

Over the FENCE



Honoring Our **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

We would like to take a moment to thank the seven members of our Board of Education for their unwavering commitment to the staff and students of our district.

Board members Scott Wallace, Todd Koch, Linda Corbat, Robyn Norbeck, Dan Stawinski, Autumn Ochoa, and Abigail Wasil dedicate countless hours to their role of providing vision and leadership to the district. It is obvious that these members take pride in the responsibility of serving on the board.

Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community, and strongly advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. Their demanding job requires so much more than just two meetings each month. They serve on committees, represent Fraser at events and in outside organizations, and spend hours doing homework to ensure every decision is made with the goal of "what's best for kids."

The students and staff of our district take time each January to recognize the time, dedication, and leadership of each board member.

We also want to thank Ms. Ochoa for her service on the board. Her term ended December 31. Taking her seat on the board is Dr. Kathleen Moco.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fraser Families,

Welcome back and welcome to 2023! I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful winter break. January is a time for new

beginnings, including on our Board of Education. As you may know, Dr. Kathleen Moco won a seat on the board in the November election. She was sworn in at the January 9 meeting.

I look forward to working with Dr. Moco, and am confident she will be a valuable addition to our team. I also want to take a moment and thank Ms. Autumn Ochoa for her service as she exits the board.

January is School Board Recognition Month, and I want to honor all the members of our Board of Education. These caring individuals are dedicated to doing what is best for every student and employee in our Fraser Family.

Our board members give their time and attention to making decisions that will benefit not only our current students but future students as well. On behalf of everyone in Fraser Public Schools, I want to say thank you to our Board of Education.

As we return to school, this is the first time in many years that our Fraser High School and Richards Middle School students return to the start of the second semester. This opportunity is due to our district starting school before Labor Day.

Students completed finals before winter break and will have a fresh start when they

... Continued on page 2

CURRICULUM CORNER **PATHWAYS**

Fraser Public Schools is proud to provide a comprehensive curriculum for more than 1,500 students at Fraser High School. Students have many options that include college preparatory, advanced placement, career and technical education, visual and performing arts, physical education and health, and world languages courses.

The foundation for all these courses starts long before students enter high school. Parents and guardians support their child's success by teaching

discipline, being positive role models, and providing learning opportunities such as reading at home. A student's experiences in preschool, elementary school, and middle school also guide them in finding their own pathway.

Together, we can also support our students by having conversations about their interests and career goals. We can encourage and guide them in participating in extracurricular activities and selecting courses in middle and high school that match their interests.

At any age, encouraging your child to think about their interests and potential careers will help them plan out their own pathway.

Students at both Richards Middle School and Fraser High School will soon be scheduling their classes for the 2023-2024 school year. Be sure to ask them about their interests so they are prepared to select classes that provide career training or that develop their passions and interests.

[View FHS Course Guide](#)

Welcome New Board Member

Fraser Public Schools extends a warm welcome to Dr. Kathleen Moco, our newest Board of Education member. Dr. Moco was sworn in at the regular meeting on January 9.

"I am honored to be part of Fraser's School Board. I'm excited to have the opportunity to contribute to Fraser's high standards of education and to ensure Fraser's schools remain ahead of the curve," she said.

Dr. Moco won her seat on the board in the August 2022 election. She holds a Doctor of Business Administration degree with a specialization in Social Impact Management.



She is the proud parent of two Fraser students and resides in the city of Fraser.

Please join Fraser Public Schools in welcoming the newest Board of Education member, Dr. Kathleen Moco.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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return. This shift also helps students be prepared for post-secondary education.

I am looking forward to February, when scheduling at RMS and FHS for fall classes will take place. In the last two years, our team has taken a more mindful approach to helping students determine their future goals and interests, and to find courses and programs in Fraser that align with those goals.

Eighth-grade students will again participate in a Career and Technical Education Expo, where they will spend time visiting FHS and talking with current students and teachers about the programs.

We will also welcome parents and guardians of our 8th-grade students to FHS for a parent night in early February to ensure we are all committed to our students' success in high school. More information will be sent to those families later in the month.

Looking forward to a fantastic second semester. Happy New Year!

With Fraser Pride,
Dr. Wozniak

BUILDING STRONG FRIENDSHIPS



Through the Second Step program, 3rd-grade students at Eisenhower are focusing on building friendships through kindness and empathy. Students have been discussing the importance of friendships and building stronger relationships with others. Through empathy and kindness, we can build stronger relationships throughout the building and community. In their last lesson, students showed kindness to a person at school, home, or neighborhood by making cards to show kindness to others.

6th Grade STANDS UP TO BULLYING



Sixth-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary are raising awareness about bullying by creating posters to display in the school. In the past weeks, students have been learning about bullying during Second Steps, a social-emotional program implemented by the Fraser School District. During their lessons, students learned about the different types of bullying: physical, relational, and verbal. They have studied how to recognize and strategize against bullying

in safe ways, including supporting others being bullied, speaking up, and getting help. The program addresses cyberbullying and strategies to use such as not retaliating, and documenting, blocking, and reporting. They followed up this unit with a field trip to see "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Jr.," a musical that contains classic holiday tunes and deals with topics including bullying, individuality, being an ally, and celebrating diversity.

Fraser GIVING TREE

The Fraser Public School District provided holiday cheer to 133 district students this year through the Annual Giving Tree Project.

This annual event, hosted at the high school, has been around longer than anyone can remember, but it has grown in its impact, helping more students and their families each year. Every building in the district is allocated five families to help. Staff from each building collect children's wish lists. Each student was gifted four "needs" with items such as a coat, clothing, socks, underwear, boots, or snow pants. The child also receives one "fun gift" from their wish list. This event is not just about loading students up on toys for Christmas, but truly helping them with their basic needs.



The project is a collaborative effort of many staff to execute from start to finish, beginning in October. A special acknowledgement goes out to the elementary secretaries, as well as social workers and counselors who reach out to families they know are struggling, collect lists, then redistribute the gifts when they return. At the high school, Stacy Kalpin and Anne Cook co-chair the event and do much of the organizing of gifts and communication to sponsors. Renee Lienau, from the administration building, is a central part of the process as she types lists in a way that can be disseminated to sponsors. Generous sponsors come from throughout the district. Many Fraser staff and teachers sponsor children. In some cases, buildings or clubs join together to sponsor an entire family of multiple

children. The sponsorship sign up is sent out via the FPS Facebook page. Individuals with children in the district sign up to adopt anywhere from one to five children. Local businesses such as BMT, Stainless Steel, and Kiwanis Club of Clinton Township have stepped up to support entire families with multiple children. Event co-chair Stacy Kalpin says, "It is wonderful to see the generosity of so many people who make this event possible. Many people ask if there is more they can do. I am in awe of the number of people who donate their money and time shopping without knowing who the recipient is but just trusting that it is going to a child in need." This program would not be successful without the help of Fraser's dedicated staff and benevolent individuals who step in to help make a child's Christmas merry.

Edison Communication Board

At Edison Elementary, Ms. McNamara and Mrs. Carter wanted to make sure that all students always have access to language and communication, even on the playground!

Some students at Edison use different forms of communication, such as iPads, picture symbols, or paper core boards. Sometimes these tools are not always ideal to carry around while playing outside, so the Edison staff got creative. After doing some research, Ms. McNamara applied for a grant to receive a playground communication board through the nonprofit Communication is Key AAC. In October, Ms. McNamara was notified that Edison Elementary was selected to receive a playground communication board. Communication is Key AAC also paid for Ms. McNamara and Mrs. Carter to attend a two-day conference in the state's capital that focused on communication and ensuring all students have access to engaging literacy activities.



Edison's playground communication board has been beneficial to students with complex communication needs but is equally beneficial for other students to be exposed to and learn about different forms of communication.



International Celebration of LEARNING

Disney Elementary 6th-grade students engaged in learning about countries around the world through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and eating! Students researched and presented their findings about a country that captured their interest after exploring an interactive world map.

From there, each student designed their learning on a pizza box donated by Little Caesars that included eight facts (one per slice), the country flag, and the location on a map. On their presentation day, students boarded their flights around the world facilitated by a flight attendant teacher and recorded their findings and points of interest in their own personal passports. Students' presentations went as far as dressing up in costume, acting in skits, sharing their family tree, creating drawings of influential people, and bringing in artifacts that represented their country. To recognize their hard work and effort, they concluded with an international celebration where families both volunteered and donated delicious foods from around the globe!

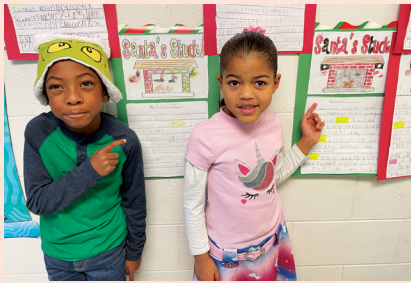
CAREER WAX MUSEUM



In December, the Salk Elementary gym was transformed into a Career Wax Museum. As part of their Social Studies unit on communities and community helpers, second-grade students had the chance to learn about various careers.

Family members were invited to share information about their jobs with the students. Students then chose the career they hoped to have when they grow up. They researched the career, wrote a report, created a visual, then dressed the part.

Finally, students shared their newly acquired knowledge with visitors at the Second Grade Career Wax Museum. The future looks bright with these students leading the way!



1st Grade Writer's WORKSHOP

Eisenhower Elementary's 1st-grade students have been learning about "How-To's" during their writer's workshop. They began this unit of study by writing about how to brush their teeth. The students were given real toothbrushes and toothpaste to think through the steps before writing. They focused on using transition words to show clear steps for their directions. They began by talking through the steps, then using a graphic organizer to plan their ideas, and ending with a final draft.

Another writing was based on the book "Santa's Stuck" by Rhonda Gowler Greene and Henry Cole. They wrote the steps they would use to get Santa out of the chimney when he gets stuck from eating too many sweets. This was a high-interest writing assignment!

Providing an Extra Dimension to Education

The Second Step social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum began in the Focus Four classrooms at Dooley, facilitated by building social worker Jackie Gennero.

Second Step is an evidenced-based curriculum to teach social and emotional skills to children in the classroom. Children learn social-emotional skills in a variety of ways, including the behavior they see modeled by the adults in their lives. However, social-emotional skills and concepts can also be taught within the classroom setting, in much the same way math or reading is taught.

SEL concepts provide an extra dimension to education, focusing on improving cooperation, communication, and decision-making. In a world where emotional intelligence is critical for lifelong happiness, successful careers, and healthier relationships, SEL gives students a framework for developing these skills.

Specifically, the Second Step Early Learning curriculum helps to prepare preschoolers for kindergarten by teaching concepts such as skills for listening, paying attention, managing behavior, and getting along with others. Second Step Early Learning has been shown to improve young students' executive-function



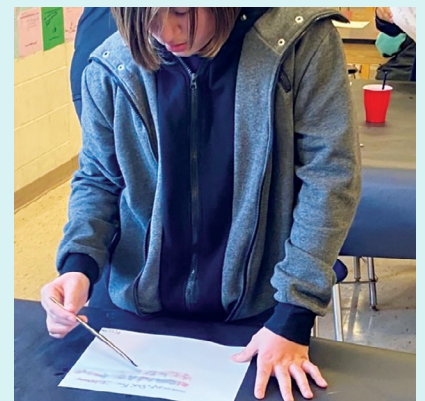
skills, like attention, memory, and self-control, which are not only predictive of kindergarten readiness but also essential for success in and outside the classroom.

Currently, the Second Step program is implemented in all classrooms district-wide K-12th grades via virtual lessons. So, our little learners will be prepared for this program upon entering kindergarten in our district.

Applying Chemistry to GRATITUDE

Richards Middle School 7th-grade Knights wrapped up a unit on matter. The unit's learning targets focused on the students being able to develop a model, analyze, then interpret data to show how properties of substances will change while the number of atoms and mass will not change during a chemical reaction.

The students also analyzed and interpreted data on the properties of substances to determine if a chemical reaction occurred. To demonstrate an authentic application of chemical reactions, the 7th-grade Knights exhibited their understanding of the learning targets by sharing messages of gratitude to their teachers. The students' messages appeared on paper by using the chemical reaction of baking soda and an acidic. The students then emailed their staff member that message.



Celebrating **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE** Month

*Salk Elementary's
5th-grade students
learned about the art of
totem poles during Native
American Heritage Month.*

The students studied the customs of totem poles after learning about the Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest. They learned that totem poles are a visual representation of the history, culture, and beliefs of one's family. They also learned how different animals can be portrayed on a totem pole and the characteristics that each animal represents.

Students then chose the three animals that best represented themselves



and their family and included those animals on their personalized totem pole. Next, students wrote a narrative detailing the meanings of each animal "carved" on their totem pole and explained how their pole would be raised at the Potlatch Ceremony, which they celebrated with their family.

A Potlatch Ceremony is a ceremony in which possessions are given away or destroyed to display wealth and generosity and to enhance prestige.

Keep Up the Routine of **GOOD ATTENDANCE**

As we return to the second half of the school year, we want to encourage all students to maintain good attendance.

During the first semester and trimester, three out of four students across the district were recognized for having good attendance. Average attendance rates at our schools show improvement when compared to last year, but there is still room to do better.

Every day of school is an important opportunity for students to recover from the uncertainties of the last few years – to learn, connect to peers and teachers, and benefit from classroom instructions.

As long as your child is healthy, please encourage showing up to class when school is in session. As a reminder, we have free COVID-19 tests available in all of our schools.

We want to express our gratitude to everyone who continues to help keep students safe, healthy, connected, and learning!

3rd-Grade Thanksgiving Parade



Emerson Elementary 3rd-grade students in Ms. Strahan's and Mrs. Thompson's classes read a book called "Balloons Over Broadway" by Melissa Sweet. The book talks about the true story of how Tony Sarg made the first parade balloons for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Tony loved making things move and discovering new ways of doing things. He used a growth mindset while planning, adapting, and developing ideas for the giant balloons. After reading the book, the students tackled a STEM challenge to design and create their very own balloon for their 3rd-Grade Thanksgiving Parade. Students worked hard to sketch out their designs, create, reflect, and improve their plans with the materials given. With the help of a green screen and Mrs. Biegas' broadcast tools, students were able to share their creativity with the school on the daily announcements.

CREATIVELY Solving Problems

Third-grade students at Mark Twain participated in a LEGO Play to Learn Virtual Field Trip.

Students had the opportunity to hear from real-life LEGO play experts and U.S. sea turtle conservationists. They learned about how play

fosters creativity and how creativity is a skill used in problem-solving. They also learned about challenges facing our planet and sustainable ways to help our environment.

After students participated in the virtual field trip, they had the opportunity to design a 3D park. They sketched a park that would benefit both humans and animals. Once their sketch was completed, they created a 3D model of their design.



WHAT DO THE STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY?

“My favorite part of doing this project was making all the different playground equipment for my park. I used a lot of cardboard to make everything.”
– Cecilia L.

“Something I found interesting was I wasn’t interested in building models before, but now I know it is really fun!” – Ian B.

“The hardest part was building a garden. Putting a garden in a park can help the insects be free and find food.” – Priscilla R.

“I learned that animals really need help keeping their habitats safe, and if they go extinct, that would be really bad.” – Joselyn C.

“This project was a good way to work as a team and learn about teamwork. We were also able to motivate each other to keep on going. We also learned how to help save the animals’ habitats.”
– DJ F.

Congratulations Fraser DECA

Congratulations to the following Fraser students who were recognized as 2023 DECA District Medal Winners:

State Qualifiers (Top 10)

- Olivea Henderson – *Apparel and Accessories Marketing*
- Analu Jahi – *Food Marketing*
- Nouri Hollins – *Personal Finance Literacy*
- Nora Koch – *Hotel Lodging Management*
- Sophie Meyer – *Business Finance*
- Iman Moses – *Restaurant and Food Service Management*
- Aneko Nichol – *Personal Finance Literacy*
- Zachary Rhodenizer – *Accounting Applications*

- Hannah Zunno – *Hotel Lodging Management*
- Yostena Aklahyous and Taylor Dubai – *Team Hospitality Services*
- Riley Barton and Alexandra Nichol – *Team Travel and Tourism*

Top Scores Test Medal

- Casey Savoie – *Food Marketing*
- Noah Tonn – *Entrepreneurship*
- Zachary Rhodenizer – *Accounting Applications*

Top Scores Competition Medal

- Olivea Henderson – *Apparel and Accessories Marketing*
- Analu Jahi – *Food Marketing*
- Zachary Rhodenizer – *Accounting Applications*

PLANNING AHEAD

JANUARY 16
No School All Levels –
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JANUARY 19
Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry
FHS [Klein Side]

JANUARY 25
Elementary Band Concert
7:00 p.m., FHS Gym

JANUARY 31
4-Year-Olds Tuition
Preschool Conferences

FEBRUARY 1
Early Release Day All Levels

FEBRUARY 1
8th Grade Family Night
6:00-8:00 p.m., FHS
Auditorium

FEBRUARY 8
Student Count Day

FEBRUARY 8
Elementary Open House
7:00 p.m., Salk Elementary
for District Residents
7:00 p.m., Eisenhower
Elementary for School of Choice

FEBRUARY 16
RMS & FHS Band Festival
7:00 p.m., FHS Auditorium

FEBRUARY 20-21
Mid-Winter Break

FEBRUARY 22
School Resumes

FEBRUARY 23
6th Grade Family Night
6:00 p.m., RMS

Fraser Performing Arts Center Presents:
NEWSIES
The Musical
February 2023

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023 – 7 PM
Friday, Feb. 10, 2023 – 7 PM
Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023 – 1 PM

Ticket Information
www.fraserperformingarts.org
(586) 439-7312

Fraser Performing Arts Center
Fraser High School
34270 Garfield Rd.
Fraser, MI

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**