



Fraser School[®] News

A Newsletter for Parents of Fraser School Students

An Open Letter From Deedee

Dear Families,

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break. It is always nice to have a few extra days to rejuvenate and revitalize.

Just a little reminder, if you want to add extra hours, make sure to call the school's extra hours request line at 612-798-8332 or e-mail extrahours@fraser.org at least 2 full business days in advance. This gives our staff time to check with the other families' schedules and the to make sure that staffing is adequate. We will then tell the classroom staff that your child will be extending the school day and will confirm with you that the extended day will work. If you make

your request less than 2 days in advance, we will do our best to accommodate the request.

Fraser School has received some exciting news. We have been given a grant to install a small playground geared towards children younger than 2 in a corner of our large playground. The Child Care Resource and Referral will donate more than \$7,000 to the cost of the project. In addition, Fraser received a memorial last year for the same purpose. The project will include some rubberized surfacing, infant/toddler play equipment and a small fence to separate the new younger area from the older children. We hope to finish the project in spring 2009. We want to thank our development department and specifically, Lucas Kunach, who wrote the grant.

If you are thinking about getting your child's teachers a gift for the upcoming holidays, please make sure that the cost is less than \$25. Since Fraser is a nonprofit organization, we must abide by legislation prohibiting the cost of gifts that employees can accept. Other options that you may want to consider

are to give the classroom something special or to make a donation to Fraser.

One additional reminder... make sure to bring snow pants, boots, coat, hat, and mittens for your child **labeled with his/her name** to school with your child. It is important to label the clothing items because many children wear the same or similar clothes and may get them mixed up as they are all trying to dress and undress.

Finally, make sure to check out the holiday gathering that Fraser School will be hosting and arrange your schedule if you would like to attend.

Thanks,

Deedee Stevens Neal
deedees@fraser.org
612-798-8319



Schedule Notes

**December 24, 25, 26—
CLOSED for winter break**

**January 1—CLOSED
for New Year's Day**

The Fraser School calendar can be found at
www.fraser.org/calendar

Holiday Gathering...

You are cordially invited to our upcoming holiday event. On December 9, all the children will be gathering in the gym at 9:45 AM to sing songs and await the arrival of a special guest....



Santa should be arriving at about 10:00 AM and will be going to each gathered classroom in

the gym and giving each child a sticker.

You are welcome to join us if your schedule allows.

The holidays are here!

Gather friends, family members or co-workers together and purchase gifts from a Fraser Wish List. To view sample Wish Lists please visit www.fraser.org/donate. For more information and a complete list, contact Amber at 612-798-8327 or AmberB@fraser.org. Thank you!

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, candles will be the source of more than 1,600 home fires during the holiday season. Christmas trees also pose a potential risk: they are involved in more than 360 fires every year.



Tipsheet: Toy Safety

This list of safety suggestions was developed by the Children's Home Society of Minnesota. For additional information on toy safety, contact The Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-CPSC.

Safety Suggestions:

- Use recommended age labeling as a guide and look for warnings and other safety messages on toy packaging.
- Consider your home environment and the ages of other, particularly younger, children in the family. A toy intended for an older child may be unsuitable and possibly dangerous in the hands of a younger child.
- Be especially careful when selecting toys for children under the age of three or children who are still mouthing objects. Avoid toys with small parts that could be swallowed or inhaled, including small balls, and those with sharp points or rough edges.
- Make sure that soft rattles, squeakers and teething toys, even in their most compressed state, are too large to fit completely in an infant's mouth.
- Check for sturdy, well sewn seams on stuffed animals and cloth dolls. Be certain that eyes, noses, buttons, ribbons, and other decorations are securely fastened and cannot be pulled or bitten off.
- Choose electric toys with heating elements only for children over the age of eight and instruct them to play with those toys only when there is adult supervision.
- Look for the words "machine/surface washable" on stuffed and cloth toys and "UL (Underwriters Laboratories) Approved" on electrical toys.
- Purchase a toy storage chest that has a removable lid or a spring loaded support, allowing the lid to remain securely open. Check for smooth, finished edges, proper air holes and hinge line clearances to prevent pinched fingers.

Fraser Needs Your Donation

Tuition paid by parents to Fraser School does not fully cover the cost of caring for the children. 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!

**Meet the Staff of...
The Ladybug Classroom**



Heather Deveny-Leggitt



I grew up in St. Louis Park with my sister and parents. I attended college at UW-Madison in Wisconsin and received degrees in psychology and English. I currently live in



Minnetonka with my husband, who I was married to just this past September. I have been with Fraser for two and a half years and in the Ladybug classroom as lead teacher for one and a half years. I have been working with children in some capacity since I was young, whether babysitting or working with a youth group. One of the things I enjoy about working at Fraser is listening to the discussions or insights children have. Whether they are having a conversation you would expect from a middle-aged couple about how the bathroom remodeling



is going at home. Or a self-confident hand raised in the air, regarding a lesson about “on purpose” and “accident,” where the child knows that an accident is when “some one wets their pants.”



Casey Keller



I grew up in a small town in North Dakota. I have three older sisters and one younger brother. I currently live in ‘Uptown’ with my fiancé, Nick.



I attended college at NorthWest Technical College in Moorhead, Minn, and earned a degree in practical nursing. I also studied pre-primary elementary education at Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minn. I have been working with children for the last four years. I recently got engaged and am staying busy planning our wedding! I have worked at Fraser with Heather in the Ladybug room for one and a half years and truly enjoy what a team we make. I am grateful for the patience and understanding that the children at Fraser have taught me. I feel as if I have also grown along with the “friends” that have come and gone through the Ladybug room. I can’t help but smile when I think of all the precious faces I get to see everyday.



Kindergarten Readiness

Even though it doesn't seem possible, it is time to start thinking about the 2009-2010 school year. If your child will be old enough for kindergarten, you may want to start researching what kindergarten options are available and start visiting the various options.

Following is a basic guide from the Minneapolis Public School District that lists some skills that your child may need to work on before the transition to kindergarten.

Can your child...

Group Skills

- Listen to stories without interrupting?
- Follow simple two and three step commands?
- Sit still with hands and feet to self in a group?
- Attend and follow through on adult-directed tasks?
- Pay attention to own tasks for 15 minutes?

Self Help Skills

- Handle own bathroom needs?
- Dress self completely? Zip own coat and back pack? Put on boots and snow pants?
- Tie shoes or have velcro/slip on shoes?
- Put toys and possessions away?

Social Skills

- Easily share with others?
- Able to ask for help?
- Wait and take turns?
- Follow rules?
- Recognize and follow authority?

Emotional Skills

- Appropriately express both positive and negative feelings?
- Make decisions?
- Handle minor frustrations without crying?
- Separate easily from parents?

Fine Motor Skills

- Manipulate small objects with both hands?
- Cut with scissors?
- Hold and use pencil/crayons/markers?
- Copy basic shapes?
- Glue an object on paper?

Gross Motor Skills

- Walk in a straight line?
- Run and jump?
- Bounce and kick a ball?

Speaking Skills

- Label familiar objects, people, and actions?
- Speak in complete sentences of 5-6 words?
- Able to ask questions for information?
- Recite nursery rhymes or songs?

Pre Reading Skills

- Look at and be interested in books?
- Enjoy hearing stories, poems, and rhymes?
- Look at pictures and tell a story?
- Answer questions about a short story?
- Recognize own name?
- Identify at least the letters in their name?

Pre Math Skills

- Recognize and name basic shapes?
- Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape?
- Demonstrate the concept of more or less?

The Fraser School program committee and school staff are working on a list of resources of public, private, and charter schools that are in the area. As you are looking for your own child's kindergarten, please pick up additional information from the schools that you are touring and bring it back to the school director. We will compile the information and make it available to all the families of preschool children that attend Fraser School. Thank you for your help!