

Over the FENCE

A Time for Reflection

In the wake of the tragedy at Oxford High School, the Fraser Public Schools administration is taking time to revisit the safety procedures – which address both mental and physical health – in place throughout the district.

During the month of December, district and building leaders have hosted schoolwide staff meetings and reviewed the district's Threat Assessment Protocol, as well as the Emergency Response Protocols that were developed in late 2019.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Fraser has had a long commitment to the mental health and safety of students. The district has the highest number of trained mental health staff in any public school district in the county. The mental health teams work closely with building leaders to address all threats that are reported.

Using a threat assessment and response protocol, the principal or building leader and mental health team quickly investigate to determine if the threat is substantive or transient. The protocol also outlines when to involve local law enforcement, which the district works closely with. We continue to have a strong relationship with the Fraser Police Department.

This includes having a Fraser Police Liaison full time at Fraser High School.

This year, because the pandemic has caused additional stress on many people, the district added mental health screeners to the list of screeners and assessments that every student takes three times a year. This data helps to place the students on the correct tier in our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. It also allows the teachers and mental health teams to monitor the progress of and provide support for each student, as well as identify changes or causes for concern.

PHYSICAL SAFETY

Just prior to the COVID pandemic, FPS partnered with Secure Education Consultants (SEC), an independent school security company, to review all the safety measures in place throughout the district. Teams from SEC observed each school and building and provided the district with a report. In addition, we work closely with Macomb County law enforcement.

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COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Please join Superintendent Carrie Wozniak, district leaders and our independent school safety expert for a virtual Community Conversation on Thursday, January 13, at 6 p.m.

To register, please **click here**. You can submit your questions for the team when you register.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fraser Families,



The mood is much more somber as we head into the long winter break compared to previous years. The tragedy in Oxford continues to weigh on the minds and hearts of many of our staff and students, myself included.

However, the season of giving is upon us, and throughout the district, our students and staff are working to support our community. The goodwill and volunteerism shown by our Fraser Team remains strong. Not only have we supported local charities, but also our Fraser High School Student Council has spearheaded a variety of events to support Oxford Schools. We are grateful for and proud of their leadership.

As we head into the holiday season, we can all find comfort in our Fraser Family coming together to help one another. I know that we continue to be a community that believes in its schools and values the relationships that are cultivated through the experiences in Fraser.

Our focus on the mental health and wellness of all students is a priority, as is making our schools physically safe against potential threats or acts of violence. The pandemic and this tragedy have caused anxiety and stress for many, including our students. We will continue to address those concerns through our focus on social and emotional learning.

Please join me at a virtual **Community Conversation on January 13** about our commitment to mental health and safety. I will be joined by several other district administrators as well as our independent school safety expert. We will give a brief presentation and answer questions you may have on this important topic.

The link to register for the event is **<https://bit.ly/FraserSafetyCommunityConvo>**. I hope to see you there and learn how together we will continue to strengthen our Fraser family.

With Fraser Pride,
Ms. Wozniak

CURRICULUM CORNER

As we end the first trimester of instruction at the elementary school level, it is a great time for academic and personal reflection. Our elementary students recently engaged in student-led conferences to reflect on their current progress and set goals for the second trimester.

Student-led conferences are defined as a meeting with students, teachers and their families to discuss students' academic, social and emotional progress. Student-led conferences differ from traditional conferences in that they put the students at the helm of the discussion. Students prepare artifacts from all subject areas and use their portfolios as a guide to talk to their parents and teachers about what they have learned thus far in the school year. They then take the opportunity to set goals for the second trimester that they

will monitor the progress of and reflect on during their spring conference session.

Allowing students to take part in goal setting and conversations around their own progress increases ownership of their goals and empowers them to take responsibility for working toward accomplishing them. In addition, as students prepare their artifacts and portfolios for student-led conferences, it provides an opportunity to practice organization and preparation of the

content that they will be presenting to their teacher and parents.

Fraser Public Schools is invested in student-led conferences due to the leadership opportunity it provides for our young learners. Districts that have been involved in student-led conferences over time have reported high levels of student ownership and agency for students' learning. I hope you found the experience informative and engaging and look forward to continuing the practice going forward.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER



Fraser Public Schools extends a warm welcome to Ms. Autumn Ochoa, our newest Board of Education member. Ms. Ochoa was sworn in at the regular meeting on November 22. She will serve as trustee and fills the vacancy created when Mr. Ron DelVillano retired in October.

Ms. Ochoa is a project manager at Bosch Automotive Aftermarket and has lived in Fraser for the last 10 years.

"After working 20-plus years in the childcare industry, I have developed a deep love and passion for helping families ensure their children grow into bright, confident, driven, strong adults," she said. "I look forward to supporting our Fraser community in bringing up the best of the best!"

Ms. Ochoa is the proud mother of two FHS graduates.

Please join Fraser Public Schools in welcoming the newest Board of Education member, Ms. Ochoa.

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR DISNEY STUDENTS

The Disney PTO provided some new activities for Disney students at recess. During the fall, the PTO brought in a company to add fun activities on the blacktop that give students options. So far, they have added four square, a fun squiggly path and hop courses, as well as a new basketball lane.



Excellent Rating for Fraser Students

Congratulations to the four Fraser High School vocal students who participated in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Musical Theatre Vocal Solo and Ensemble Festival held on Saturday, November 13, at Monroe High School.

All four participants earned First Division or Excellent ratings. The students can receive up to 30 points being adjudicated on the following criteria: Tonal Beauty, Breath, Musical Elements, Language Elements, Interpretation and Presentation.

BRAVA TO THEM ALL!

Summer Rose Schohl, Senior, Score of 29

Rebecca St.Onge, Junior, Score of 28

Natalie Watson, Junior, Score of 27

Audrey Kanne, Freshman, Score of 27

STUDENT INSPIRES CURRICULUM CHANGE



Each year, our 6th-grade classes write persuasion letters as part of their curriculum. Several years ago, a student in Ms. Kelly Jenks' class at Salk Elementary School wrote a letter to Lynne Munson, the founder and CEO of Great Minds, which is the company that created Eureka Math.

In the letter, the student, Mya Gooden, explained how the vocabulary used in Eureka Math was difficult to understand at times, and the teachers had to spend

time explaining it before students could even begin the math work. She offered several suggestions for improvements and dropped her letter in the mail.

Mya is now a sophomore at Fraser High School. A few months ago, Ms. Munson reached out to Ms. Jenks and explained the impact that letter had on her and her team at Great Minds.

Ms. Munson visited Salk in November, met Mya and unveiled Eureka Math², which addresses the vocabulary issues Mya brought up.

"I was so grateful to hear from a student," Ms. Munson told Mya. "I could tell your letter was honest and authentic."

Mya's interview with Ms. Munson was filmed and included during the virtual launch of the new curriculum.

Ms. Jenks said this will serve as a great example for future students.

"I can use this story to motivate my students to write letters and find their voice," she said.

Ms. Munson plans on having Mya's letter framed and will hang it in her Washington, DC, office.

PLANNING AHEAD

DECEMBER 23

Gleaners Mobile Pantry

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.,

Fraser High School Klein Lot

DECEMBER 23

Winter Break Begins

JANUARY 4

School Resumes

JANUARY 6

Gleaners Mobile Pantry

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.,

Fraser High School Klein Lot

JANUARY 11

Early Release, All Levels

JANUARY 17

No School,

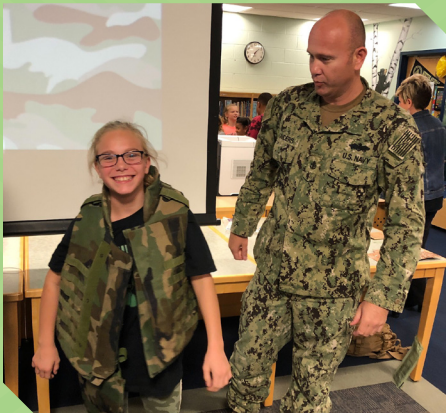
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

VETERAN VISITS EISENHOWER

The 4th-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary have been learning about Veterans Day. It started with the creation of the Wall of Honor. The 4th graders and their families filled out "bricks" to recognize veterans or service men and women in their family. They then invited the rest of the school to fill out bricks as well. The wall quickly filled up!

One of the bricks on the wall was for Chief Craig Sanders. He is a Seabee in the Navy and happens to be the husband of Eisenhower Administrative Assistant Lanette Sanders. Chief Sanders visited the school on Veterans Day and spoke to the 3rd- through 6th-grade students. He shared about his experiences in the Navy and talked about his job. He also brought some gear to show the students. It was a wonderful presentation, and everyone learned a lot!

The focus on Veterans Day helped to expand our students' learning about those who protect our country. Many of them also were able to learn more from their families about the special veterans in their lives. Paetyn C. said, "I was able to learn more about my uncle when we filled out the brick for the wall. He was in Special Forces!"



Learning What It Takes to Serve

Third-grade students at Salk Elementary spent time learning about Veterans Day by reading books and articles together in class.

The school also hosted a spirit day, where students and staff dressed in red, white, blue or camo on Veterans Day to salute all the men, women, friends and family members who have served or are currently serving in the military.

Students shared connections they have with members of their families who are veterans. The 3rd-grade students learned that it takes bravery and honor to serve in the U.S. military. Also, they learned that being in the military usually involves traveling far from their families for periods of time. Students learned that our veterans may have had to miss holidays, birthdays and special events.

Next, students wrote letters to veterans to show their appreciation. Students reflected on the many freedoms they enjoy thanks to the dedication and sacrifice of our veterans and current military members.

Staff and students from Salk SACC also took the time to honor and show respect to the men and women who have served our country by making 54 pairs of patriotic



socks for local veterans for the sixth year in a row. Each child decorated a few pairs of patriotic socks by painting stars, hearts and "USA" on them. The children then added a thank-you note to the socks. Ms. Sarah Rattee and Ms. Sally Rattee delivered the patriotic socks to the Vietnam Veterans of America, located on 15 Mile Road, where they were very grateful to receive the socks to distribute on Veterans Day.

Veterans Day is a great opportunity for our students to learn about the brave men and women who have given so much to protect our country and keep us safe!

Fraser Shout-Out

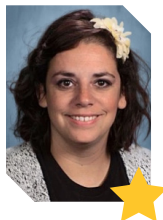


Fraser Shout-Out recognizes staff members who go above and beyond for their students, colleagues and the community. As a principal or administrator becomes aware of an extra effort by a staff member, he or she will submit that member for a Fraser Shout-Out.



Andrea Anderson

Andrea is an interventionist at Edison Elementary, but she is also so much more than that! She is one of the heartbeats of our building and is always ready and willing to help any student or staff member be successful. She works diligently with small groups of students to help them experience growth in reading and math. The students adore her, as she makes a continuous effort to connect with them. Additionally, she is a regular guest teacher in our building, often finding out her assignment within an hour of her workday beginning. She is the epitome of a team player – always working hard toward the common good of the school. Most importantly, she comes to work every day with a positive attitude, which captures the respect of her colleagues and students alike. She is always approachable and level-headed, carrying the friendliest disposition in every interaction. Our Edison community is so grateful to Andrea for her hard work, each and every day! *Submitted Kristy Wiegand*



Michelle Bungart

Michelle went above and beyond in the first two months of the school year with a high case load and several move-in IEPs, as well as leading a new Special Services Team at Disney. Michelle worked beyond her day to make sure we hit our targets, built our plans, and most importantly, met the needs of our students. Michelle always works hard to pull together a theme with learning as the priority for her students each and every year! *Submitted by Aaron Sutherland*



Lisa Kolanowski

Mrs. Kolanowski is the Richard's Responsibility Room supervisor, but she does so much more than oversee the students in the room. Mrs. Kolanowski goes above and beyond with building relationships and putting restorative and reflective conversations into practice with our students. She supports the staff and students wherever is needed to make the day run smoother for the students. Both her in-person and virtual check-ins with students who may be out for various reasons allow our Knights to feel connected, even from afar. Thank you, Mrs. Kolanowski, for your impact and positive attitude. You make Richards a better place. *Submitted by Kristi Skladanowski and Huston Julian*



Elaine McCloskey

I would like to give a Shout-Out to Elaine McCloskey. Elaine is one of our Title One Interventionists at Eisenhower Elementary. She has been at Eisenhower Elementary for over 20 years supporting our students and teachers. Elaine is such an asset to our team and puts her whole heart into everything she does. She supports our lower elementary students in reading and math and consistently takes on various duties to assist our 1st graders and kindergartners. These duties include helping to Brigrance Test our kindergarten students during the summer months. Elaine takes time to learn about each of her students and always makes them feel supported and welcomed in group. In short, Elaine will do whatever she can to support our students and staff. She helps all of us SOAR, and we are fortunate to have her on our team! *Submitted by Keith Tonn*



Julie Twardy

Julie has only been at Mark Twain for a few months, but she is already such a positive part of our school culture. She is organized, creative and flexible, and she works hard to make sure all students and staff have what they need to be successful. In addition to her tireless efforts to dig in to FastBridge and help make this year's transition easier for our teachers and staff, she is always available to offer support to our Comets when needed. Her positivity and calming disposition are inspiring. We are so glad that Julie has joined Team Twain! We're very fortunate to have her here! *Submitted by Laura Woods*



SERVICE PROJECT SURPRISES STUDENTS

Mark Twain Elementary students and staff were greeted by a wonderful surprise on their playground one morning when Fraser High School students from the 4As and National Art Honor Society [NAHS] teamed up for a service trip to bring some smiles to the Comets' faces.

FHS teacher and 4As adviser Mrs. Nancy Scopas observed how chalk art became an easy and fun way to express joy and feelings during the recent shutdown and quarantine periods. She was inspired to have FHS students do this service trip by the artwork she saw in her neighborhood and the joy it was bringing people in her community. Since 4As traditionally like to team up with little Fraser buddies each year, this was a great way to share their time and talents and bring messages of kindness and positivity to our Twain students.

The FHS students did a wonderful job, and Twain students were surprised and delighted to find the artwork and words of encouragement left on the playground for them!

FHS Food Pantry Supports 25 Families

The month of November was a very busy time for the FHS Food Pantry. The pantry supplied more than 25 families with bags of food for the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Even with some extra shopping trips, the pantry shelves were almost cleared out – which is a good thing!

But it also means they need to be restocked for the even longer upcoming winter break. If you would like to contribute to the Food Pantry, drop off nonperishable food items to the main office at Fraser High School.



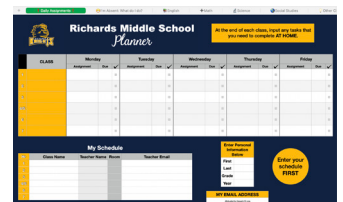
PANTRY WISH LIST

- Boxed Milk
- Cake Mix and Frosting
- Canned Soup
- Cereal
- Cheese and Crackers in Individual Wrappers/Packages
- Cocoa
- Condiments [Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Spices, etc.]
- Crackers [Ritz, Saltines]
- Fruit Cups
- Granola Bars
- Instant Oatmeal
- Jam/Jelly
- Juice [Not Refrigerated]
- Velveeta Macaroni and Cheese [No Milk or Butter Needed]
- Noodles
- Oil [Corn, Olive, Vegetable]
- Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- Pop Tarts
- Rice Packets
- SpaghettiOs/Canned Ravioli
- Stove Top Stuffing
- Tea

RMS STUDENTS CREATE DIGITAL PLANNERS

As students started a new year at Richards Middle School, it was clear that many could benefit from utilizing a planner to help support their executive functioning skills. The 21st Century Teachers met with students to facilitate conversations around the tool, format and features, which students wanted and needed when using a digital planner.

In the end, a robust, automated planner was created to help students track assignments, due dates, passwords, accessibility tools, teacher contact information, extracurricular activities, calendar events and more. It is fully customizable for each student and provides support as students learn to manage the resources they need to be successful.





Elementary Food Drives a Success!

Students throughout the district collected nonperishable food items for local organizations during November.

The Disney Student Council teamed up with Gleaners for their food drive. The students brought in more than 3,300 food items. The winning class was Mrs. Doreen Kilcline's class, which brought in more than 600 items!

Salk Elementary also collected on behalf of Gleaners. Students brought in a total of 1,800 items. The winning classrooms were Ms. Jill Sutter's 2nd grade, and Mr. Joseph Rybicki's 6th-grade class.

The Edison Elementary Student Council food drive brought in 1,931 nonperishable items for local families! The winning class was Mrs. Lisa Clark's 2nd grade.

Eisenhower Elementary students collected 1,175 nonperishable items. These items were donated to the district's local AFSCME group to be made into gift baskets for local families.

Congratulations to the entire Fraser Family for collecting over 7,000 items to help families in our community.

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The SEC report found that FPS had many strong systems in place in regard to security and safety. It also found some places to make improvements. This included installing the intercom system at every school main entrance for visitors to be able to communicate with office staff before gaining entry to the building.

The team from SEC also worked closely with district leadership to develop the Emergency Response Protocols flipbooks, which were given to each staff member and provide quick access to addressing a variety of emergency situations.

Finally, SEC hosted professional development in November 2019 that was tailored for school personnel. This training covered various scenarios as well as what to do in the event of a real emergency.

Our focus on the mental health and wellness of all students is a priority, as is making our schools physically safe against potential threats or acts of violence. We appreciate your continued partnership and support for your child's education and the safety of our schools.

EMERSON'S THANKFUL 2ND GRADERS

Second-grade students at Emerson Elementary have been working on a Project Based Learning unit for the past six weeks all about the first Thanksgiving. During this time, they investigated the guiding question that was posed in a video by Superintendent Wozniak, "How did the Pilgrims and Wampanoag impact history?"

Students visited the Troy Historic Village to help them take a step back in time and see what it was like to live long ago. From there, they read leveled books about the Pilgrims, Wampanoag and Thanksgiving to help in their investigation.

To demonstrate their learning, students chose an artifact to create and share with their classmates and families during an artifact walk. The artifact walk took place at Emerson after the Thanksgiving program that the students created for their families.

The students ended the unit in celebration of their work and the holiday with a Thanksgiving feast including foods from the first Thanksgiving.



A SHAPE IS JUST A SHAPE

Creative kindergarten students at Salk Elementary School demonstrated how Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is utilized across our curriculum. The Salk kindergartners showed their knowledge of shapes in their geometry math module by participating in a variety of activities.

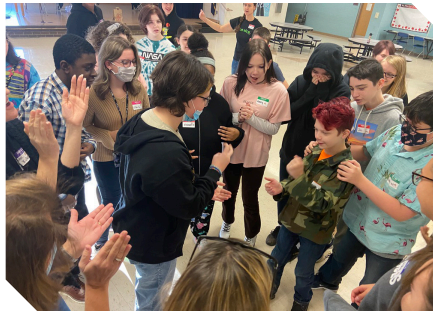
Engaging these little learners took place by playing "I spy" with 2D and 3D shapes. During circle time, the learners placed their hand in a bag and used their sense of touch and understanding of the shape's attributes to determine what shape they were feeling. The students were also provided with a visual choice board that provided options for them to practice and demonstrate their learning of the shapes.

The hallways of Salk are currently decorated for the holiday season with ornaments created by students that used triangles, squares, trapezoids, hexagons and rhombuses. After the ornaments were created, each class enjoyed the story "The Shape of Things" by Dayle Ann Dodds. Everyone was assigned a shape to use to create a page in their class book where their shape was transformed into something else. These pages are proudly displayed in the showcases at Salk and will later be assembled into a class book titled "A Shape is Just a Shape."



Be Nice Kindness Day

Richards Middle School is piloting Be Nice, an evidence-based program that encourages students and staff to Notice, Invite, Challenge and Empower in the areas of mental health, suicide prevention and anti-bullying.



The club began in early November, led by Mrs. Laura Purdy, Ms. Jennifer Makowski and Ms. Lauren Kulbertis. They, along with a group of almost 40 RMS students and several additional staff members, participated in the first "Be Nice Kindness Day" on Tuesday, November 23.

The RMS Knights actively engaged in opportunities to strengthen team building, share perspectives and build empathy. It was a powerful day, and they looked forward to students and staff sharing the lessons and continuing to spread kindness in the castle. The day culminated with all 7th- and 8th-grade students having the opportunity to add to the RMS Gratitude Wall.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Sixth-grade students at Mark Twain Elementary traveled to the Howell Nature Center for a one-day camp experience. Despite the pouring rain, students worked together to complete several adventure challenges, including zip lining and a rock wall climb. They were excited to see fellow students collaborating and cheering each other on as they tried new things and overcame challenges.

The students were then taken to the Global Village, where they experienced an authentic recreation of living quarters of people from various places throughout the world. During this experience, students were able to learn about population growth and global citizenship.

