

# Over the FENCE

## Three Teachers Win Foundation Grants

*The Fraser Educational Foundation Board surprised winners with giant checks.*

The Fraser Educational Foundation is excited to announce the three winners of the 2021-2022 grant program. The grants are awarded through a competitive process and open to all Fraser staff. The grants are used to fund projects that are not covered by the normal school or district budget.



**Karen Hagerty, Fraser High School**  
**\$3,000 Single Grant**

Mrs. Hagerty will use the grant to buy a digital clavinova piano to use for piano recitals, band concerts, choir concerts, the Performing Arts Academy and other events.

**Alyssa McNamara, Edison Elementary**  
**\$899 Mini Grant**

Ms. McNamara will use the grant to purchase two junior stationary bike desks for her classroom. They will help students continue to move and learn throughout the day.



**Ellen Blanck, Dooley Center**  
**\$578 Mini Grant**

Ms. Blanck will use the grant to purchase the Kimochis Educators Toolkit for her DK classroom. The social-emotional learning program gives students the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to recognize and manage their emotions.



The FEF relies on donations and fundraisers to fund its grant program. If you would like to donate to the FEF, please visit its website, [www.fraser.k12.mi.us/FEF](http://www.fraser.k12.mi.us/FEF).

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fraser Families,

During the past month, we have continued to be a community that believes in its schools and values the relationships that are cultivated through its experiences at Fraser. I am grateful for the continued support and dedication of our staff.



As we head into the holiday season, it is heartwarming to see how our Fraser Family comes together to help each other. The season of giving is upon us and throughout the district our students and staff are working to support our community.

Many of our schools collected canned goods and nonperishable items to support the Clinton Valley Kiwanis, which donates 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 100 children in our district presents this holiday season.

Throughout this newsletter are examples of how our staff is committed to helping each other and our students. The focus on the mental health and wellness of all students is a priority for us. We know that the pandemic has caused anxiety and stress for many, including our students. Our district is working to address that through our focus on social and emotional learning.

As always, I am grateful for students, staff, parents and community members who continue to come together to do what is best for our students.

With Fraser Pride,  
**Ms. Wozniak**

# CURRICULUM CORNER

*As students transition back to full-time, face-to-face learning, educators are seeing an increased need for supporting students' social-emotional learning. In Fraser Public Schools, our schools have been tackling this issue in a variety of ways, but one strategy that has been consistent across all buildings has been the use of Restorative Practices.*

Restorative Practices is a social science that studies how to build social capital and achieve social discipline through participatory learning and decision making. In Fraser, 196 staff have attended a two-day training on how to incorporate these strategies into their classroom and school environment. In addition to teachers, district secretaries and Mark Twain's lunch staff attended a three-hour training in 2019.

Restorative Practices are utilized at the elementary level for conflict management strategies and for morning circles. The morning circles provide opportunities for connection and discussion among students and teachers. Grace Kirby, 3rd-grade student at Twain Elementary, stated, "I like circles because we can hear everyone else's opinions. I think it's really fun learning who has the same opinions as you. I think circles help us learn to be kind to each other. Kids share how they're feeling upset or when they're having a rough day. Then classmates know if they've hurt each other's feelings because circles help kids have courage to share without having to give names. Circles make our class more like a team."

At the middle and high schools, Restorative Practices are often used when conflict

arises between students or even between students and staff. However, the circle format can also be used to build community and promote connection between students and the teacher. Luke Woods, a Fraser High School science teacher, has been utilizing circles in multiple ways. "I spent the first week of the semester with every class in community-building circles. We got to know about each other and then created a set of classroom norms and expectations. It not only allowed me to get to know my students, it gave them the opportunity to really get to know me and I have had only minor issues that have required any sort of correction," he said.

Laura Purdy, an intervention mentor at Richards Middle School, is also a Restorative Practices trainer for the district. At Richards, regular community circles are being used during the Seminar period of the day to help students feel more comfortable with each other and staff members by sharing about themselves and participating in activities. Restorative circles are also being used to help problem-solve in classrooms, using the Restorative Practices framework to express concerns, take accountability, and make things right. "It's been great to see students opening up, finding commonalities, and

giving an opportunity for everyone to have a voice," said Mrs. Purdy.

Student feedback about classroom circles has also been positive. Jack DePerro, a 9th-grade student at FHS, said, "Circles are a way to let the entire class get to know each other and everybody can hear each other without having to be loud. It gets rid of talking over each other and everyone can see and hear everyone else. I enjoy circles because it is fun to hear everyone else's thoughts and opinions." Another 9th-grader, Sarah Badawy, wrote, "Circles allow everyone to share and you don't feel out of place. Everyone shares, no one is left out, and everyone gets a voice. I like them a lot because it gives me a time to share without feeling like I'm taking away someone else's spotlight because we all get a turn to share."

At Fraser, we remain committed to supporting both the academic and social-emotional needs of our students. We plan to continue to provide staff training throughout the school year, and four additional two-day training sessions for staff are being scheduled. Through initiatives like Restorative Practices, FPS will continue to provide the support students need to innovate, lead and learn.



## FOUNDATION ACCEPTING GIFT DONATIONS

Want to give a gift for the holidays to a teacher, staff member, family or friend but don't know what to give them? Consider making a donation to the Fraser Educational Foundation in their name.

The Fraser Educational Foundation is a non-profit, tax-deductible organization that supports teachers and staff in our district with grants each year.

To make a gift donation, visit this [website](#) and complete the form. A certificate will be sent directly to the recipient letting him or her know a donation was made in their name. Or, if you prefer, it can be sent to you to give to the recipient.



# Positivity Project at Edison Continues Implementation

*This year, Edison Elementary is excited to continue its implementation of the Positivity Project into all grade levels.*

The purpose of the project is to foster positive relationships among students and staff. It also helps students build their self-awareness, self-confidence and understanding and appreciation of others.

This is a 32-week program that focuses on different weekly character strengths the teachers incorporate into lessons throughout the year. Topics associated with each character strength are often discussed during restorative circles within the classrooms. This helps establish positive relationships and improve the school culture.

Throughout the year, teachers will be honoring students with Character Club Awards. Teachers are already working to identify students who exemplify all the different character strengths for the whole year. Each week, they distribute character awards to some of their students. At the end of each month, student award recipients will have a Character Club



lunch together to celebrate their positive characters!

In 1st grade, students are implementing the traits they learn by reading stories and completing activities related to the trait. Then they play games in the gym to promote the week's trait.

Recently they worked as a team to create the letters of the alphabet with their bodies. The students love the time they spend together as a grade level, learning and having fun together.

## BUILDING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS IN FIFTH GRADE



Social-emotional skills are key to having good relationships and creating a positive learning environment. That is why the 5th-grade classes at Mark Twain Elementary are making them a focus this year.

Each week, Mrs. Dawn Schop and Mrs. Jodi Lombard are focusing on a different emotion or skill and talking about it during their morning circles. They are using a book series called, *A Little Spot of Emotion*, to help teach the students about various emotions, how to recognize them, and how to respond to them.

Mrs. Ashley Gonsler, the school social worker, visits each class once a week to build and expand on those lessons.

The 5th-grade classes also have an SEL bulletin board that helps remind them of ways to be a positive and respectful friend and student. The board includes a link to the virtual Fraser Calming Room, which students can use when they need to take a moment to regroup or calm their emotions.

## SELF-REGULATION LEARNING

The Disney Elementary 3rd-grade teachers knew coming into this school year that they would be working with students who had a variety of modes of learning over the past two years. As a part of our district-wide Universal Design for Learning (UDL), focusing on the social and emotional needs of our students was the priority beginning on the first day of school.

The teachers intentionally took students through the different emotions that they may feel on any given day. Each classroom had students identify and define emotions like joy, excitement, anger, anxiety and sadness, then identify feelings like the need for belonging or need for space in any given moment.

Once the students were able to accurately apply ranges of emotions and feelings to themselves as 3rd-grade students, the teachers created emotion necklaces to help the students communicate their emotional state to others around them. Students use colored rings on their necklaces to accurately identify the emotions they are feeling. This allows them to not only seek support but also provide support to each other throughout the day!



# PLANNING AHEAD

**NOVEMBER 24-26**

Thanksgiving Break

**NOVEMBER 29**

School Resumes

**NOVEMBER 29**

Emerson Elementary Vocal Concert

7:00 p.m.

**NOVEMBER 30**

Salk Elementary Vocal Concert

7:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 1**

Edison Elementary Vocal Concert

7:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 2**

Disney Elementary Vocal Concert

7:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 2**

Elementary Half Day

Students Dismissed at 12:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 3**

Elementary Half Day

Students Dismissed at 12:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 6**

Twain Elementary Vocal Concert

7:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 7**

Eisenhower Elementary Vocal Concert

7:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 8**

Elementary Evening Conferences

**DECEMBER 9**

Elementary Half Day

Students Dismissed at 12:00 p.m.

Afternoon & Evening Conferences

## 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.*



### Annette King

Annette is a paraprofessional at Edison Elementary and is a hugely instrumental member of our staff. Annette cares deeply about our students, and she portrays that compassion in every single interaction that she has with our Eagles. She works hard every day to ensure that all students have a safe and quality educational experience.

Annette is also highly respected amongst her colleagues here at Edison. She has a quiet confidence about her, and she brings a sense of calm to every complex situation that she is involved with. Annette is as dependable as they come, and her work ethic is inspiring. We are so lucky to have Annette as part of our Edison team!

*Submitted by Mrs. Kristy Wiegand, Principal at Edison Elementary*



### Johnna Morin

Johnna 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.

Johnna constantly goes out of her way to complete additional tasks at Eisenhower. She takes the lead on reviewing data during collaboration time with her specific grade level and truly knows what her students need in a group. Johnna has taken time to immerse herself in FastBridge and is always willing to assist others.

She takes time to connect with every student she works with and creates a positive environment in which students want to be a part. In short, Johnna will do whatever she can to support our students and staff. She helps all of us SOAR! *Submitted by Mr. Keith Tonn, Principal at Eisenhower Elementary*



### Jim Rodgers

Jim is the band director at Fraser High School and has set a standard of excellence for the program. Recently the band earned a First Division Rating at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 16 Marching Band Festival for the 20th year in a row. The FHS Marching Band is also the largest in Division 16, which includes all of Macomb and St. Clair counties, as well as part of Oakland County. *Submitted by Mr. Ryan Sines, Principal at Fraser High School*



## LUNCH & LEARN INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Beginning in October, 8th-grade students at Richards Middle School had the opportunity to participate in a lunch and learn, where Fraser High School Career and Technical Education students share some of the opportunities available in high school.

Mrs. Marti Van-I and members of the FHS HOSA Chapter visited and shared information regarding the Health Science field, provided opportunities for hands-on learning, and communicated the course pathway students would take if they remained interested in this field.

Students learned medical terminology, as well as how to take vitals, stop the bleeding, and set a sling.

The students and staff did a great job and generated a lot of excitement for our Knights about what is to come.

Additional CTE instructors and groups will be presenting to RMS students in the coming weeks to better prepare them for FHS scheduling, which will take place next March.



## Character Pumpkins

*You've heard of pumpkin pie and pumpkin bread, but have you ever heard of character pumpkins? The 1st-grade students at Mark Twain Elementary sure have!*

The students in Mrs. Mary Palus's and Mrs. Kelly Widmer's classes have been learning about the story elements of fiction writing, including characters, setting, theme and how to identify the problem and solution in stories.

One of the activities the students did during this unit was to make character pumpkins. First, the students each chose a book to read. Then, they chose a character from the story. While they read, the students looked for clues the author used to describe the character's personality. Next, the students decorated a pumpkin to look like their chosen character. Finally, they brought their pumpkins to school and presented them to the class while giving a review of their book.

## FHS STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

As their first project in industrial sewing, Fraser High School students made monster tooth fairy pillows in class. The perfectly imperfect monsters will be donated to the elementary schools in our district.

This project allows students to get comfortable using a sewing machine and gain confidence to continue to progress and grow into more challenging work as the semester and year move on. It also allows them to display their own personalities as each monster is different and unique.

Students are required to make and donate at least one tooth fairy monster pillow. The monsters will go to each elementary office and passed out when students lose a tooth at school. Teacher Ms. Stacie Yokhana said she has about 26 available to donate to each school.





## Marching Band **Earns First Division** for the 20th Year!

*Congratulations to the Class A, 195-member Fraser High School Rambler marching band on its First Division rating in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 16 Marching Band Festival on Wednesday, October 13, held at L'Anse Creuse High School North.*

This is the 20th consecutive year that the Fraser marching band has participated in the marching band festival and earned a first division. It is a weeklong event across the state of Michigan, and a total of 33 bands from District 16 [which covers bands from all of Macomb and St. Clair counties and parts of Oakland County] participated. This adds up to over 3,200 student musicians taking the field in competition. For the 15th year in a row, the Ramblers are the largest marching band in District 16.

Three judges adjudicate the bands in the categories of music, marching and general effect showmanship. Ratings range from First Division, which is a superior rating, equivalent to the grade of an A, to a Fifth Division. Our Ramblers earned straight First Division ratings with all A's in the categories of music, marching and general effect showmanship, for a final overall rating of First Division.

Band Director Mr. Jim Rodgers would like to extend a special thank-you to a fantastic team of professionals for which he is honored to work with: Mrs. April Fiedler, Mr. Sheldon Santamaria, Ms. Shannon West, Mr. Luke Woods, Mr. George Dunn, Mr. Nick Hunter, Mr. Nick Calcaterra, Mrs. Amanda Buero, Ms. Halle Gross, Ms. Sydney Maison, Mr. Tim Eskuri, and Ms. Peyton DeSchutter. Without their professional assistance throughout the marching season, the level of student achievement would not be possible!

He would also like to thank ALL of the parents for their support and assistance throughout the season. Finally, thank you to all of the staff for their support of our students.

## APPLE ORCHARD FUN AND LEARNING

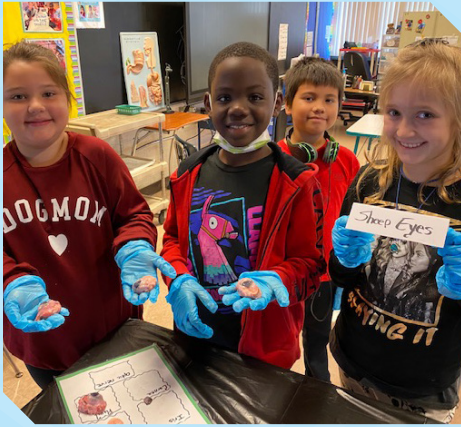
In October, the Salk Elementary 1st-grade classes of Mrs. Tracey Bell and Mrs. Kathryn Kowalkowski enjoyed their first field trip in two years! Westview Orchards enthusiastically greeted the classes with a long wagon ride through the orchards and a stop to pick apples.

Along the way, students learned what happens at an orchard. First, the trees are grown. In spring, blossoms form. Then, these blossoms turn into small apples. As time progresses, these apples grow and ripen. Then, starting in July, apples are harvested. The harvest continues as the different varieties ripen. Some of the apples remain at the orchard, while others are shipped to local grocery stores.

It was a beautiful, warm fall day that was perfect for picking apples and enjoying cider. The students had a great time at the orchard, watching cider be made, and were excited to ride the bus as almost all of them had never been on a bus before!







## DISSECTION FUN IN HEART CLASS

Over the last few weeks, the students in Mrs. Sherry Asoklis's HEART classes at Eisenhower Elementary have been learning about the human body. They understand how important a healthy body is to a healthy life. With this knowledge, students can choose to eat healthy, get enough exercise and get plenty of rest to keep their bodies working efficiently.

As their culminating activity, the students were able to dissect and investigate the anatomy of a sheep heart, lungs and eyes.

In 2nd grade, the students learned how the pupil works and had fun watching their pupils change size as the lights went on and off. They were also able to view the cornea, iris, lens and the optic nerve. The students were excited to show off their surgical gloves prior to investigating the sheep eyes.

The 5th-grade students had fun inflating the sheep lungs, while also understanding the route that oxygen and carbon dioxide travel in and out of their lungs: through the trachea, bronchi, bronchioles and alveoli.

The 6th-grade students have been learning about the heart. They were able to view the aorta, atrium, ventricles and the septum of the sheep heart, along with inflating the lungs.

The students know that taking good care of their heart (exercising, eating healthy and getting enough sleep) is also important to a healthy life!

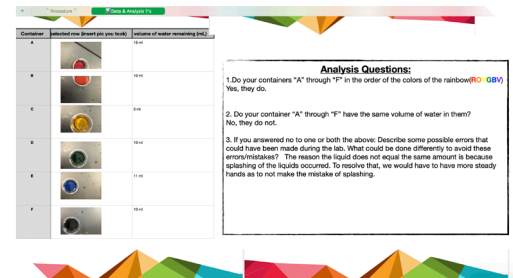
## EXPERIMENTING & DOCUMENTING IN THE CLASSROOM

Richards Middle School students in Science 7 have been diving into labs this year and learning how to talk about their results by creating videos that document their experiments.

One recent lab asked students to create three canisters filled with mass where one would end up floating, one suspending, and one sinking in water. They used these tests to calculate the density of the canisters and then shared their learning to Flipgrid. Check out one sample by visiting this [website](#).

Another lab asked students to practice their skills measuring volume. Students started

with three cups of colored liquid and were asked to follow a set of directions where they measured out multiple amounts of the liquids and mixed them in the cups. If they were successful in their measurements, they should have created six cups with an equal amount of liquid, in the colors of the rainbow (minus indigo). Students also provided analysis on why they were unsuccessful and what could be changed in the future to make the experiment work.



## THANK YOU, VOTERS

Voters in our district approved the non-homestead operating millage on November 2 for an additional 20 years. The proposal passed by a wide margin, with more than 61% of voters in favor. The unofficial results are 2,512 votes in favor and 1,583 votes against.

We appreciate the support from our community and your commitment to our district.

The 18-mill tax levy is assessed on business, commercial and rental property. It is not assessed on owner-occupied homes in the district. The tax makes up approximately \$5.7 million of the district's operating budget, which is about 9.5 percent of the total annual budget.



## FIRE SAFETY FUN

Fred Rodgers said it the best: "Play is really the work of childhood." At the Dooley Little Learners Center, they take that to heart.

During Fire Safety week, Mrs. Ellen Blanck's DK class learned all about fire safety while playing.

The activity pictured combines math and fine motor skills. Students had to spray each flame the number of times that was written on the card to put out the fire. Pumping the spray bottles works on increasing hand strength, while number recognition and having fun were also goals of the activity.



and the  
**FEA**  
Fraser Education Association

Starting at  
**\$160**  
/Day  
Long Term  
Subs

Starting at  
**\$220**  
/Day  
Retired  
Teachers

Starting at  
**\$150**  
/Day  
Building Subs

Starting at  
**\$140**  
/Day  
Daily Subs

# SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED!

**NEW RATES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 16, 2021!**

Fraser Public Schools is seeking substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year.

## Qualifications

- Minimum 60 college credit hours
- \$10/day additional for current teaching certification
- Must pass criminal background check & drug test

**JOIN OUR FRASER FAMILY!**

Apply Today

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