



Fraser School[®] News

A Newsletter for Parents of Fraser School Students



A message from Mary

Welcome to December! Room parents and classrooms are busy with parties and festivities – thank goodness we have room parents to help with all of it.

Some of you have asked about classroom pictures. This is a project that room parents are looking into. At least one parent has coordinated a digital picture for families.

As we approach the holidays, please note that Fraser has guidelines for staff receiving gifts. Many of you want to show appreciation for your children's teachers – which is wonderful. However, please understand that staff are not permitted to accept gifts valued over \$25. I appreciate your adherence to this rule.

Fraser School will open at 8 a.m. on Friday, December 21, so that we can hold our staff holiday breakfast. It is a tradition for us to hold a potluck breakfast and reveal secret Santas during that time.

Recently, a survey was sent out on the number of days Fraser School is open. This was a result of ideas submitted by staff members as part of our new continuous quality improvement program. The intent of the survey is to gather information. It was noticed

afterwards that we only gave two choices for you to indicate your preferences, yet didn't explain what to do if neither choice fit. Please feel free to write in comments about open/closed days.

There have been numerous toy recalls this past year. Fraser has discussed procedures to ensure that recalled toys are kept out of classrooms. We receive government notices of toys added to the recall list and forward this to classrooms, coordinators and administration. For information, visit www.cpsc.gov/. Toys R Us also has a list and pictures of recalled toys.

The Fraser School Program Committee met in November. We have an enthusiastic group. I look forward to working with them. Members have agreed to have their information published so that you can contact them. Please see minutes and roster attached.

Another enthusiastic group that has been meeting weekly is our parent yoga class. Leila DeLance, a Fraser School parent and yoga instructor, has donated a six-week class for parents at Fraser School. Parents pay with a donation to the Fraser School Staff Development Fund.

With a difficult budgeting year facing us and the fact that we want to continue to give staff increases in wages, the decision has been made to discontinue the position of the staffing coordinator. After December, Kimberli will no longer be with Fraser School. The

responsibilities of the staffing coordinator will be shared among the administrative and coordinator group. This will not affect the way in which you request extra hours. The phone number will not change – only the person who will be returning your call.

Lastly, we have had several incidences recently where children have been here past 6 p.m. Please remember that Fraser School closes at 6 p.m. sharp. The front office staff lock the main entrance (facing 64th Street) at 6 p.m. If you arrive after that time, please use the side entrance (facing Aldi's). Also remember that there are no grace periods after 6 and the fines are expensive: \$1/minute for the first five minutes and \$5/minute for any additional minutes.

Have a wonderful December and thank you for your continued support of Fraser School!
Sincerely,

Mary Waters-Cryer
Maryw@fraser.org, 612-798-8319

Schedule Notes

December 21, school opens to children at 8:00 a.m.
December 24-25
CLOSED for Christmas
December 3-January 1
CLOSED for New Year's
January 21—CLOSED
Martin Luther King Day

Fraser Needs Your Donation

Tuition paid by parents to Fraser School does not fully cover the cost of caring for the children. Fraser is a nonprofit organization. In order to continue the personal attention and high-quality care, we need financial support in the form of donations.

This year-end, please consider making a donation to Fraser. It's as easy as writing a check, using your credit card or giving online through our secure site www.fraser.org/donate.

Your tax-deductible gift will help to provide a brighter future for all of the children served at Fraser School.

Thank you for your generosity!



Save the Date — Walk for Autism

Autism has become the fastest growing developmental disability in the U.S. with 1 in 150 children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

At Fraser, we are now serving children and adults with autism in all of our programs. Unfortunately, the prevalence of autism means there is more demand for services than we can meet with our current resources. As a nonprofit organization, we need to raise additional funds to help more families dealing with autism.

Join us in the first annual Walk for Autism — Benefiting Fraser Autism Services Saturday, February 2, 2008, at Mall of America, sponsored by GMAC ResCap. Watch for information in next month's newsletter or contact Rose at 612-798-8343 or rosier@fraser.org to get involved.

Seminars - Practical information from Fraser experts

You can benefit from decades of experience by attending one of our many seminars designed for families, teachers, care providers, social workers and others who are interested in gaining practical knowledge and skills.

Social Interaction Activities

Increase the amount and quality of social interaction between children of all abilities. Learn a variety of social games that require at least two people to play. Monday, December 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fraser School, \$20 per person

Potty Training and Daily-Living Skills for Children with Autism

This seminar identifies developmental levels and appropriate skill expectations for potty training children with autism, and discusses potty training readiness and planning, tips to make potty training stress free and strategies to address other important daily-living skills. Tuesday, December 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fraser Child & Family Center, \$20 per person.

What's Next? Workshop for Families of Children Diagnosed with Autism

This seminar is designed for families of children who have been recently diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Parents, grandparents and caregivers are encouraged to attend to learn more about: the needs of children who have autism; approaches to intervention; other parents' experiences planning intervention; and community resources available to families. Thursday, December 6, 8:15-11:30 a.m., Fraser Child & Family Center (Also offered Thursday, January 17, 2008) \$30/individual, \$50/couple, \$15/additional family member.

Register by contacting Paula at 612-331-9413 or paulas@fraser.org.

Register for the above seminars by contacting Molly at 612-798-8359 or molly@fraser.org.

Give the Gift of FraserWear This Holiday Season

Children of all ages love the colorful Fraser T-shirts featuring glitter and corduroy screen printing. Available in many fun colors and sizes.



features glitter-look screenprint



features corduroy-look screenprint



Show your Fraser pride with a logo charm, necklace or earrings made of sterling silver.

To see samples, visit www.fraser.org/products or stop in the front office of Fraser School. All proceeds benefit Fraser programs.

Fraser School Program Committee

Contact Information

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Mary Waters-Cryer

Staff – Director
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Fraser School Program Committee Minutes

Monday, November 5, 2007, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Present: Liza Schwab, Amy Gudmestad, Katie Hoffman, Molly Kodl, Becky Hall, Tracy Siciliano, Kelly Lewis, Keith Swanson, Jan Luker, Mary Waters-Cryer.

1. Introductions and background sharing

Names and e-mail addresses will be published in newsletters

2. Review program committee charter

The Charter was sent out in advance in packets of information to committee members. The purpose of the committee is to be an information-gathering liaison to the board of directors. The committee is also utilized as an advisory group to the school.

3. Standing agenda items

- a. Risk management quarterly review
- b. MBO updates

These documents were distributed for review. Anyone who is interested in the information or has further questions may contact Mary. The risk management document continues to be consistent with historic data.

Amy Gudmestad gave a quick update on the room parent program: all classrooms now have at least one room parent and several rooms have two. The group met in October to share ideas for the upcoming year. They will meet again in February to check in.

Plan for this year's committee work – theme?

The group was assigned the task of thinking about a theme for this year's work – building community within our school – or something different. Ideas can be discussed online so that ideas can be put into actions either before or at our next meeting.

The group had an enthusiastic discussion around a variety of ideas for supporting classrooms and staff and ideas to improve services. The following ideas were mentioned:

- An inclusion event found on www.inclusiveschools.org
- A partnership with creative kids store to help stock the art closet
- A wish list to stock art closet or art activities in classrooms
- Healthy snacks and treats to address the obesity issue in children
- Help clean/disinfect rooms and toys
- Help to give staff “mini breaks” by helping in rooms
- Offer nutrition workshops for parents
- Rotate bringing in snacks throughout the month
- Re-visit the idea of a school-wide – or classroom directories

Wrap up, assign off-line tasks, and next meetings (Feb, May, July)
Our next meeting will be held on Monday, February 4, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
at the Fraser School building in conference room 1.