

# Over the Fence

## School Year Kicks Off with Focus on Learning

At the end of every August, all Fraser Public Schools employees gather to kick off the new school year with professional development and planning for the year ahead. This year, however, four busloads of staff from Tecumseh Public Schools joined the mix at Fraser High School.

Both districts received competency-based learning grants from the Michigan Department of Education. The district leaders decided to team up and share their knowledge and resources, which, on this day, meant bringing in a national speaker to lead a mini-conference.



Laura Hilger is the Director of Teaching and Learning for Knowledge Works and was the keynote speaker for the welcome-back activities. She spoke about the important job of preparing all students for the future, as well as helping staff and students find their purpose.

"Whatever your role is, why are you doing that? Why are you here?" she asked. "You can't talk about what we're going to do and how we're trying to do it, if we don't really remind ourselves about our why."

She explained that everything else in the classroom becomes clear once the why is defined — for both teachers and students.

"One of the things that I think is crucial to what you're trying to do is to remember the why and to talk about it. Talk about it as a staff; talk about it with your learners. They should be able to answer why they're learning something. But, more importantly, they should also have their own personal vision and be able to talk about their own purpose, as should you."

After the keynote, the staff spent the remainder of the day in breakout workshops led by colleagues. Dozens of Fraser staff volunteered to lead the breakouts, which covered topics across the spectrum of learning and classroom management.

"When we asked the staff if they would be interested in hosting a breakout session, we didn't know what to expect," said Superintendent Carrie Wozniak. "But, then the responses started coming in. We were overwhelmed by the number of teachers and staff wanting to host a session, as well as their passion for sharing with their colleagues."

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fraser Families,  
September is winding down and everyone is getting back into the swing of the school year. As I settle into the role of Superintendent, I am even more focused on the learning happening in our district and sharing it with our community.



As you will see in this newsletter, we had a fantastic kickoff to the new school year. Our district is always focused on learning, but this year we want to make sure all of our parents and community get an inside look at how it is designed within our classrooms.

Each year we host a welcome back event for all of our staff, which is two days of professional learning and development before the students return to school. This year, after a keynote address from a nationally-renown learning specialist Laura Hilger from Knowledge Works, we had Fraser educators volunteer to host breakout sessions for their colleagues. The excitement these educators had to share about what is working in their classrooms is awe-inspiring. It reminded me that the resources we have within our district should be celebrated and shared with a larger audience.

You are all invited and encouraged to participate in the conversation our educators are having about student learning. Follow @FraserLearning on Twitter, where teachers in our district will share what inspires them about learning and moments of pride in student learning.

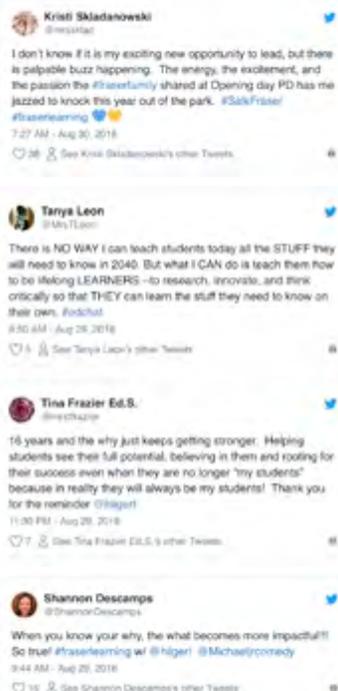
We will also be sharing more stories about learning and what we refer to as the *Fraser Difference* in our newsletters, on our website, and on social media. I encourage everyone to bookmark our pages, follow along with our journey, and share stories of your own or your child's educational experiences in Fraser.

As always, we look forward to continuing to learn and grow together as a Fraser Community.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Wozniak

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

We captured a few tweets from our Welcome Back event from some of our teachers and administrators. See what they had to say about the day in their own words!



# CURRICULUM CORNER

## EUREKA MATH COMES TO RICHARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Seventh-grade students will experience many new things during their first year at Richards Middle School, but at least one thing will be familiar — Eureka Math. The district already uses the math program in grades DK–6. The Board of Education approved expanding the program to 7th grade this year. Teachers received professional development and training during the summer, and will have additional training throughout the year.

Eureka Math was designed by the Great Minds Initiative and allows for customized learning. The program introduces new concepts and builds on previous concepts. This helps students to fully understand a concept and not just learn something once and move on. Next year, the program will expand to 8th grade in our district.

To ensure everyone starts off the new school year on the right path, the district

has updated the Eureka Math page, [www.fraser.k12.mi.us/EurekaMath](http://www.fraser.k12.mi.us/EurekaMath). Parents will find curriculum road maps, competency overview charts, parent tip sheets and activities for parents and students to work on at home. Information will be added to this page throughout the year so check back often.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



## Eureka Math in DK

Dooley DK students began the new school year starting the Eureka Math program. Their first lesson was sorting.

The students matched two objects that were exactly the same. The children are introduced to sorting and classifying in preschool math. These activities help develop logical reasoning skills and demonstrate independent thinking.

Using manipulatives is exciting for children. Manipulatives are tangible examples of abstract concepts. As the children sort the items they also develop language skills while sharing how the objects were the same with classmates.

DK students enjoyed this fun, interactive lesson and are off to a great start this school year!

## The Fraser Difference Video Unveiled

“Fraser is such a community...everybody is taking care of everybody else,” says Edison Elementary kindergarten teacher Mrs. Dina Borkowski at the beginning of this year’s district video. The Fraser Difference showcases the journey from elementary school to middle school to high school and finally graduation.

Parents, teachers and students tell the story of what makes Fraser Public Schools different: a place where caring teachers and staff make learning fun, safe and supportive, and where students have opportunities to pursue their interests.

The video debuted at the Welcome Back event for staff and is available on the district’s [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels, as well as posted on our [website](#) and [pages](#).



“Fraser is such a community...everybody is taking care of everybody else.”

— MRS. DINA BORKOWSKI  
Kindergarten Teacher, Edison Elementary

# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Nearly 5,000 students kicked off the new year at Fraser Public Schools on September 4. Students caught up with old friends, checked out new playground equipment, and said hello to their principal.

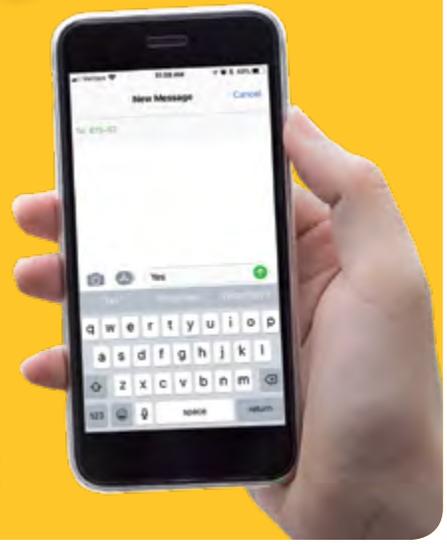


## LOVE FRASER PUBLIC SCHOOLS? **BECOME A FRASER AMBASSADOR!**

We're looking for volunteers who are passionate about Fraser to help provide us feedback, share our story with the community and more. If you're interested in becoming a Fraser Ambassador, visit [www.fraser.k12.mi.us/Ambassadors](http://www.fraser.k12.mi.us/Ambassadors) for more information!

## OPT-IN TO RECEIVE TEXT MESSAGES

Text 'YES' to 67587 to receive text message alerts from Fraser Public Schools.



# Fraser Hosts Belgian Flag Dancing Group

The Fraser High School Color Guard and Coach Amanda Buero gave a Fraser welcome to the Belgian flag dancing group Symbolica. During their visit to the United States, the group stopped in Fraser for several days, rehearsing with the FHS Color Guard and finally performing a combined show.

Despite language barriers, the two groups quickly broke the ice and worked well together. The FHS Color Guard taught Symbolica members the FHS fight song routine, and performed two routines from their upcoming show. Symbolica followed with at least an hour-long performance. The show ended with a combined performance of the FHS fight song and reception in the Fra Café hosted by the band boosters.

"If there was a downside to the evening it was that, even though it ran longer than we anticipated, it seemed to end too soon," said Richards Middle School Teacher Ms. Colleen Kunert, who also hosted some of the Symbolica members during their visit. "It was the kind of evening that makes Fraser Public Schools the unique, awesome place we know it to be."



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— MS. COLLEEN KUNERT  
Teacher, Richards Middle School



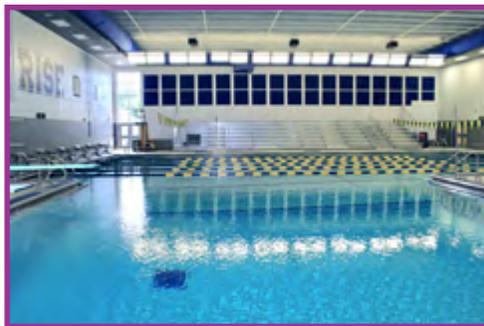
Board President Laura Edghill ceremoniously cuts the ribbon before the girls' swim and dive meet September 11 to officially reopen the Fraser High School pool. With her, from left, are Vice President Jim Birko, Secretary Linda Corbat, and Trustees Scott Wallace, Dan Stawinski and Todd Koch.

# Pool Grand Reopening

After nearly six months of renovation, the Board of Education cut the ribbon to officially reopen the Fraser High School pool. The ceremony was held before the start of the first girls' swim and dive meet of the season on September 11. Parents and members of the boys' team were also present.

Superintendent Carrie Wozniak thanked the community for supporting the 2017 Fraser Difference bond. The bond allowed for the first major renovations to the pool since it opened more than 40 years ago. Improvements include all new tile in the pool, on the deck and walls, new dehumidification system, new filtration system, new touchpads and full color scoreboard, sound-absorbing ceiling, and improved sound system. The adjoining locker rooms were also renovated.

Fraser Aquatics has also resumed offering lessons and open swimming times. For more information, please visit [www.FraserAquatics.com](http://www.FraserAquatics.com).



## Welcome New Administrators



### **Mrs. Kristi Skladanowski, Salk Elementary Principal**

Mrs. Skladanowski joined our district in 2009 as a 5th-grade teacher at Edison Elementary. She spent five years, from 2012–2017, as the Edison 21st Century teacher. Last year she was the Student Services Coordinator at Richards Middle School.

She earned a master's degree in education leadership from Saginaw Valley State University, and a Bachelor of Science in education from Wayne State University. She also has certificates in elementary education and school administration.

"I wanted to become a principal because of the greater impact I could and would have as a lead learner in a building. I have been afforded leadership roles in the district that provided a taste of what I would experience and have had great leaders in my life to mentor me and model these behaviors," she said.

"I am very proud to be a part of the Salk community. The students, staff and families have been extremely welcoming and supportive. I think of myself as learner-centered and look forward to the opportunities to support both students and staff as they grow and celebrate successes. I am also excited for the opportunity to reach and build relationships with more students and families in our district."

Mrs. Skladanowski is also a proud FHS graduate. Please join Fraser Public Schools in congratulating Mrs. Skladanowski on her new role in Fraser!



### **Mr. Keith Tonn, Eisenhower Elementary Principal**

Mr. Tonn has served as an elementary principal in Fitzgerald Public Schools since 2011. Prior to that, he spent 13 years as a 5th-grade teacher at Mound Park Elementary in Fitzgerald.

Mr. Tonn has master's degrees in classroom teaching and principalship from Saginaw Valley State University, as well as a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Wayne State University.

"My own children are now at RMS and have attended Fraser Public Schools since kindergarten," Mr. Tonn said. "As part of this community, I have been consistently impressed with Fraser's vision, mission and supporting programs. So much so, that I often referenced these programs in my previous district. When given the opportunity to serve in this district and as Eisenhower's new principal, I couldn't pass on the opportunity."

"The thing I'm looking most forward to this year is building positive relationships with the students, families, and staff at Ike, while continuing the proud traditions of this community."

Please join Fraser Public Schools in welcoming Mr. Tonn to our Fraser Family!



### **Ms. Jane Sturgell, Special Education Supervisor**

This new administrative role directly supports the Special Education Director and all nine schools in our district. Ms. Sturgell joined our district in 2004 as a school psychologist, and in the last 14 years has worked in every building. She also served as the district-wide Alternative Assessment Coordinator and Multi Tiered Systems of Support Consultant.

Ms. Sturgell has both bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Central Michigan University, as well as a specialist certificate in School Psychological Services.

"I am really excited to give our staff, students and families that extra layer of support so we can continue to make sure we're doing what's best for kids," she said.

Please join Fraser Public Schools in congratulating Ms. Sturgell on her new role in Fraser!

## HOSA Members Teach Sidewalk CPR

While car enthusiasts admired the vintage automobiles at the Woodward Dream Cruise, Fraser High School HOSA members were teaching the public how to save lives.

Five HOSA members — Shelbie Schwall, Brianna Daley, Victoria Kovacs, Rachel McMenamin and Ella Baranski — teamed up with the Ferndale Fire Department to teach Sidewalk CPR. This hands-only CPR method focuses on the few minutes between a cardiac event and the time paramedics arrive. It takes only a few minutes to teach, and throughout the day the FHS students reached more than 725 people.

"It was really fun," said Brianna. "I'm already looking forward to next year."

HOSA-Future Health Professionals is an international organization for students interested in healthcare careers. The group focuses on community service, leadership, education and competition.



## PLANNING AHEAD

- OCT. 1 Powder Puff Football Game**  
Fraser Stadium, 7:00 p.m.
- OCT. 3 Count Day** – The State of Michigan uses attendance records from today to determine funding for our schools. Please plan on sending your students to school today.
- OCT. 5 RMS & FHS Early Release**  
**RM:** 8:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**FHS:** 7:30 a.m. – 11:44 a.m.
- OCT. 5 Homecoming**  
**Pep Assembly:** FHS Gym, 4:00 p.m.  
**Parade:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Football Game:** 7:00 p.m.
- OCT. 6 Homecoming Dance**, RMS Gym
- OCT. 9 Tri-M Music Honor Society Inductions**, FPAC
- OCT. 16 Early Release All Levels – District Provided Professional Development Elementary:** 8:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
**DK:** 8:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
**ECSE – AM class:** 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  
**PM Class:** 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
**RMS:** 8:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**FHS:** 7:30 a.m. – 11:44 a.m.
- OCT. 18 RMS Half-Day Conferences**  
Half Day, 8:05 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.  
Conferences, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- OCT. 20 Fall Craft Show**, 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., \$2 Entry
- OCT. 24 5th Grade Song Flute Concert**, FHS Gym
- OCT. 24 NHS Inductions**, FPAC
- OCT. 27 Marching Band Extravaganza/Senior Show**, FHS, 1:00 p.m.
- OCT. 31 Early Release All Levels – District Provided Professional Development Elementary:** 8:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
**DK:** 8:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
**ECSE – AM class:** 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  
**PM Class:** 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
**RMS:** 8:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**FHS:** 7:30 a.m. – 11:44 a.m.

# miXed Nuts



*A Comedy By Simon J. Donoghue & Nancy Manera*

**Friday, November 9**

7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 10**

2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

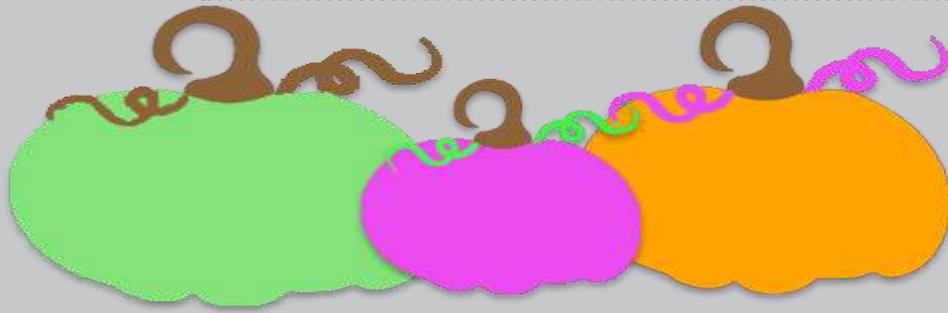
## **TICKET INFORMATION**

[www.frasertheater.org](http://www.frasertheater.org)  
(586) 439-7312

## **FRASER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

Fraser High School  
34270 Garfield Road  
Fraser, MI

**TICKETS ON SALE OCTOBER 1ST**



FRASER HIGH SCHOOL

*Athletic Booster Club's*

ANNUAL

CRAFT AND VENDOR  
SHOW

SATURDAY

**Oct. 20**

**2018**

10 AM – 4 PM

*Fraser High School*

34270 GARFIELD RD.  
BETWEEN 14 & 15 MILE ROADS

**ADMISSION: \$2.00**

CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER *FREE*  
(no strollers please)

OVER 150 ARTISTS AND EXHIBITORS!