

Over the Fence



OCTOBER 2014 | DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Superintendent Dr. David Richards | David.Richards@FraserK12.org



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

To the Voters of
Fraser Public Schools:



As you are aware, there is an upcoming millage request on November 4 to renew 18 mills for the next 10 years. The millage renewal is vital to

continue educational programs within Fraser Public Schools following the expiration of the 18 mills approved by voters last in 2009.

The millage renewal applies only to non-homestead property such as businesses, rental properties and second homes. **A primary residence will not be affected by passage of the 18-mill proposal.**

The millage request is equal to over 9 percent of the District's operating budget, amounting to approximately \$5 million in funding. This renewal is necessary in order to maintain the excellent educational programs we have in the District.

We hope you will take the time to become acquainted with this request. Any registered voter within the Fraser Public Schools boundaries will be able to vote on this renewal. Voting will take place November 4 at your normal voting precinct. The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. As always, thank you for your ongoing and continued support of Fraser Public Schools.

With Fraser Pride,
Dr. Richards

FRASER SCHOOLS SEEKS NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE RENEWAL

OUR REQUEST:

On November 4, voters in the Fraser Public Schools District will be asked to approve a proposal regarding the 18-mill non-homestead renewal property tax levy. This vote allows the District to continue to collect approximately \$5 million in operating funds that are vital to preserving District programs. These funds do not come from homeowners; they come from non-homestead properties within the boundaries of the Fraser School District.

- ✓ If you own and reside in a home within the Fraser District, you will NOT see a tax increase.
- ✓ Fraser voters are being asked to support the 18-mill levy as they did in 2009, 2005, 1995 and 1994.
- ✓ It is important to understand that this is NOT a new tax.
- ✓ This renewal is for a 10-year period.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

- ✓ A YES vote will result in NO tax increase to families that own and reside in a home in the Fraser School District.
- ✓ A YES vote will result in a vital renewal of 18 mills on non-homestead properties. Non-homestead properties are generally limited to industrial, commercial, business, rental and second homes.

REASON FOR THE REQUEST?

If this proposal is not successful, the District will not be allowed to do what it has done since proposal A went into effect in 1994 — levy non-homestead property taxes for operating purposes. Currently, voters in every Macomb County school district have approved similar proposals. A YES vote is necessary to preserve approximately \$5 million in current school funding.

CURRICULUM CORNER

THE 2014-2015 IPAD DEPLOYMENT PROCESS

This September marked the District's third iPad deployment for the 5,500 devices that were first rolled out to students in 2012. The District devices, purchased with funds from the bond proposal passed by the Fraser community in 2011, are collected and refreshed each summer and returned to students in grades 3–12 at the start of the school year.

With three new Apple systems implemented for the District's iPads this school year, the deployment process was a huge undertaking. However, through a joint cooperation between the District's media techs and 21st Century teachers, as well as added support from the District's Technology Department staff, iPads were in the hands of students within a few short weeks of school starting. The three new programs for this school year are outlined below:

UNDER 13 APPLE ID PROGRAM

The Under 13 Apple ID program allows teachers more flexibility in their lesson design as students can now search and download apps themselves. Because of previous restrictions set in place by Apple, no student under the age of

13 had access to an Apple ID. Now, through the new Under 13 Apple ID program and with parent consent, students in grades 3–7 have an Apple ID with the ability to download apps. Fraser's iPad management software continues to keep students safe when downloading apps.

DEVICE ENROLLMENT PROFILE PROGRAM

Apple's Device Enrollment Program (DEP) allows the iPad to be configured to the District permanently. An unintended consequence of the DEP is a device that is either lost or stolen will require a Fraser Public Schools username and password within the settings. In addition, the DEP ensures the District's devices will permanently utilize the Internet and network restrictions set in place by Fraser Public Schools.

VOLUME PURCHASE PROGRAM

The addition of Apple's Volume Purchase Program (VPP) allows over-the-air distribution. With VPP, the District's devices can be updated wirelessly. Previously, iPad updates required the District's technology department to physically



handle the devices. Now, with VPP, the District can distribute paid apps wirelessly.

The addition of these three Apple programs has enhanced the District's devices for student use. A special thanks to the staff, students and parents of Fraser Public Schools for their assistance and cooperation in the deployment of the iPads for the 2014–2015 school year. In addition, special appreciation goes out to the many parent volunteers who assisted this school year with the deployment, dedicating their time and efforts to ensure a smooth and speedy distribution of iPads.

FHS STUDENTS VISIT LOCAL PLANT FOR MANUFACTURING DAY



Fraser Public Schools is proud to have participated in the Macomb County Manufacturing Day on October 3. Through this countywide effort, 40 students from Fraser High School were able to visit Faurecia, a global leader in automotive seating, interior systems, automotive exteriors, and emissions control technologies.

The work-based learning field trip provided an opportunity for Fraser students to explore the possibilities of acquiring a high skill, high wage career in manufacturing.

"The major benefit of this experience for our students was getting an understanding of industry job titles and the responsibilities that they carry," said Mr. Brent Brasure, Department Head of Fraser High School's Career and Technical Education program.

Faurecia's staff was incredibly welcoming to Fraser Public Schools, providing an in-depth perspective for students on what it takes to have a career with the company. Fraser High School students were able to hear multiple presentations from Faurecia employees and interns, complete with a full tour of the plant. Small groups of students were able to visit a variety of hands-on stations within the plant, giving each group the

ability to see what a day in the life of an engineer, technician, mold maker, or quality control specialist would be like.

It remains a goal of Fraser Public Schools to ensure students have a variety of choices for both college and career upon graduation. Macomb County's participation in Manufacturing Day gave Fraser students the opportunity to see real world applications of their learning and possible career paths for their future.

"It has been a privilege for Fraser Public Schools to participate in the county's Manufacturing Day events, and most importantly, we look forward to providing more real-world opportunities like this for our students in the near future," said Dr. Dave Richards, Superintendent of Fraser Public Schools.



Air Force Band Performs at FHS

On Saturday, October 26, the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America Concert Band performed at Fraser High School's Performing Arts Center. This concert, free and open to the entire community, featured performances from Fraser band and choir students. The venue was packed and the music was delightful; truly a wonderful event for all that attended.

Soccer Advances to Semi-Finals, Football Earns Playoff Berth



FHS BOYS SOCCER HEADS TO STATE SEMI-FINALS

The Fraser High School Boys Varsity Soccer team won the first Soccer Regional title in school history, defeating Bloomfield Hills High School 4-3 in a shoot-out on Friday, October 24. Senior Justin Piccolo led the team to the epic win scoring three goals in the second half.

The team plays next in the State Semi-Finals against Rochester Adams. The match will be played on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Lake Orion High School.

FHS VARSITY FOOTBALL HEADS TO STATE PLAYOFFS

On Friday, October 24, the Fraser High School Varsity Football team earned their sixth win of the season and their first state playoff berth in 16 years. Not since 1998 have the Ramblers made the playoffs, but that changed on Friday when Fraser defeated Sterling Heights 42-21 in a MAC crossover to clinch a playoff spot.

The team plays at Dearborn Fordson in the first round of the playoffs on Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Congratulations to both teams! Stay tuned for next month's newsletter to read a complete season recap on all of Fraser's Varsity fall teams.



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FCAT AND T3: RED RIBBON WEEK

The Red Ribbon Campaign® is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation reaching millions of young people during Red Ribbon Week®. Always October 23 – October 31 each year, Red Ribbon Week® is a way for people and communities to unite and take a visible stand against drugs. Red ribbons and posters are visible throughout the District this week in an effort to raise awareness of the campaign's very important message. Students and staff across the District are teaming up to participate in Red Ribbon week and taking a stand against drugs.

For more information on the Red Ribbon Campaign®, visit www.redribbon.org.



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. 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.

Giving Back to the Community

Kroger store #674 located at 14 Mile and Schoeneherr has once again generously donated school supplies to Fraser Public Schools. On October 14, store personnel visited the District and dropped off over 50 pre-made school supply kits, in addition to other items, to be used for families in need of assistance within the District. On behalf of Fraser Public Schools, we extend sincere thanks to Kroger #674 for their continued support of Fraser students.



Playing for a Cause

Richards Middle School and Warren Woods volleyball teams demonstrated that they are great competitors on the court and great allies off. They recently teamed up with the RMS Relay For Life team and held a "Pink" game that raised over \$600 for the American Cancer Society. It was a great time had by all!



Eisenhower Teacher Wins Excellence in Education Award



Mr. Tom Trudeau, a fourth-grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary who is known for his knowledge of science, commitment to the environment and passion for teaching, has been honored with an Excellence of Education award from the Michigan Lottery.

Winners of the weekly award will receive a plaque, a \$500 cash prize, and a \$500 grant to their classroom, school or school district. One of the weekly winners will be selected as the Educator of the Year and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Each winner is featured in a news segment. Mr. Trudeau was featured on WXYZ-TV on Thursday, October 2.

Michigan State University basketball coach Tom Izzo has teamed up with the Excellence of

Education program. He met recently with Mr. Trudeau and his wife at the Breslin Center and presented him with the award.

Trudeau said that his favorite part of being an educator is interacting with the students.

"When I am with the students, I feel animated. I really become focused and alive, and start to enjoy the kids. The feedback is great," he said, adding that he's motivated by "the responsibility the parents place in me to prepare the students for their lives. I really like my job."

Trudeau has been an educator for 13 years, all with Fraser Public Schools, and said his experience as a parent with the District attracted him to a career in education. "My own children got such a wonderful public education in Fraser, I was bold enough to think I could be a teacher."

The nomination for Trudeau noted that "his passion to make the environment a better place is evident through his teachings. Mr. Trudeau leads the school's recycling efforts by heading up the school's environmental club, the school recycling program, and the garden area. He makes learning fun because of his passion. Everything he does is a creative outsource of knowledge that the students in his class absorb because of his teaching style."

Trudeau earned a bachelor of arts degree in education and a master of arts degree in education from Oakland University. He was recognized by the Fraser Board of Education on Monday, October 27.

It's About Kids Campaign Highlights Fraser Public Schools

The Tri-County Alliance (TCA) for Public Education is a coalition of education leaders committed to fighting for strong K-12 schools in Michigan. The TCA works hand in hand with education leaders across the state to achieve one common goal: ensuring all Michigan children have access to a quality public education. The TCA's most recent campaign, It's About Kids, highlights stories of inspiration and overcoming adversity.

The It's About Kids campaign highlights public schools in Michigan that are innovating and building partnerships throughout their communities to help kids learn and grow. Fraser Public Schools is extremely fortunate to have been one of the first district's to be highlighted by TCA in the campaign.

On Friday, October 17, the TCA launched the video **Inspired Learning: Fraser Schools**. The Tri-County Alliance will continue to showcase more districts as a part of the It's About Kids campaign. For more information on the TCA and It's About Kids, visit <http://tricityalliance.org/itsaboutkids/>.



Flexible Learning Spaces at Disney



Redesigned learning spaces are not uncommon to see in Fraser Public Schools these days. At Disney Elementary, some classrooms have been reinvented to allow more flexible spaces for learning and collaboration this school year. Predominately seen in their upper elementary classrooms, these redesigned learning spaces are giving students more choices on where to work based on their preferred learning style.

The changes to these learning spaces have resulted in an increased excitement level at Disney among students. One of biggest changes is students may not have an assigned desk like they did in the past. Student preference or

choice may now determine where and how the student will work best.

"By giving the students choice, and by mixing them with new people thus exposing them to new ideas, I have noticed that the students are very engaged," said Mrs. Kelly Newell, 5th-grade teacher at Disney Elementary. "I have especially noticed this as we run Socratic Circles — the quality of their discussions and the depth of their thinking have both increased quite a bit from what I got from students in the past."

With redesigned spaces within some of Disney's classrooms, it is not just students who are feeling the impact. Teachers now have an added flexibility with lesson design due to classroom redesign, and students are reaping the benefits.

"Student engagement is different this year because our classroom has a core meeting area that is not designed around the teacher as the focus, but rather the students as the focus. I have noticed students are doing very well with self-monitoring their own behavior because they want to continue to have freedom of choice of their learning space," said Mrs. Andrea Filip, 4th-grade teacher at Disney Elementary.



FHS Peer 2 Peer Retreat

Fraser High School's Peer 2 Peer (P2P) program recently held a retreat at Steffen's Park for new 9th-grade members to be welcomed and for all P2P students to reconnect. The FHS P2P program consists of 56 students, 22 students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and 34 "peer buddies."

At the retreat, P2P students attended and participated in the adventure activities that were specifically designed to develop and deepen social connections among the group. The activities are designed to increase a sense of trust, belonging, safety, enjoyment, challenge, communication, and empowerment, which are the seven Adventure Beliefs that guide the P2P practice. Some of the Adventure activities at the retreat were: Group Mingle, Nova Scotia Golf, Catch Me if You Can, and Snake Tag.

In addition to the retreat activities, the FHS P2P program has been in active collaboration with Professor Tony Alvarez from the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor since 2010.

Professor Alvarez has a national and international reputation for his expertise in Adventure or Experiential Education. In addition, he teaches graduate-level courses at U of M.

"Professor Alvarez works directly with the FHS P2P adult staff, guides and debriefs activities with all P2P students, as well as our 14 student Anchors in our monthly P2P meetings," said Ms. Patricia Kovacs, Social Worker and P2P Advisor at Fraser High School. "Professor Alvarez also invites graduate-level students to participate with us, thereby extending our social connections to the university level."

The P2P program has found that, by incorporating Adventure activities into their existing program, it has become a successful modality for creating vital social connections for FHS students with ASD, as well as for creating opportunities for all students to embrace and accept differences.

HOME COMING 2014

Fraser High School's homecoming week was another memorable moment in time as the student body joined together to celebrate their school pride all week leading up to the festivities on October 3. Take a moment to view some of the snapshots from the excitement!



Junior Isabell Vitale sings the National Anthem at this year's pep assembly.



The seniors win the Powder Puff game, another great homecoming tradition! Funds raised from the game are donated to the senior and junior classes.



The cheerleaders pump up the senior class during pep assembly!



The football team took the field against Rosesville, winning 31-21.



The sophomore class float throws it back to the 80's for the parade!

FHS Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction

Fraser High School students were inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society at a formal ceremony in the Performing Arts Center on October 16. The Tri-M Music Honor Society is an international music honor society designed to recognize students for academic and music achievements. The program featured keynote speaker Dr. John Feirabend and guest speaker Dr. Sara Chiesa, both Fraser High School graduates who video conferenced in for the event. Congratulations to all of the Tri-M inductees!



Tonight I Play for You

The varsity football team honored Fraser staff members that have made an impact on them by playing in their honor at the homecoming football game. Students selected a staff member and wrote them a personal letter expressing how much they appreciate all that staff member has done for them and our school/community.



FHS Broadcast Team Selected as Finalists

The Fraser High School broadcast team has been selected as a finalist for "Story of the Year" by the National Scholastic Press Association. The team did a news story about minimum wage as part of a class assignment for the PBS *NewsHour* Student Reporting Labs. The winners will be announced at the NSPA National Convention in November.



The student broadcast team invited Michigan State Representative Jon Switalski to be interviewed at the high school in the broadcast studio. Rep. Switalski sponsored a bill on raising the minimum wage in Michigan. The broadcast team also contacted the White House Press Office and received permission to use a portion of President Obama's weekly address as part of the story as well. Working with their adviser and mentors from PBS *NewsHour* in Washington D.C., the Broadcast team polished the piece.

The story is featured on the Student Reporting Labs website, FHSTheFlash.com, and now the **NSPA website** with the other finalists.

Congratulations to the Fraser High School Broadcast students for this prestigious recognition.

Fraser Marching Band Rated First Division

Congratulations to the Class AA, 235-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 8, held at Warren Mott High School.

This is the 14th straight year that the Fraser marching band has participated in marching band festival and earned a First Division rating. It is a weeklong event across the state of Michigan, and a total of 37 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 more than 4,200 student musicians taking the field in competition. For the ninth 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.

Thank you to a fantastic team of professionals that make up our instrumental department: Mr. James Rodgers, Mrs. April Fiedler, Mr. Michael Perkins, Mr. Sheldon Santamaria, Mr. George Dunn, Mrs. Amanda Buero, Ms. Hannah Novak, Mr. Joshua Coates and Mr. Nick Hunter for their professional assistance throughout the marching season. A special thank you to all of the parents for their support and assistance throughout the season as well!



Largest Ever Edison Student Council

Edison Elementary held student council elections on September 26. This year's team is the largest ever with 64 students. Congratulations to the new board members:

- Isaac Plouff**, *President*
- Leo Meatte**, *Vice President*
- Emily Plouff**, *Secretary*
- Katie Roberts**, *Treasurer*

Twain Students Have H.E.A.R.T.



Sixth grade students in Mrs. Askolis' H.E.A.R.T. (Health Education and Resource Training) class at Twain enjoyed wearing medical gloves and dissecting a sheep's heart. Fifth-grade students dissected a sheep's lung and second graders, a sheep's eye. The students love learning about the human body and this was an experience most of them will never forget. They learned about caring for their bodies by not using drugs, by exercising 60 minutes every day, and by eating healthy.



TWAIN WALK-A-THON

During Twain's recent Walk-a-Thon, Principal Ed Skowneski "clowned" around with the walkers. Students couldn't contain their giggles as they passed their principal. The Walk-a-Thon, one of the largest fundraisers of the year, was a great success. Thank you to everyone who participated and to Mr. Skowneski for making it even more fun!



Grandparents Day at Ike

Students and grandparents celebrated Grandparents Day at Eisenhower Elementary on October 1. Grandparents had the opportunity to



tour the school, take part in projects, and see what a normal day at Eisenhower is like. Eisenhower had one grandparent with six grandchildren

attending Ike! He and all the grandparents had a wonderful time seeing all the amazing things their grandchildren are doing every day at school.



DISNEY WALK-A-THON

Disney Elementary held their one and only fundraiser of the year on September 23. Pledges were made and collected after students walked their laps. The funds are used throughout the year for special events for students. This year there were 380 participants who walked 6,500 laps! A mega-party was held for those walkers who met the Walk-a-Thon challenge.

Everyone had a great time at the walk and the mega-party!
An extra special thank you to the volunteer parents, friends and relatives who made it all possible.

Emerson Anti-Bullying

On Monday, October 6, Emerson Elementary encouraged their students to wear a blue shirt in honor of Stomp Out Bullying Day which was created by Blue Shirt Day® World Day of Bullying Prevention. Throughout the day, all of the students signed a banner in the hallway promising to Stomp Out Bullying. At the end of the day, all of the Emerson students and staff formed a large circle on the playground and connected pinkies, promising to Stomp Out Bullying!



Michigan Child Protection Registry

The State of Michigan offers a free program to stop adult advertisements from reaching e-mails, mobile phones (text messaging ads) and instant messenger IDs. The Michigan Child Protection Registry, like the federal Do Not Call List, is a free do-not-contact service for Michigan's families and schools, and can be found at www.ProtectMChild.com.



Salk Students Learn About Fire Safety

Fire Inspector Mike from the Clinton Township Fire Department met with Salk Elementary students to discuss fire safety. During his presentation, the students learned about smoke alarms, fire exit plans for their houses, and how to pick a meeting place outside of their houses in case of a fire. The students were excited to go home and give their parents homework about fire safety. They will be discussing a fire safety plan with their parents, looking at and testing all smoke alarms in their houses, and practicing what to do in case of a fire. Four Salk students also won a ride on a fire truck for their home fire exit plans. Congratulations to Kyle Clay, Miranda Dobbins, Natalie King and Sophia LaDue.

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Firefighters Visit Dooley

Dooley students had a fun visit with the Roseville Fire Department on October 1. Firefighters put on their turnout suits to demonstrate to the students that it is used for safety and is not scary. They were shown the fire truck and learned about all the equipment that the fire department uses. A special thank you to the Roseville Fire Department for demonstrating safety, explaining the use of special equipment, and making the visit so much fun!



Fraser Performing Arts Center
Presents



Friday, November 14
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 15
3:00 p.m.

Friday, November 21
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 22
7:30 p.m.

www.fhstheater.org
586.439.7312



SALK FOURTH GRADE RAISES FUNDS FOR THE LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

After reading the book, *Sadako*, about a girl who has Leukemia as a result of the atom bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, the Salk Elementary fourth grade teamed up with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Michigan to raise funds for research. The students were able to make a real-life connection to the story by learning that many people get Leukemia and that research on the disease is ongoing.

Much like the story of *Sadako* which gave hope to children who were ill, the money collected for research gives students the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. Approximately \$450 was raised by the Salk students.

Incentive Goals Met at Eisenhower

Students that met their grade's behavior incentive goal for September got to attend a Magic Show at Eisenhower recently. Focusing on positive behavior with incentives has improved school climate, and given students ownership and control of their rewards and consequences. Each month grades come up with a new behavior goal and the school comes up with a new incentive to give the kids something to strive for and to reward them for their positive choices.



Eisenhower Wins the Grand Prize

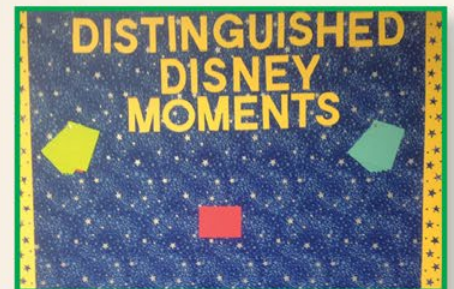


PAINTING WITH A TWIST

Representatives from Painting With a Twist stopped by Eisenhower Elementary on October 7 to present them with a \$1,000 school supply grand prize! Eisenhower learned they had won a Back to School Give Back Contest in September. Painting With a Twist also generously donated 40 paintings and art supplies for the Eisenhower Art Program. The staff and students at Ike are very thankful for being nominated by an Eisenhower parent, and for everyone that took the time to vote!

Distinguished Moments at Disney

Staff and students at Disney are taking time out to appreciate the special everyday moments. They have begun using a "Moments Board" to record special moments that occur throughout the building. Anytime someone sees a special moment, it is being posted on the board.



Edison Student Council Joins the Homecoming Parade



Edison student council participated in their first homecoming parade this year. They had 43 students to attend, and had so much fun walking, passing out candy, and supporting Fraser. Student Council Advisors Katie Clark, Liz Schmidt and Kristi Skladanowski walked with students along with their football role model recognized teacher, Tina Frazier. Karen Lentine was also recognized by the football team as a role model.