

### Director's Corner

October 2018

Dear Fraser Families,

Fall has arrived! Since we are having some cooler temperatures, please make sure that your child has appropriate outerwear for the weather. Often, the children will wear a light jacket or sweater outside during the morning; but by the afternoon, they do not need it. If you prefer your child always wear a jacket, please let your child's teacher know. Also, please make sure to label each item with your child's first and last name as many of the children's clothing are identical or nearly identical.

I want to thank all of the families that, literally, walked through water to get to the Family Fun Night. Despite the thunderstorms, we had a great turnout! I also want to express thanks to the Family Fun Night Planning Committee members: Ann Jacobs (Ducklings), Cheyenne Tordsen (Ducklings), Stephanie Schauer (Ducklings), Emma Brown (Fireflies), Jessie Noid (Dinosaurs), Sam Aon Theth (Dinosaurs), Chelsea Fellman (Monkeys), Sue Fuchs (Platypus), Mirsada Dedic (Float/Frogs), Janel Morton (Staffing Coordinator), Mackenzie Willits (Health Services Coordinator), and Elizabeth Eng (Education Coordinator).

One systems improvement that we have decided to implement in some of the Fraser School preschool and prekindergarten classrooms is a designated shelf specifically for lunch boxes. In the classrooms with metal lockers, we will have a shelf with individual cubbies. The cubbies will be labeled with each child's name. Families can put their child's lunch box in the labeled cubby so that the lunch box is in the classroom. After lunch, the teachers will put the lunch box back in the cubby so families will know where to find them. This will

also help teachers see immediately if a child does not have a lunch, instead of realizing immediately prior to lunch that a family forgot. The other advantage of this system is that lunchboxes will be separated so that we can reduce any cross-contamination that may occur. We have children with significant food allergies and do not want incidental contact from an allergen that was on the exterior of the lunchbox.

Finally, we are just starting budget preparations for 2019. Instead of instituting a tuition increase in September 2018, as is typical, we postponed the tuition changes so that we can better budget for 2019. While the changes have not been finalized, we are looking at a 3% tuition increase. In addition, for the first time in 10 years, we will also increase the charge for the deposit and application fee for new families that are enrolling. We are also eliminating the retainer fee. While this is a great perk for families that use it, it is definitely not an industry standard and costs us a lot of tuition. I will send more information as the 2019 tuition rates are completed.

Thanks for sharing your children with us,

Deedee Stevens-Neal

612-798-8319

[Deedee.Stevens-Neal@fraser.org](mailto:Deedee.Stevens-Neal@fraser.org)

### Inside This Edition

Fraser School Program Committee.....	2
Music Therapy Opportunities.....	2
Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	3
Halloween at Fraser School.....	3
Schedule of Events.....	4
Fraser Annual Benefit.....	4

## Fraser School Program Committee

Since Fraser is a non-profit organization, our operations are overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors. Fraser School has a sub-committee of that Board of Directors. Unlike the main Board of Directors, the Fraser School Program Committee is a professional advisory council and does not provide direct oversight. Some of the professionals that serve on the Fraser School Program Committee are: a representative from the Richfield Public School Early Childhood Special Education program, a representative from Health Consultants for Child Care Inc, and a representative from Child Care Aware. The committee is chaired by a member of the Fraser Board of Directors. The Director of Fraser School and Fraser's Chief Operating Officer also serve on the committee. We also want to have Fraser School staff and parents represented.

We are looking for two parent representatives to serve on the committee. The commitment is minimal since it is just four 1 hour-long meetings per year. We are not looking for any certain background or experiences, just a willingness to actively participate and have a positive attitude. The commitment is for one school year.

Some of the topics that we have discussed include universal prekindergarten and its effect on Fraser School's prekindergarten program, culturally responsive caregiving, and curriculum enhancement. We meet from 4:00-5:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the months of September, February, and April. In the month of November, we will meet on the second Wednesday of the month as the third Wednesday is the day before Thanksgiving.

Please contact the director, Deedee Stevens-Neal, at [deedee.stevens-neal@fraser.org](mailto:deedee.stevens-neal@fraser.org) or 612-798-8319 if

you have questions or are willing to volunteer. Thanks for your consideration.

## Music Therapy Opportunities

In September 2018, our music therapist, Heather Anderson, increased her hours. As a result, the number of music sessions each classroom receives each week has increased. The prekindergarten classrooms and the preschool classrooms that do not nap have music sessions all five days per week. These are scheduled twice during the mornings and three times in the afternoons. The toddler classrooms and the preschool classrooms that nap have music three times per week, all scheduled in the mornings. The infant classroom is scheduled for four times per week.

In addition, Heather's increase in hours has opened some times for individual music sessions. This would not be music therapy with a written treatment plan; but would be an opportunity for children to sing, play music, and move to music on an individual basis. These sessions are available at about 11:35 and again at about 12:30. There would be no cost to these individual sessions. If you are interested in having your child receive these individual music sessions, please contact the director, Deedee Stevens-Neal, at [deedee-stevens-neal@fraser.org](mailto:deedee-stevens-neal@fraser.org) or at 612-798-8319.

The ability to increase Heather's hours and, subsequently, offer more music opportunities in Fraser School was made possible by a grant from the Groves Foundation, as well as, fundraising during an event titled, Music for Music Therapy. We want to thank the Groves Foundation and everyone that donated through the fundraiser.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

During the week of October 15-19, classroom staff will offer a variety of times for parents to connect with their child's teachers. This will give an opportunity for parents to see a "snapshot" of their child through the eyes of the teaching staff. Our teachers have been busy observing and documenting where your child is developmentally. They have also been recording this on our web-based assessment tool. Children often act differently when put in a group situation so the behaviors or skills that we see may be a bit different from what you see at home. Again, remember that this is a "snapshot" of your child's developmental progress. When we re-assess in the spring, we will be able to more accurately show the progress that has been made.

Please also remember that each child develops at his/her own rate. Development is not a race, but a journey that may have potholes and/or detours. The tool shows a "typical" range of development in each category but this is only a guide and not an evaluation tool. If your child is demonstrating skills that are deemed as younger or older than the typical range, it is only a reflection of his/her present development and does not necessarily indicate any developmental issues.

It is important for parents to attend these early conferences. It shows your children that school is important. It also shows your children that parents and teachers are partners in education and that communication in that relationship is essential. Often during pick-up or drop-off, the communication is hurried and focused on daily events. This is an opportunity for you to sit down with your child's teachers and have a more relaxed and deliberate conversation. We really hope that you can attend!

## Halloween at Fraser School

Some children can be very frightened by people in masks or dressed up in scary costumes. We want to be sensitive to the needs of all of our little learners here at Fraser School. Some of our classrooms may have dress-up days near the end of October but we stress the concepts of imagination and reality instead of celebrating the more scary traditions of Halloween. Even if your child's classroom has a dress-up time, it will only be a small part of your child's day. We will still paint, play outside, and have a typical day at Fraser School.

As this time of year approaches, these are some things to keep in mind:

- Bring your child to school in regular clothes **or** bring regular clothes for your child to change in to.
- Costumes should be easy to change in to and out of.
- Costumes should not require the teacher to put on face paint.
- Costumes should not have masks due to poor visibility.
- Children should not bring any weapons to Fraser School, even if it goes with their costume. Examples are swords, guns, light sabers, or ninja weapons.
- Children must wear shoes with their costumes.
- Prior to bringing in treats for the class, please talk with your child's teacher. All treats must be store-bought and in the original, unopened packaging. We must be able to review the ingredient list to ensure that it is safe for all of our children who have food allergies or alternate diets.

### *This month's events*

> **No School**

October 19, 2018  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

> **Fraser Annual Benefit**

October 27, 2018  
4:30-10:30 PM  
Hilton Minneapolis

### *Upcoming events*

> **Program Committee Meeting**

November 14, 2018  
4:00-5:00 PM  
Corporate Conference Room #1

> **No School**

November 22 & 23, 2018  
Thanksgiving Break

**Fraser Annual Benefit**  
**October 27, 2018**  
**04:30pm-10:30pm**  
**Hilton Minneapolis**



**Join us at this year's Fraser Annual Benefit, presented by U.S. Bank, on Saturday, October 27 at Hilton Minneapolis.**

This year's event will feature a lavish Venetian masquerade theme with a flair for the dramatics. Be the Belle or Beau of the Ball by wearing an elegant mask and fashionable wear to conceal your identity.

The evening starts with a cocktail reception featuring artful antipasti to feast upon—just the beginnings of a pleasurable multi-course dining experience. Stroll through the silent auction featuring delicate and fancy boutique items. Linger over delicious Italian cuisine while sipping vino and enjoying some alluring performances and musical entertainment well into the night.

Exclusive and table sponsorships are available with a variety of marketing and promotional opportunities. For more information, contact Rose Rosario at [Rose.Rosario@fraser.org](mailto:Rose.Rosario@fraser.org) or 612-798-8343.

[View the menu](#)

[Apply to volunteer at the Fraser Annual Benefit](#)