini lessons, too. Students loved learning about the bones in their skeleton around Halloween. The first graders also studied spiders and how different types of spiders attack their prey. This science curriculum has helped encourage the students to ask questions and seek to find answers.

Disney Honors ★★★★★ Special Veterans



Disney Elementary was very excited to honor Veterans with their annual Veterans Day breakfast and Wall of Honor organized by third-grade teacher, Mrs. Filip. Students invited their special Veteran to school for a donut breakfast and to view Disney's Wall of Honor listing all the special Vets in the Disney family.

It was a great morning, and the Disney students beamed with pride as they enjoyed breakfast and introduced their special Veteran to the school. Thank you to all the Veterans for your service, sacrifice, and bravery needed to serve our country.

America Recycles Day



The Eisenhower Green Team prepared for America Recycles Day, which was November 15. This year, they had a logo contest and a recycling commercial contest, as well as a garbage bag fundraiser to help purchase their team T-shirts and supplies for their Spring Cleanup. Eisenhower is one of six schools in Macomb County to have been part of the Green Schools Program since it began.

America Recycles Day inspires communities to take the confusion out of recycling so we can protect our natural resources together all year round. In 2023, America Recycles Day will center on the "Recycling Reality Check" campaign, aimed at taking some of the mystery out of materials recovery and clarifying some of the myths surrounding recycling.



Battle of the BOOKS

Emerson fifth-grade students will be participating in the 5th Grade Battle of the Books through the Clinton-Macomb Public Library.

Battle of the Books is a team-based trivia game where readers compete for fun and prizes.

Five teams of Emerson students will be reading a total of 12 books and will work with their teams to



answer 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 third year that Emerson fifth graders have participated in this event. A total of 21 fifth graders plan to participate this year!

Twain Visits Camp Howell



Once again, Twain Elementary sixth graders boarded the bus and headed off to Howell Nature Center. At the nature center, students braved the cold, rainy weather and conquered their fears by climbing the tallest rock wall in Michigan – a few even made it the whole 60 feet! They were also able to participate in the “challenge by choice” zipline, where they glided over one of Howell’s many ponds.

The students enjoyed learning about global citizenship as they went into each of the different homesteads that people around the world live in. Their favorite was the stilt house that is used by the people of Thailand. They impressed their nature center leader with their thoughts on why the house was up on stilts.

A group favorite was the Wild Wonders tour, where the sixth graders and parent chaperones learned about the various animals that call the nature center home for one reason or another. After walking over seven miles in the beautiful foliage, the students ended their day with an animal rehab clinic, where they learned about Michigan’s unique animals, including an opossum named Sprout. She enjoyed her meal while the students enjoyed learning all about why opossums are actually very useful to us.

Freshman Class Attends MiCareerQuest

More than 280 ninth-grade students from Fraser High School attended the MiCareerQuest Showcase, learning about and experiencing hands-on opportunities in local careers.

It was the region’s largest interactive career exploration event for high school students. Students were exposed to a broad range of career opportunities,



with the goal of connecting classroom learning with real-world jobs and their requirements.

Students learned about various workplace opportunities, internships, and job shadowing. The event is designed to spark students’ curiosity and, most importantly, expand their knowledge of the career possibilities available to them after graduation.



Having a Great Fall at Salk

Who knows the most about having a great fall? Humpty Dumpty! The kindergarten and Young 5 students at Salk have been enjoying their interactive rhyming read-aloud stories along with other nursery rhyme favorites.

Fall also brought the opportunity to learn about apples. Salk’s littlest learners taste tested and graphed their favorite apple.



New Student Clubs at RMS

Richards Middle School is reaching out to all their Castle Crew learners with a variety of clubs and interests.

There are the traditional extracurriculars such as the National Junior Honor Society, Green Team, HOSA, and Student Council. Students and staff have also had opportunities to express interests through club sponsorships and creation. Clubs based on student interests have developed, including dance club, science club, soccer club, fashion club, and games club. RMS students were encouraged to seek out sponsors to support club interest and work to develop a plan for the direction of the group. Some of their newer clubs to start the school are as follows.

The Dance Club is an RMS club that allows students to participate in learning choreography and working as a team. All levels are welcome to participate. The dancers rehearse weekly in preparation for performances at the last home basketball games of both the boys' and girls' seasons. The routine is being choreographed by an 8th-grade member.

Gaming Unplugged has been created to have fun with various board, card, dice, and strategy games, with the intent to gather like-minded peers who enjoy unplugging after a long school day. Students are encouraged to bring their own family favorite games and share in the experience and love of the game.



Style Statement Fashion Club was inspired by student leadership to bring together peers who have a passion for fashion. Members can meet with other designers, producers, and creative minds, and to grow interest in the fashion industry. Stylists are committed to learning and participating in the fashion process together.

Science Club is focused on giving 8th-grade students a way to have fun with science and be challenged to expand their knowledge in the areas of forensic science, chemistry, astronomy, physics, and STEM challenges.

The RMS Castle Crew members are encouraged to continue to find their connection to the Fraser experience through their interests, passions, and skills. The development of extracurricular clubs provides immeasurable memories and experiences to grow student involvement throughout their educational journey at RMS and into the high school.

Full STEM Ahead at Dooley

Learning is full STEM ahead as the Dooley Center enters its second trimester in the early childhood building. Dooley has students as young as two and up to five years old, but don't underestimate their age. They start learning all about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics [STEM] early in their lives.

To encourage the love of learning, each classroom approaches this in different ways. Science experiments, exploration, building, designing, and replicating are

all fun ways educators introduce new experiences to these students. Some experiences are quick and impactful, while others like the Pumpkin Jack Experiment, which is about the life cycle of a pumpkin, last the entirety of the school year and are incredibly memorable. Other experiments include the dancing corn experiment; exploring the concept of sink and float; creating, designing, and replicating buildings; creating and exploring pretend spiders; magnet



exploration; and chemical reactions in pumpkins. It is never too early to start exploring the wonders of our world and fostering curiosity in our students.

Terrific TURKEYS



The kindergarten students and their families once again have done an amazing job creating the "Terrific Turkeys" that were put on display in Eisenhower's hallway. This has been a long-standing tradition at Eisenhower Elementary. With the help of their wonderful families, the students created the most beautiful turkeys.

The "Terrific Turkeys" activities kicked off November and continued through to Thanksgiving. In kindergarten, students discussed what they are thankful for and their family traditions. The children were excited to discuss the past as a part of their social studies curriculum.

Another tradition that has been at Eisenhower for over 20 years is the "Mayflower Meal." The children dressed up as Pilgrims and ate the foods that were on the Mayflower as the ship sailed to America. The staff is thankful for the opportunity to share the fantastic things they continue to do with their students in kindergarten!

Fiction vs. Non-Fiction

In the month of October, 1st graders at Disney Elementary explored fiction and non-fiction texts.

Each week the first-grade classrooms had a theme that students learned about through fiction and non-fiction texts and activities. Their themes were spiders, pumpkins, and bats.

Throughout exploration of text features, students also learned fun facts about each



of these real-life things. They wrapped up each week up with a creative exploration or craft, where students were given the opportunity to demonstrate their new knowledge in a creative way. It was a month filled with excitement and lots of learning!

Learning About Landforms



Second-grade students at Eisenhower have been learning about maps and the Earth's landforms in social studies, and erosion and the Earth's surface in science. Students discovered that there are a variety of maps, and some show us where things are located on Earth and some show us landforms.

To enhance their learning, students made cookie landforms by using Hershey kisses as mountains, blue icing as water, and more. They then recreated their cookie as a map before enjoying this tasty treat!

PLANNING AHEAD

DECEMBER 11
Board of Education Meeting
RMS Idea Lab, 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 12
FYC/RMS Vocal Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 13
FHS Vocal Music Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 14
All Levels Early Release

DECEMBER 14
Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry
FHS Klein Side, 9:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 18
RMS Band Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 19-20
FHS Band Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 20
FHS Half Day – Records
7:30-10:46 a.m.

DECEMBER 21 & 22
FHS & RMS Half Days
FHS: 7:30-10:46 a.m.
RMS: 8:05-11:35 a.m.

DECEMBER 25 – JANUARY 5
Winter Break

JANUARY 8
School Resumes

JANUARY 8
Board of Education Meeting
RMS Idea Lab, 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY 11
Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry
FHS Klein Side, 9:30 a.m.



Fraser High School

ACTIVITIES AUCTION

A Night at the Soda Shop



Friday, February 2, 2024
7:00-11:30 pm

Vintage House
31816 Utica Road
Fraser, MI
48026

\$40 per person

Ticket includes dinner, drinks, and dancing
Must be 21+ to attend



Proceeds benefit the Class of 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027

Silent Auction, Live Auction,
Raffle Baskets, and 1950s Costume Contest

Auction Prize Payment due at the end of the event. Cash or Check accepted.

Questions? Contact Megan Schaeff | megan.schaeff@fraserk12.org