



Fraser School News[®]

A Newsletter for Parents of Fraser School Students



A Message from Deedee

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. We're looking forward to a year of excitement, fun, learning, returning friends and new faces!

My name is Deedee Stevens-Neal and I am the new director of Fraser School. I joined Fraser on August 25, 2008. Although I am new to Fraser, I am not new to the field of early childhood education. I have more than 20 years of experience in teaching and center administration. I have managed both for-profit and nonprofit centers, have experience with public school contracts for slots to serve children with special needs, have worked in conjunction with Head Start facilities, have provided training and consultation to families and staff and have conducted outreach efforts for the various facilities for which I have worked.

Please feel free to stop by and introduce yourself. My office is located in the school across from the platypus classroom. My direct line is 612-798-8319 and my e-mail is deedees@fraser.org. I look forward to meeting all of you!

We started out our school year with staff development training August 27-28. Staff attended trainings related to: strategies for social communication, mandated reporting, developmental milestones, thinking outside the books, and The Incredible Years curriculum. Our training theme was based around the

book "Cookies-Bite-Size Life Lessons" and words of wisdom (see recipe above) from our founder Louise Whitbeck Fraser.

Many of our classrooms have computers, if they don't, they do have access to private voicemail and e-mail. Typically, teachers check messages during prep time or break only once per day. If you need to get a message to a classroom right away, call the main office at 612-861-1688. If you have questions regarding your child's schedule, please contact Colleen Polson at 612-798-8324 or colleenp@fraser.org.

We are forming our 2008-2009 Fraser School Program Committee. The committee is a liaison to the board of directors in order for them to make informed decisions on things that affect school programs. Membership includes parents, staff and community members and is chaired by a current board member. We're looking for 10-12 members with a balanced representation of all age levels and Fraser School programs. The group meets quarterly, with subcommittees meeting as needed. Please contact me if you are interested in joining the group.

I also want to invite you to the Fraser School open house. On September 25, Fraser School will be open from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for families to greet their children's teachers, see the classrooms and meet other Fraser staff. Please stop by any time during that hour.

Sincerely,

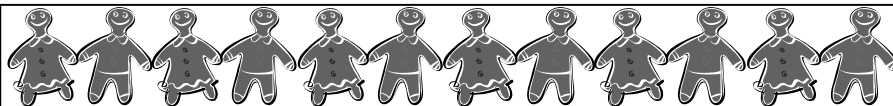
Deedee Stevens-Neal
 Director Fraser School
 612-798-8319
deedees@fraser.org

Schedule Notes

September 2
 First Day of Fall Session

September 25
 Fraser School Open House
 6:30-7:30 p.m.

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



A Dramatic Surprise
 3/4 c. sifted determination
 1/2 tsp. urgency
 1 c. kindness
 1 1/2 c. understanding

Mix determination and urgency slowly with kindness. Add understanding, enthusiasm, good attitude and love. Fold into this mixture a generous cup of encouragement. Spoon into pan which has been greased with plenty of expectancy and floured with a coat of faith. Bake in cool oven until browned with patience. Serves any group of any size.

Louise Whitbeck Fraser
 3/4 c. condensed enthusiasm
 2 T. good attitude
 1/2 c. love



Communicable Disease Notification Change

In our continuing effort to “go green” Fraser School is

changing the way it communicates communicable disease exposure.

Each classroom will have a designated place where it will post the notifications. Please check the classroom newsletter or ask the teacher where it will be posted. If you would like to receive the notifications each time your child may have been exposed to a communicable disease, please tell your child’s teacher and she will make arrangements for you to get them. Otherwise, effective September 2, 2008, parents will no longer receive notification in their child’s file folder or cubby.

Room Parent Volunteers Needed

As the school year begins, we are seeking volunteers so that each classroom has a least one room parent. This is a great way to connect with teachers and other parents. It is not a huge commitment and generally involves planning fall and spring room parties and coordinating teacher appreciation activities.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Sally Johnson at 612-861-1334 sally_vardaman_johnson@yahoo.com.

Buying a New Car?

Donate your old car to Fraser to help families with special needs and receive a tax deduction!



Just bring your car to Fraser and we do the rest. All we ask is that the car be 1994 or newer, in driving condition and have current title and license. Fraser sells the car at auction and you receive the tax deduction.

If you would like to donate your car or have any questions about the process, please contact Amber Becker at 612-798-8327 or amberb@fraser.org. Thank you for supporting the children, adults and families served by Fraser!

School-Age Child Care Now Available Through Fraser

Fraser now offers school-age inclusive child care in a new location just minutes from Fraser School.

Before-school, after-school, and non-school day child care is provided for children of all abilities in grades K–5 at the Fraser STAR Program now operating at a beautiful residential location at 45th and Lyndale.

The STAR Program is located with Fraser Academy, a year-round public charter school. Children do not have to attend Fraser Academy to access the school-age care program. STAR is now accepting applications for enrollment for all programs, including a half-day kindergarten enrichment program. Please contact Amy Canfield, STAR coordinator, for more information at 612-366-6256 or amyc@fraser.org or visit www.fraser.org for a detailed program description.

Support Fraser Through United Way Designation

Here’s a great way to help the children, adults and families served at Fraser while participating in your company’s United Way campaign! Even though Fraser is not a United Way-funded agency, you can designate Fraser to be a recipient of your gift made through payroll deduction or as an outright donation. Greater Twin Cities United Way, or any other United Way organization, will honor a designation to Fraser.

All you need to do is put “Fraser” and our address on your pledge form or gift-designation card and United Way will send your contribution to us. Please let us know that you have designated Fraser so we can coordinate receiving your gift.

If you have questions about the process or to notify Fraser of your designation, please contact Paula Werner at 612-798-8310 or paula@fraser.org. You can also access information and forms on our Web site at www.fraser.org/donate. Thank you for supporting Fraser through your United Way giving!

Survey Reports High Level of Consumer Satisfaction



Fraser has once again received outstanding feedback on its annual client/consumer survey. Of those responding to the survey:

- 91% said Fraser programs met or exceeded expectations;
- 96% said Fraser services made a positive difference in their family member’s skills and/or behaviors;
- 97% felt their family benefited from being connected to Fraser services;
- 97% reported they would recommend Fraser services.

We received many touching comments from families who shared what Fraser has meant to them. “Our Fraser experience has been superb for over 30 years. Your expertise and professionalism have been the model to which all other programs should be held,” reported one parent. Thank you to all who took the time to respond to the survey. Your feedback is critical for maintaining and improving the quality of our services and we invite comments and suggestions on an ongoing basis.

Fraser Academy in New Location

Fraser Academy recently kicked off the school year in a new location. The charter elementary school founded and sponsored by Fraser is now located at 4530 Lyndale Ave. S.

“We are thrilled with the facility and excited about the future,” said Linda Silrum, director. “This new environment is a wonderful place to nurture young minds and help children of all abilities succeed.”

Fraser Academy provides continuous progress, a rich and broad curriculum and a year-round calendar within an inclusive environment. The school uses individualized learning plans to meet the unique needs of each student while maintaining a high standard of academics and cultivating a sense of respect, responsibility and community. For more information visit www.fraseracademy.org or call 612-465-8600.

Parent Handbook Addendum

This is a revision that has been made to the parent handbook. Please insert into your handbook for future reference:

Behavior Guidance – Addendum July 2008

Fraser School staff members are trained to use positive language and actions with children. If children are displaying challenging behaviors, staff will attempt to redirect them toward positive behaviors. Time-outs are not used.

However, if at any time a child is displaying aggressive behavior that has the potential to hurt other children or staff members, the child may be restrained. If the dangerous behavior continues as a pattern, a team of Fraser School staff members will meet to create a plan to address the behavior.

Parents may be asked to come and remove their child from Fraser School for the remainder of the day if the child's behavior is continuously dangerous to others.

Continued dangerous and aggressive behavior will result in a team meeting with parents and staff to determine the appropriateness of the child's placement in Fraser School and to look at other options for the child if necessary.

AT NO TIME is any staff member, volunteer or student in training to:

Subject a child to corporal punishment such as, hitting, pinching, shaking, shoving, etc.

Subject a child to emotional abuse (i.e. name calling, threatening, humiliating, etc.)

Separate the child from a group, except in accordance with an approved program plan.

Punish for lack of toileting control.

Punish by withholding food, clothing, etc.

Physically or mechanically restrain a child except in relation to an approved plan developed for the safety of the child or those around him or in an emergency situation in which others are at danger for being harmed.



Fall 2008 classroom information

<u>Room</u>	<u>Lead Teacher(s)</u>	<u>Voice Mail</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Ducklings:	Susan Ische Jennifer Korba	612.798.8361	ducklings@fraser.org
Bees:	Mollie Frymire & Jessica Kiscaden	612.798.8370	bees@fraser.org
Bears:	Lily Rose	612.798.8366	bears@fraser.org
Cats:	Megan Anderson	612.798.8374	cats@fraser.org
Frogs:	Heather Grimes	612.798.8334	frogs@fraser.org
Dinosaurs:	Kim Obrien	612.798.8362	dinosaurs@fraser.org
Fireflies:	Robin Stommel	612.798.8365	fireflies@fraser.org
Hummingbirds:	Katie Taylor Mirsada Dedic	612.798.8373	hummingbirds@fraser.org
Elephants:	Amy Noran	612.798.8311	elephants@fraser.org
Iguanas:	Allie Siskoff	612.798.8368	iguanas@fraser.org
Ladybugs:	Heather Devney	612.798.8371	ladybugs@frasaer.org
Butterflies:	Marian Gaglardi	612.798.8367	butterflies@fraser.org
<u>Ready 4K:</u>			
Monkey:	Kristin Teagarden	612.798.8364	monkeys@fraser.org
Platypus:	Erica Frett	612.798.8347	platypuses@fraser.org
Chameleons:	Open	612.798.8360	chameleons@fraser.org
Float Teacher:	Tiffany Basdeo Elizabeth Criswell Paige Prescher	N/A	floatteacher@fraser.org

*** Please remember that messages left for teachers will not get to them immediately.***

If your message is urgent please call the front desk. All room staff share voice mail and e-mail.

Fraser School Front Desk: 612.861.1688	Permanent Schedule Changes: 612.798.8324 colleenp@fraser.org	School Forms: www.fraser.org/forms
Extra Hours Request Line 612.798.8332 extrahours@fraser.org	School Calendar www.fraser.org/calendar	Web site www.fraser.org