

# Over the Fence

## FRASER PUBLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATES SCHOOL BOARD LEADERS

January is School Board Recognition Month and Fraser Public Schools is joining 545 local and 56 intermediate school districts across the state to thank these outstanding community volunteers for their untiring dedication to public education.

"Our School Board dedicates countless personal hours to attend meetings, school functions and hours of preparation for the decisions they make," said Dr. David Richards, Superintendent of Fraser Public Schools. "Our outstanding Board is committed to the continuing success of our schools and our students in Fraser."

As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges on a regular basis. They are described as having the most important volunteer jobs in the country and facing the toughest challenge in elected American government.

"Our Board of Education members come from a variety of backgrounds, yet they all share one common purpose: helping our students achieve in school and life," said Dr. Richards.

Fraser Public Schools recently said farewell to long-time Board of Education member Carole Bannister when she retired after serving for over 35 years. This month, Fraser Public Schools congratulates Mr. Ron DeVillano on his reappointment to the Board of Education and welcomes Mr. Todd Koch as a newly elected trustee.

During this month, Fraser Public Schools teachers, students and parents have joined together to say "thank you" to this dedicated group of individuals. From special video presentations to over-sized banners and handmade cards, the Board of Education has been celebrated for its tireless efforts to ensure all students are afforded the best educational opportunities.

"I proudly ask the community to join me in saluting these education advocates as they provide vision and leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding and school facilities in Fraser Public Schools," said Dr. Richards.



**Back Row (L to R):** Todd Koch, Trustee; Ron DeVillano, Treasurer; Gerard Gauthier, President; Jim Birko, Secretary  
**Front Row (L to R):** Kathy Roberts, Trustee; Laura Edghill, Vice President; Linda Corbat, Trustee

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fraser Families,

I hope the New Year is off to a wonderful start for you and your family. At Fraser Public Schools, we have been hard at work with the implementation of year one of our District strategic plan which calls for the development of structural framework to allow students

to move through their academic learning based upon demonstration of competency in each of the subject areas. According to the education experts at **Competency Works**, Competency Based Learning (CBL) refers to systems of instruction, assessment, grading and academic reporting that are based on students' demonstrating that they have learned the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn as they progress through their education.

In public schools, competency-based systems use state **learning standards** to determine academic expectations and define "**competency with proficiency**" in a given course, subject area or grade.

#### Key Components of CBL from Competency Works:

- Students advance upon mastery.
- Competencies include explicit, measurable, transferable learning objectives that empower students.
- Assessment is meaningful and a positive learning experience for students.
- Students receive timely, differentiated support based on their individual learning needs.
- Learning outcomes emphasize competencies that include application and creation of knowledge, along with the development of important skills and dispositions.



# CURRICULUM CORNER



As a part of the District's 2014–2017 Strategic Plan, Fraser Public Schools has adopted a new Learning Management System (LMS). The new LMS, *itslearning*, will offer a unique platform to provide flexible, standards-aligned courses for students.

"Based upon our K–12 needs, Fraser Public Schools was able to identify and adopt *itslearning* as our LMS," said Ms. Carrie Wozniak, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. "The District is in the midst of developing a K–12 curriculum focused on the competencies that demonstrate what we want a Fraser graduate to

know and be able to do, which is why the decision to move forward with *itslearning* is so important."

The first goal of the District's strategic plan states: Fraser Public Schools will customize the learning experience through the implementation of competency-based learning. Through adopting this new LMS and a common language, Fraser Public Schools students will soon have the ability to learn with options of choice, flexibility and personalization anytime, anywhere.

"As identified in our strategic plan, we want to create a flexible learning environment for our students; therefore, we needed an LMS that not only provides students with content and resources beyond the traditional school day, but also serves as a place for teachers to design and store curriculum in a meaningful way," said Wozniak.

Currently, *itslearning* is being piloted in grades 3–6 in Fraser Public Schools. Teachers in these grade levels have created a homeroom class within *itslearning* for students to access content, calendars and other resources. During the third trimester, the District's fourth-grade teachers will begin piloting course content.

"*itslearning* not only provides our teachers with the ability to deliver content and manage courses, but also provides our staff with a curriculum management piece that other learning platforms didn't offer," said Wozniak.

As the process with *itslearning* continues to unfold, Fraser Public Schools encourages you to stay connected. **Click here** to learn more about *itslearning* or visit [www.fraserk12.mi.us](http://www.fraserk12.mi.us) to review the Fraser Public Schools strategic plan.

## Koch Elected to Board of Education



Mr. Todd Koch took the oath of office and was welcomed to the Fraser Board of Education on January 12, 2015. Todd ran in the November election and successfully won a position on the Board.

Todd joins the Board as an active Emerson Elementary parent, eager to serve the District in which his children attend. Todd, who holds a Master's in Business and Administration degree from Walsh College and is a forfeiture investigator for the Department of Justice, will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with him to the Board.

Todd's interest in serving on the Board sparked after serving on the Strategic Planning Committee for Fraser Public Schools during the 2013–2014 school year. When campaigning for a position on the Board, Todd's family and friends heavily advocated on his behalf. Now that the election process is over and he has taken the oath of office, Todd says he looks forward to meeting more people in the community as he serves the families of Fraser Public Schools.

Todd and his wife Maria, along with their two daughters Norah and Lucy, proudly reside in Fraser.

## Students in CBL Courses Take Early Exams

Over 1,100 early exams were taken at Fraser High School this month as a result of the success of students in Competency Based Learning (CBL) classes.

"By teacher invitation and parental approval, students who have proven their knowledge on all of the critical competencies have the opportunity to test early," said Dr. Michael Lonze, Principal of Fraser High School.

A CBL course at Fraser High School focuses on competencies that students must work towards proving knowledge. CBL allows students to demonstrate their understanding of the academic content.

Currently, over 70 percent of core classes at the High School are CBL.

"To qualify, students had to have met all of the critical competencies in the course with a minimum score of 60 percent on each competency, and a minimum of 80 percent in the course overall," said Dr. Lonze.

In addition to finishing exams earlier than scheduled, students who qualified and tested early were able to pace out their testing schedule for their remaining exams.

Additionally, this process also allowed extra remediation for the students who did not complete their exams early, but rather, used the time to garner additional classroom support.



"By teacher invitation and parental approval, students who have proven their knowledge on all of the critical competencies have the opportunity to test early."

DR. MICHAEL LONZE, PRINCIPAL OF FRASER HIGH SCHOOL.

# HealthierUS School Challenge Awards FPS Elementary Buildings



Five of Fraser's elementary buildings are making headlines by working to support and improve the health of our students and our community. As part of their efforts, healthy items are featured on their menus, and physical education and activity are emphasized. Their efforts are part of the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSCC).

Disney, Edison, Eisenhower, Emerson and Salk qualified for the bronze-level HUSCC award this school year. Fraser's Food Service Director Ms. Carrie Morfino led the HUSCC application process. In the 2012–2013 school year, Twain proudly received this distinction, as well.

The HealthierUS School Challenge is a voluntary national certification initiative for schools participating in the National School

Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. It supports First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move* campaign by recognizing schools that are creating healthier school environments through their promotion of good nutrition and physical activity.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

*Continued from page 1*

In Fraser Public Schools, our goal is to take the necessary steps to create a learning environment that allows our students to move at a learning pace that is personalized and customized for each child. Developing a competency-based learning model is a tremendous challenge for a traditional public school system, given our current model has always been based upon a cohort model where students are assigned to a grade level depending upon their age and progress through their academics at the same pace as their classmates — regardless of whether they have demonstrated the ability to learn at a different pace or if they require additional time to show mastery of the content.

When I consider the driving force behind the need to create this new learning model in our District, I think about the many families I know who have more than one child attending our schools. Each of these children are unique and wonderfully gifted in their own special way. They each have particular strengths and areas that need additional support. Yet, we ask each of them to learn at the same pace as their fellow

classmates and lock them into a grade level and a fixed amount of time they must attend school. I realize this is the model that we all experienced as students; however, this model no longer fits today's students and their learning needs. Learning is happening in a very different way than when we attended school. Students access learning from a variety of resources and using whatever tool (phone, iPad, book, etc.) that best suits their learning style. As a school district, we have to respond to this new model by developing systems and instructional practices that allow students to "move on when ready" during their academic careers.

In this edition of our District newsletter, you will see several articles regarding the steps we are taking to develop this new system. In addition, you will begin hearing more from your classroom teachers, building principals, Board of Education members, and central office administrators regarding the challenges we are facing, our progress towards our goals, and the success we are experiencing.

If you have questions regarding our strategic plan or our work with competency-based learning, please email me at [david.richards@fraserk12.org](mailto:david.richards@fraserk12.org).

With Fraser Pride,  
**Dr. Richards**

## School Messenger Text Alert Feature

In addition to phone calls and emails, the District uses text message alerts in the event of a school closing or school emergency. Text messages will be sent to parents who opt-in to receiving text messages.

### OPT-OUT OF TEXTING:

If you wish to opt-out of receiving text messages, please visit <http://schoolmessenger.com/txtmsg/> and fill in your information to remove your number from the list.

### OPT-IN FOR TEXTING:

If you wish to opt-in to receiving text messages from FPS, send a text to the short code **68453** with the word "subscribe" in the body of the text. After sending, you will receive a response text indicating that you have been registered.

If you sent a text to **68453** and did not receive a response that you are registered, you may not have short code messaging enabled on your mobile account. To test, text **HELP** to **68453**. If you still do not receive a response, please contact your phone provider.

To update your cell phone number, please contact the main office at your school to update your information.

**STAY IN THE KNOW!**  
WITH THE NEW  
SCHOOL MESSENGER  
TEXT ALERT FEATURE



## FCAT Panel for RMS Quest Students

On January 12, Richards Middle School's seventh-grade Quest students attended a special panel presentation hosted by the Fraser Community Action Team (FCAT) Coalition. The panel, which featured FPS Police Liaison Officer Lisa Pettyes, RMS Assistant Principal Kris Robinson, and Linda Zott with CARE, addressed important topics such as bullying, sexting and social media. Additionally, students also heard from FHS Assistant Principal John Commyn and FHS senior Kristin Siciliano. The purpose was to ensure students remain aware of the policies and consequences put in place on these issues. Follow-up lessons will occur in the Quest classes at RMS, leading to future panel presentations.



## Ramblers Helping Fellow Ramblers

After dismissal time at Fraser High School, the media center remains busy with students and staff on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. This is thanks to a new after-school tutoring program that has started, allowing FHS students the opportunity to tutor their Rambler peers.

A process that originally began at the school year's August orientation, students signed up for the opportunity to tutor other high school students. A completely volunteer-oriented group centered on giving back, the after-school tutoring program features a number of student tutors that donate their time week after week, with anywhere between 30 and 40 students looking for tutoring assistance.

"I like helping people and sharing my knowledge," said sophomore and volunteer tutor Madison Nuorala. "I am helping someone understand something that I love. I can put a different twist on it to hopefully help other students grasp the concepts."

The group features several recurring tutors, including Nuorala, sophomore Stewart Mitchell, and junior Angelica Bacol. Subjects for tutoring help range from the core classes to foreign languages and even some electives.

"We are building a more personal relationship where we not only get work done, but also we're friendly with each other. It makes school a lot easier if you can come get help without feeling judged," said Nuorala.

The high school's administrators, along with several high school teachers, have teamed up to make sure the after-school tutoring opportunities continue for the high school students. For more information on how to get involved, contact Assistant Principal Huston Julian at [Huston.Julian@fraserk12.org](mailto:Huston.Julian@fraserk12.org).



# ANNUAL REVERSE RAFFLE

TO BENEFIT THE FRASER ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

*An exciting evening to share with family, friends and co-workers, complete with light dinner and additional raffles.*

### PRIZES

\$7,500 to Last Ticket Drawn

\$1,000

\$750

\$500

\$250

1st Ticket Drawn: \$100

Every 10th Ticket Drawn: \$100

ONLY 200 TICKETS TO BE SOLD - NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. ALTERNATIVE PRIZE OF \$7,000 TO WINNER IF 150 TICKETS ARE NOT SOLD BY 4/22/15.

RAFFLE LICENSE NUMBER R29072

## Friday, April 24, 2015

### 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Fraternal Order of Police, Christopher M. Wouters, Lodge #124  
11304 14 Mile Road, Warren

**\$110 per ticket. Buy one for yourself or split with family, friends or co-workers**

For further information or to purchase tickets (checks or money orders payable to Fraser Athletic Booster Club), please contact the Athletic Department at **586.439.7252**.

- When the last five tickets are remaining, the ticket holders will be asked whether they want to split the money among themselves, or draw for 5th place.
- If the decision is to split the money, the Reverse Raffle is ended.
- If it is decided to draw again, the process will continue by asking the remaining four ticketholders the same question.
- This process continues until the remaining ticket holders have decided upon splitting the money or continuing the drawing.

#### Reverse Raffle Rules and Regulations for Ticket Sellers

1. All persons selling tickets must sign out the ticket numbers they have taken.
2. You will be provided a sheet to account for who you sold the specific ticket numbers to. This must be returned with the money.
3. Any unsold tickets must be returned, so they can be sold by someone else.
4. Tickets can be sold individually or with many names on a ticket stub.

## RMS Anti-Bullying Video Contest

Richards Middle School and the Fraser Department of Public Safety are hosting an Anti-Bullying Video contest. Any RMS student can participate in this contest.

RMS Students have been asked to create a two- or three-minute video that will help raise awareness of the consequences of bullying. Students can work in teams or individually.

The final videos will be reviewed by administration and Fraser High School students. Three to five winners will be selected. The winning videos will be played on the City of Fraser and Fraser Public Schools cable channels. The deadline for submission is end of the school day on March 6, 2015.



## See How Learning is Happening at Fraser Schools

### ONLINE STUDENT SHOWCASE NOW LIVE!

Fraser Public Schools has launched an Online Student Showcase at [www.fraserstudentshowcase.com](http://www.fraserstudentshowcase.com). As a one-to-one iPad district, learning is happening in powerful ways in Fraser. On the Student Showcase website, you will see examples of students expressing their learning in various ways. It is the hope of FPS to share our students' passion for learning with the community and beyond! The Online Student Showcase will continue to be updated throughout the 2014–2015 school year, so be sure to check back often.



## Disney Scavenger Hunt

As a treat in their writing course, Disney 5th- and 6th-graders conducted a QR code scavenger hunt. Students were asked to move about the room in search of QR codes, which would lead them to holiday-themed sentences, and to find parts of speech within the sentences. Students have been working with solidifying their use and knowledge of parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, etc. Using and reviewing these skills in an entertaining and mobile way has helped students acquire these essential writing skills.

Students were also asked to search a variety of Christmas-around-the-world websites through the use of QR codes to find common characters and traditions for the holidays. Students enjoyed learning a little about world cultures and their various holiday traditions!

## RMS Dance Benefits Local Families

On December 5, Richards Middle School had a dance with the students *Dressing to Impress*. Fun was had by the 200+ students. Even teachers were caught dancing the evening away. The cost of admission was two non-perishable food items, which were donated to Fraser families.



## FRASER Winter Movie Fest

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**



**February 6, 2015**

**7:00 P.M. AT FRASER HIGH SCHOOL**  
Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

Pop, popcorn, candy all \$1 each

### FEATURING

- Sound System
- Four Subwoofers
- Eight JBL Pro Audio Speakers
- Over 12,000 Watts of Sound
- Projection System
- Hi Resolution Image
- True LCD Technology
- 30' by 20' Screen

### ADMISSION

Adults: \$3  
Ages 6–12: \$1  
Under 5: Free

Only \$1 for anyone with a FPS Student ID

## PTO Pizza Party

Edison students and parents enjoyed their annual PTO-sponsored "Pizza with Santa" night. Students and parents played games, made reindeer food, and ate pizza. The highlight of the evening was seeing Santa and having their pictures taken with him!



## Twain Christmas Sing-A-Long

Parents and students had a great time at Twain's Christmas Sing-a-Long and Movie Night. Families brought a dozen cookies to share, wore pajamas, and snuggled in their favorite blankets. After enjoying the songs of the season, everyone settled in to watch the holiday classic, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." It was a fun-filled family evening.



## Emerson Students Thank Long Time Board Member

Carole Bannister was presented an Emerson Bulldog shirt, a poinsettia, and a "Thank You" banner signed by the Emerson students for her dedication on the Fraser School Board. Thank you, Carole!

## ★ RICHARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL ★ RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISERS

The RMS Relay For Life Club is hosting a series of community-wide fundraisers. All proceeds go directly to the American Cancer Society.



**FEBRUARY 24**  
El Charro Restaurant  
Night in Fraser  
5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

**MARCH 3**  
AirTime Fundraiser  
in Sterling Heights  
4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**MARCH 13**  
Bowling Fundraiser at  
AMF Lanes in Roseville  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
*Must register in advance*

**APRIL 25**  
All Day Scrapbooking  
Crop in RMS Cafeteria  
9 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
*Must register in advance*

For more details on any of these events, please email [tanya.leon@fraserk12.org](mailto:tanya.leon@fraserk12.org).

## The Polar Express Visits Dooley

Students at the Dooley Center had a wonderful time participating in Dooley's Polar Express Day and Sing-a-Long Day! The story *The Polar Express* got everyone into the holiday spirit. When Mrs. Claus and Mr. Conductor showed up, the children were mesmerized.



## Cold Day Challenge

Teachers at Eisenhower Elementary sent out a “Cold Day Challenge” to their students. “We may not have school today, but there are lots of learning activities you can do at home” was the challenge at the top of a list of fun learning links. The activities included reading, math, science, physical education, art and writing. The links kept the students engaged, and they had fun taking pictures of themselves participating in the activities. Their teachers loved receiving the photos. What a great way to turn a bitter cold Michigan day into a great experience!



## Let’s Play Jeopardy!



“What is the fur trade?” and “Who is Cadillac?” are the kind of questions that could be heard coming from Ms. Gainer’s third-grade classroom at Edison. Ms. Gainer and her students played Social Studies Jeopardy. Using the promethean board, Ms. Gainer designed a version of Jeopardy based on their *Meet Michigan* social studies book. The students were studying a unit which focused on the fur trade, the start of towns in Michigan, and the important people who made an impact on the history of our state. Students worked with partners the previous day on a study guide to prepare for a unit exam and Jeopardy was a fun way to reinforce what they had studied.

Ms. Gainer commented, “The students loved it. It’s a much more entertaining way for the students to study. They are engaged and think of it as a game, so they are learning without even realizing it!”

## Emerson Annual Hat and Mitten Tree

Emerson Elementary held its annual Hat and Mitten Tree collection this winter. Students donated hats and mittens to decorate the tree in Emerson’s office. The Fraser Police Department donated these items to needy local families. It was the best looking tree and it captured the true meaning of the season!



## Emerson Overflowing with Donations

Emerson’s student council organized a toy drive with the Salvation Army. Students brought unwrapped toys and put them into a barrel. The barrel was overflowing with donated toys. Emerson students and families exhibit the spirit of the holidays with their generosity – GO BULLDOGS!

# Holiday Extravaganza

## AN EPIC GOOD TIME

Elementary students throughout the District had an amazing time at the *Bob and Carl Holiday Extravaganza*. Bob, Fraser’s District tech support technician, and his partner Carl have been entertaining students, teachers, staff and parents in Fraser since 2002. During this holiday celebration, children sang, danced, and interacted with friends, teachers and their principal. Everyone got involved!

When the students were asked what their favorite part was, they answered, “EVERYTHING!” New this year, the students created their own television ad, complete with fun props.

“Best part for me is the look on their faces,” commented Bob. “These shows that we do are the best part of playing music for us. It is the most rewarding thing we have ever done. There is not a day that goes by in the District, when I am not stopped or noticed by a kid, saying something glowing about our holiday show.”



## STAY CONNECTED



Become a fan of Fraser Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the latest news and updates.



Don’t forget to check out the District’s website for a calendar of events at: [www.Fraser.k12.mi.us](http://www.Fraser.k12.mi.us)

## Disney 'Wigs 4 Kids'

Last year Disney Elementary raised enough funds to sponsor a child through "Wigs 4 Kids." Recently, they received a Certificate of Appreciation and were excited to learn good news about the child. However, it was a letter from the child that warmed their hearts. This rewarding experience reminded Disney students and staff that life is a boomerang — what you give, you get!

## StarFISH Breakfast at Salk

The StarFISH breakfast at Salk supports their Positive Behavior Support program. At the end of the first trimester, four students were chosen by their classroom teacher to be recognized for displaying the FISH Philosophy. The traits for the philosophy include "being there," "choose your attitude," "make their day," and "play." In December, the students and parents were invited to a special breakfast before the school day. Salk staff greeted the families and honored students with a special certificate and a tag for their backpack. Each certificate included a personal paragraph about the student and why they were chosen. This was a proud moment for these students, as they took photos with their teacher in the decorated cafeteria. Their recognition continues on Salk's website and morning announcements.



## Salk's Four-Week Challenge

Salk's third- through sixth-graders are spending the month of January working on a four-week typing challenge. Using the Ghost Typing application on their iPads, the students are improving their keyboarding skills by spending 30 minutes a day working through different lessons. Each lesson introduces new words and letter combinations that the students must type while the application tracks the time it takes and the errors made. Students need to score 90 percent or better to move on to the next lesson. Using external keyboards and stands allows the students to gain experience with two-handed touch typing. This practice will improve the students' typing speed and accuracy.



## Edison's 'Hour of Code'

The first-graders at Edison had a great time participating in this year's "Hour of Code." They worked together to problem solve and figure out how to be computer programmers. The boys and girls worked on *Angry Birds* and *Frozen* programs. They are already looking forward to next year!

# FRASER HIGH SCHOOL MOONLIGHT MADNESS FEBRUARY 27, 2015

7 p.m. to 12 a.m.

VINTAGE HOUSE • 31816 UTICA ROAD., FRASER, MI

INCLUDES: PASTA BAR, HORS D'OEUVRES  
ICE CREAM SUNDAES, ALL BEVERAGES AND DANCING

THE SILENT/LIVE AUCTION BENEFITS  
FRASER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITIES

21 AND OVER ONLY



For tickets, email [Ingrid.Fryia@fraserk12.org](mailto:Ingrid.Fryia@fraserk12.org)



# Absolutely Awesome Alliteration

Mrs. Schop's fourth-grade class at Twain did some "absolutely awesome alliteration" projects after learning what alliteration was. Students created 32 ice cream flavors using alliteration. After picking their favorite flavor, they recorded their voices using an online recording site to explain what alliteration was, give the name of their ice cream alliteration flavor, and to describe the ice cream. Afterward, a QR code was made and put on their poster, so other students could use their iPads to learn about alliteration in a fun way.



# Coding and Collaboration



Many classrooms at Eisenhower Elementary School participated in the Hour of Code during computer science week. Ms. Taylor's fifth-grade class did an hour of coding each day throughout the week. They even tried some unplugged activities with stacking cups and being the robot and programmer. The students enjoyed working with their classmates, teacher and principal, Mr. Metty. At the end of the week, every student in class received a certificate of completion.

# Special PBS Assembly

Twain Elementary held a very special PBS (Positive Behavior System) assembly where they were joined by representatives from the Make-A-Wish Foundation and a special visit from Santa. Macy's and Make-A-Wish teamed up for another year of the Believe Campaign. For every letter addressed to Santa at the North Pole, Macy's donated \$1 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Students from grades K-6 wrote 320 letters. Two students from each grade gave Santa their letters and shook his hand!



# Patriot's Pen



Emerson Elementary students participated in the Patriot's Pen competition sponsored by the VFW. Each sixth-grade student wrote a 300-400 word essay

on "What Patriotism Means to Them." Two students from Emerson received awards at the district level: Abby Wallace (Second Place) and Abby Jones (Third Place). Linda Mentink from the Women's Auxiliary VFW of Fraser Post 6691 stopped by Emerson to recognize all the students who participated. The students also won awards at the building level.

**EMERSON PRIZE WINNERS WERE:**

- 1st Place – Abby Wallace**
- 2nd Place – Abby Jones**
- 3rd Place – Caitlin Szulborski**
- 3rd Place – Paige Martin**

Each student did a wonderful job explaining their personal connection to patriotism in their essays. We are very proud of them!

# 3-ON-3 Basketball

Salk students in fifth and sixth grades are participating in the Salk 3-on-3 Basketball program for the fifteenth year thanks once again to Mr. Hitchings. With the help of some parent volunteers, the games are being played on Tuesday evenings. The 3-on-3 co-ed basketball program helps students to learn dribbling, passing and shooting skills. The best part of the program is learning how to work as a team by sharing responsibilities to be successful!



# Edison's Latchkey Little Artists

Edison Latchkey's Little Artists have had snowmen on their minds this winter. Each Little Artist uniquely decorated their version of "Frosty the Snowman" that can stay out all winter long. These snowmen aren't even in any danger of melting! They are nice and sturdy, withstanding whatever weather comes their way.





Photo provided by Celeste Hoopingarner

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Do you know of a Fraser alumni accomplishing great things? Contact [Nicole.Malak@fraserk12.org](mailto:Nicole.Malak@fraserk12.org) with the story!

## (Timothy) Michael Dempsey '72

Mike Dempsey, Class of 1972, enlisted in the Army, and became a paratrooper after graduating from Fraser High School. In an article published by the *Tuscaloosa News*, Dempsey rose to the ranks of sergeant major before retiring after a 30-year career. After a brief recall in 2008 assisting the reserves, Dempsey served again until a second retirement in 2009, and then began considering the pursuit of a college degree.

In January of 2011, Dempsey became a full-time student at the University of Alabama. After a series of events that attempted to derail Dempsey's pursuit of a degree, the 60-year-old graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from UA in December 2014.

Fraser Public Schools extends sincere gratitude for this former student's many years of service to our nation, as well as sincere congratulations on the receipt of his college degree.



Photo by Tuscaloosa News

## John Hoopingarner '09

John Hoopingarner, Class of 2009, attends Marian University in Indianapolis, Indiana, a school that is nationally known for its bike racing team. As a part of the cycling team at Marian, Hoopingarner is one of approximately 60 athletes on the team's roster. The top eight males and females qualify for a national team, which has included Hoopingarner for the last three years as a member of the winter cyclocross team. Recently Hoopingarner and his team raced in Texas where they won the cyclocross nationals for the third time.

Bike racing is year-round with five different disciplines: track racing, mountain biking, BMX riding, cyclocross and road racing. In order to be named overall national champions, a team must win the national Title in the individual disciplines. Hoopingarner's team has won the overall national title the last two years and is on its way to winning the third in 2015.

While continuing to race, Hoopingarner is also a member of Marian's show choir and remains focused on his studies. Fraser Public Schools is incredibly proud of this 2009 graduate.



Photo provided by Dale Miller

## Danielle Miller '10

Danielle Miller, FHS Class of 2010, has qualified for the United States Marathon Olympic Trials after her tremendous performance in the Chevron Houston Marathon on January 18.

According to an article published by Northwood University, Miller ran a time of 2:41.32 to place forty-seventh overall out of 7,133 runners. She was the thirteenth female finisher and eighth in her division of the 20-24 age group. The time standard to qualify for the Olympic Trials is 2:43.00. The trials will take place in Los Angeles, California, in February of 2016.

Miller, who attended Northwood University and double majored in International Business and Marketing, was a Delta Zeta sorority member, and an All-American in the indoor 5,000 meter with other running accolades, now runs professionally for the Hansons-brooks Original Distance Project. Additionally, she is currently chasing her Master's at Walsh College.

"Fraser High School enabled me to become the young woman I am today. I am very grateful for my time spent as a Rambler and the truly exceptional teachers, staff and faculty that have helped me to get to this point. Fraser High School provided me with a great base for academic and athletic success that I hold a great deal of pride," said Miller.

Fraser Public Schools could not be more proud of this former Rambler and all that she has achieved.

"Its been a dream come true, becoming a professional athlete. It was because of the few who believed in me and because of a great community following. I cannot even describe the happiness and overwhelming support I have gotten these past few weeks, and I am still in awe of it all!" said Miller.

## April (Phillips) Wilkowski '99

April (Phillips) Wilkowski, FHS Class of 1999, was inducted into the University of Michigan's Women's Track and Field Hall of Fame on January 16 for throwing for the University's Track and Field team.

"I am incredibly proud to be associated with Michigan athletically and academically. But to be recognized in this way, to be in the Track and Field Hall of Fame with so many incredibly talented women, is more than I ever dreamed of. I couldn't be more honored," said Phillips.

Phillips, one of five individuals inducted at the event, earned All-American nods in a pair of events during her final two seasons in Maize and Blue where she finished fourth in the indoor shot put (51-7) and 10th in the outdoor hammer throw

(194-1) during the NCAA Championships. Phillips earned the recognition three times overall, also throwing the hammer to a mark of 189-10 to earn All America status (Twelfth Place) at the 2002 championships. Phillips is a 2003 (outdoor) Conference Athlete of the Year Award recipient and earned All-Big Ten honors on five occasions. She still holds program records in the shot put (indoor: 55-0; outdoor: 53-11), 20-lb. weight throw (indoor: 63-1 ¼) and hammer (outdoor: 199-3).

"My time at FHS was great. I always felt as though the teachers were as vested in my future as I was and set me up for success. For me, the strong academic foundation I received was key for me to transition to the highly competitive curriculum at the University," said Phillips.

Fraser Public Schools is proud to call Phillips a Rambler alum!



Photo provided by April (Phillips) Wilkowski

# EXCELLENCE STARTS EARLY!



## Little Learners Preschool Open House

**FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

**9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

### **Dooley Center**

16170 Canberra (at Yew, south of 13 Mile,  
west of Groesbeck)

*Preschool, Daycare, Toddle Time and more.*

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!**

For additional program information and online registration, visit [www.gotofraser.com](http://www.gotofraser.com) and click on **Dooley Center Information**.

## DK/Kindergarten Parent Information Night

**FEBRUARY 11, 2015**

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

*Brief presentation starts at 6:00 p.m.*

### **Fraser High School Auditorium**

34270 Garfield Road (south of 15 Mile)

*Essential for parents of children entering kindergarten this fall.*

**PARENTS ONLY, PLEASE.**

To sign up for assessment and registration, visit [www.gotofraser.com](http://www.gotofraser.com) and click on **DK/Kindergarten Enrollment**.

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