



Fraser School News[®]

A Newsletter for Parents of Fraser School Students



A message from Mary

Happy March! At last it has warmed up a bit and the children have been able to get outside to enjoy all of our new snow. Let's hope that it doesn't last too much longer though – we all get anxious for spring weather by this time of the year.

We have a wonderful new play structure in the gym thanks to a grant through the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association. In addition to the climbing structure, we will receive other pieces of large motor equipment throughout the month.

The registration forms to ensure a spot for summer and fall were due Friday, February 23. The process for scheduling children has already begun. If you have not returned paperwork, please send it in right away.

The Fraser School Program Committee met in February – the meeting summary is attached. If you have any questions about the committee, please feel free to contact me. Also, just a reminder that each classroom has a room parent who helps organize classroom communication and activities. If you are new to a classroom, please ask the teacher to

connect you with the room parent.

We are very busy preparing for a full licensing visit some time this spring. Some new mandates have been put into place this year – one being that we need name brands and serial numbers on each crib in the infant room. This means we need six new cribs. Donated cribs would be wonderful – but we do need to check sizes as there are also regulations for how much space needs to be between the cribs. If you have a crib to donate, please contact me. Monetary donations for cribs would also be very helpful since we did not budget for six new ones this year.

Please check the lost and found for anything that might belong to you. We will be donating all leftover items to Arc Value Village after March 12.

Thank you for your participation in February's family night – the decorations and activities were wonderful! Have a wonderful month of March – and thank you for your continued support of Fraser School.

Sincerely,

Mary Waters-Cryer
maryw@fraser.org
612-798-8319



The Larson Family enjoys Family Fun Night

Extra Hours Guidelines

Hours in addition to your child's regularly scheduled hours can be requested by calling the Extra Hours Request Line at 612-798-8332. This voicemail is checked twice daily between 8:30 and 4:00. Approval for your requested hours is based on numbers of children already scheduled in a classroom, staff numbers and Rule 3 licensing mandates. Therefore, we require two days notice. A Fraser School staff member will call you the day of, or the day after your request was made, based on the time you left the message, to let you know if your request is approved or not. You may not bring your child early or pick him or her up late without a call back with approval. If you choose to bring your child early or pick up your child late without a call back of approval, you will be billed at the early drop-off or late pick-up fee. These fees are \$1/minute for the first five minutes and \$5/minute for every additional minute. Thank you for your cooperation.

Schedule Notes

April 6 – CLOSED for Spring Break

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

Welcome new staff:

Christel Dale is an assistant teacher working in both the Monkey and Platypus rooms. Christel has three years of experience working with children with special needs. Her background is also in mental health and case management.

Carla Jackson is an assistant teacher in the Duckling room. Carla comes to Fraser with 15 years of child care experience. She has worked with many children with special needs, infant to school age.

Farewell to Gigi Kuebelbeck, staffing and health services coordinator. Gigi and her husband are moving to Anchorage, Alaska, to start the next chapter of their life. Gigi promises to stop in and visit when in town.

Support Fraser With Matching Gifts

Did you know that you may be able to double or even triple your financial donation to Fraser by submitting a matching gift request to your company?

In 2006, Fraser received matching gifts totaling more than \$35,000. We would like to thank all of these organizations: ADC Foundation; Ameriprise Financial Corporation; The Dorsey & Whitney Foundation; Gannett Foundation, Inc.; GE Foundation; GlaxoSmithKline Foundation; Global Impact; GMAC-RFC; Hewlett Packard; ING; Lawson Software; McDonald's Corporation; The McKnight Foundation; McNeely Foundation; Pohlman Family Charities; Tennant Foundation; U.S. Bancorp Foundation; Wells Fargo Bank and The Zurich N.A. Foundation.

Don't see your company's name on the list? Many companies will make matching gifts to local organizations. For more information, or to request a matching gift form, contact your company's human resources department.

Upcoming Seminars - Practical Information from Fraser Experts

You can benefit from decades of Fraser experience! Our seminars are for parents, care providers and others who are interested in gaining knowledge and skills.

Inclusion Strategies for School-Age Children with Autism

Learn how to incorporate inclusion strategies for children with autism in school-age settings. Many of these strategies can be implemented to promote the child's success in school and home environments. Tuesday, March 6, 6 to 8 p.m., at Fraser Child & Family Center, \$20

Child Development

Learn the "Ten Things Every Child Needs" to get his/her best possible start in life. These concepts were developed by renowned child development expert Dr. T. Berry Brazelton. Basic child development stages and phases will also be covered. Monday, March 12, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Fraser School, \$20

Sensory Challenges: Strategies for Successful Inclusion

Our senses provide information to help us organize our behavior and successfully interact in the world. If one or more of our senses are not interpreted properly, difficulties in learning, development and behavior may become evident. Come explore the many sensory activities that calm, motivate and help children focus and reach their full potential. Monday, March 26, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Fraser School, \$20

Promoting Positive Behaviors in Children with Autism

This interactive seminar provides a brief overview of autism spectrum disorders with a focus on understanding the functions behind challenging behaviors that are commonly displayed.

Learn how to determine the function of a behavior using the Duran Motivational Assessment and how to replace negative behaviors with positive ones. Tuesday, March 27, 6 to 8 p.m., Fraser Child & Family Center, \$20

Community Resources for Children with Autism

This seminar explores the various services available to families of children with autism spectrum disorders. These services include county, school, medical, rehabilitation (occupational therapy, speech therapy), day treatment programs, and more. Tuesday, April 3, 6 to 8 p.m., Fraser Child & Family Center, \$20

Register for these and other seminars at www.fraser.org or contact Molly at 612-798-8359 or molly@fraser.org.

Does Your Child Struggle with Dental Visits?

My Healthy Smile™ CD helps children have better dental visits and learn good oral health habits.



- Uses social scripts to teach children about dental care.
- Includes printable tip sheets and storyboards.
- Designed for children developmentally between the ages of 3 and 10.
- Developed by Fraser experts, reviewed by dentists and families.

Introductory price \$34.95 (regularly \$44.95)

Purchase at Fraser School front office or order at www.fraser.org/products

Fraser School is a division of Fraser, a nationally renowned nonprofit organization providing education, healthcare and housing to children of all abilities and adults with special needs. Fraser has served the community since 1935.

Fraser School Program Committee Meeting Summary
Monday, February 5, 2007, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.,
Fraser School, Conference Room 1

Present: Drew Riley, Kelly-Ann Larson, Pam Taylor, Keith Swanson, Mary Waters-Cryer

(6:30-6:35) Introductions:

Pam Taylor joined us for the first time – Pam has a son in the Frogs room and a son in the Dinosaurs room. Welcome Pam.

(6:35-6:50) 2007 Fraser School MBO Goals:

Mary presented the Fraser School goal document for 2007.

(6:50-7:05) Update on classroom representatives:

Nancy and Joanne were not present to give an update. Mary gave a quick summary of the activities year to date. A brief discussion took place regarding how to help teachers accept the support and help of the room parents.

(7:05-7:25) Next steps; upcoming activities or projects:

Drew asked if the food drive would be an option again this spring. Mary WC will look into the needs of Fraser families as a target for this. We also briefly discussed the idea of the garage sale and concluded that we needed more information on the original idea and further discussion of logistics of the day.

We also discussed the end of the year staff appreciation food day. This day is always a highlight for staff. Keith mentioned that he was amazed at how appreciative the staff members were last year. It was also suggested that this year a “thank you” page could be created for staff to write their appreciation to parents. This could be attached to the newsletter.

If anyone is interested in heading up and helping with the appreciation day, please contact Mary Waters-Cryer. It will most likely be held on Tuesday or Wednesday, June 5 or 6.

Please e-mail to the group any other projects or activities you would like to consider for this year.

(7:25-7:30) Wrap up, assign off-line tasks, and next meetings (May, July)

Next meeting is **May 7 at 6:30 p.m.** in conference room one. See you then!

