

Director's Corner

March 2018

Dear Fraser Families,

It is that time of year when our parking has become limited with the snow mounds. Please refrain from parallel parking in the alley on the east side of the building. The snow has narrowed the alley so much that there is not sufficient space for the cars to move past the legally parked cars if there are cars parked illegally, too. Also, please refrain from parking in the disabled parking spaces on the east side of the school, even if there are no other spaces. We have families that really need these spaces and the extra room that they provide. Thanks so much for your cooperation!

Even though we are still dealing with snow mounds, we are busily preparing for summer and fall 2018. For those families that have pre-kindergarten children, please let us know your child's discharge date. The latest discharge date possible is August 29, 2018. We have many families on wait lists for fall and we would like to let them know if and/or when their children can start with us.

For those families that may want to take the summer off, you have two choices. You can pay a retainer fee and have your child's placement in the fall guaranteed. You can also discharge your child and re-apply for fall enrollment. If you choose to discharge, your child's re-enrollment is not guaranteed and you will need to pay all application fees and deposits. If you would like to pay a retainer, please contact us to arrange those dates.

For all other families, your child's schedule will remain the same unless you tell us otherwise. For families of infants and toddlers, your child will be

moved to the next age of classroom dependent upon your child's birthdate. Colleen will contact you in advance of that move. For families of preschool-aged children, your child is pre-kindergarten eligible if your child will turn 4 by September 1, 2018. Colleen has contacted those families to see if they are interested in a pre-kindergarten classroom and when they would prefer to move their child. Depending upon the demand, we will try to accommodate families' preferences but cannot guarantee that we can move all children when requested. If you have questions or would like to permanently change your schedule, please contact Colleen Polson at colleen.polson@fraser.org or at 612-798-8324.

Thanks for sharing your children with us,

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"Play is the highest form of research."

Albert Einstein

Safety and Security at Fraser School

As school safety remains in the news, I wanted to reassure parents about the measures that Fraser School takes to keep your children secure.

Obviously, we have key pads at each entrance/exit door to the school. The success of this security measure is highly dependent upon families and others to follow the guidelines that we give. Here are some reminders:

- Only share the door codes with people that will drop off or pick up frequently. For those that drop off or pick up occasionally, the front office can help them get through the doors.
- Any one that picks up children should have a photo ID. We have new staff members and float staff members that may not recognize a person, even if they pick up regularly. Our staff are trained to ask for a photo ID to ensure the safety of the children.
- We change the codes annually. We will change them again in April at spring conference time since it has been almost a year.
- Please do not hold the door open for people that you do not recognize. I know that this can be uncomfortable. We have recently had bus drivers and prospective families roaming the hallways because they were let in the east side doors. In both instances, these people should have been directed to the front office. However, please do not take it upon yourself to try to block people out of the door. If an unfamiliar person gets into the building, please alert a staff member right away. We can take care of the situation so that parents are not having a confrontation.

Twice per year, we also train on a lock-down procedure. We practice this during our staff development days so that the children are not involved. This gives an opportunity for all building staff to get instruction, practice, and then debrief with any questions or comments. We talk through different scenarios and how to handle each one. Please rest assured that we will do everything in our power to keep your children safe.

Dangers of Magnetic Toys

(reprinted from healthychildren.org,
website of the American Academy of Pediatrics)

Refrigerator magnets and other magnetic toys can provide a fun, educational experience for many young children. However, loose magnets and high-powered magnet sets designed for adults can cause serious injuries if swallowed.

Safety Alert for Parents of Young Children:

In November 2016, a ban on high-powered magnet sets was overturned, meaning the products are back on store shelves. While the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) ordered high-powered magnet sets manufactured by Zen Magnets to stop being sold in stores in November 2017, other brands of high-powered magnets are still being sold at stores around the country. These products, while designed for adults, are therefore still on the market and still very dangerous if swallowed.

What Makes These Magnets So Dangerous?

High-powered magnet sets are made of tiny and very powerful magnet balls or cubes, often with 100 or more magnets to a set. If swallowed, they can pull together with enough force to cause serious and life-threatening damage to the digestive system.

Before the ban on these products, thousands of people, many of them children, ended up in emergency rooms with injuries. After the ban, doctors say it dropped to only a few. Now that high-powered magnets are back on the market, it is crucial for parents to be aware of the damage they can cause.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) urges families with children not to have high-powered magnet sets in their home.

Tips to Protect Your Children from the Dangers of Magnets:

- Keep products with small or loose magnets away from young children who might swallow them.
- Closely monitor loose magnets and other magnetic products to ensure children do not swallow them.
- Avoid purchasing magnets sold in sets of 100 or more, as it is difficult to recognize if a few magnets have gone missing.

Know the Symptoms of Magnet Ingestion:

- Children who have ingested magnets may have [abdominal pain](#), [vomiting](#), and [fever](#). Because these symptoms are common in children and not usually caused by ingested objects, the true cause may not be suspected right away.
- Delaying treatment can lead to severe injuries to the stomach, intestines, and digestive tract and even death.
- Contact your pediatrician or nearest emergency department immediately if you suspect your child has swallowed or been injured by a magnet.

Report Injuries & Incidences of Magnet Ingestions to the CPSC:

If your child has swallowed a magnet and/or been injured by a magnetic product, you can report that

injury to the CPSC, the federal agency tasked with ensuring children’s toys and other consumer products are safe.

The CPSC has an online database for parents and the general public to report dangerous products and injuries related to consumer products directly to the agency. Anyone can visit SaferProducts.gov to report injuries related to magnet ingestions or other products directly to the CPSC.

The site requests, but does not require, the injured victim’s information. The CPSC must publicly disclose accident or investigation reports, but does not include identifying information for any injured individual or the person reporting the incident. If further information is necessary, the CPSC will contact the reporting individual directly, but such contact information is not shared with others.

Stronger regulatory action to remove dangerous magnets and magnetic products from the marketplace may depend on the CPSC receiving reports of injuries associated with these products. Parents and others who witness magnet-related injuries are encouraged to report the incidents to the CPSC.



Upcoming events

> **School Open**

April 4, 2018
Parent/Teacher conference day canceled

> **No School**

April 5, 2018
Parent/Teacher Conferences

> **No School**

April 6, 2018
Spring Break

Upcoming events

> **Family Fun Night**

May 17, 2018
6:30-7:30 PM

> **No School**

May 24-25, 2018
Staff Development

> **No School**

May 28, 2018
Memorial Day

Fraser Walk for Autism

Saturday, April 14, 2018
Mall of America
7:00 – 9:30 AM

Register for the [2018 Fraser Walk for Autism](#)—a family-friendly morning of sensory activities, therapy animals, games, prizes and giveaways.

Rally a team or register as an individual. All participants receive breakfast. Please register by March 23 to guarantee yourself a Fraser Walk for Autism T-shirt.

Help spread the word to families to participate in the contest to design the Fraser Walk for Autism 2018 T-shirt! Submit your design by March 15 to win. Forms are available on the Fraser website and the school front office.

In 2017, nearly 2,500 participants, volunteers and sponsors helped raised over \$93,000 for services benefiting the local autism community. Your support through events like the Fraser Walk for Autism will help Fraser sustain current programs, and more importantly, help expand innovative services for children, adults and families affected by autism.

Respite Program at Fraser School

Hennepin County notified us in mid-2017 that the county respite program would officially end on December 31, 2017. So that current families would have stability, they extended our contract to June 30, 2018.

Part of the discontinuation of the respite program was so that Hennepin County could initiate an RFP (request for proposals) process so that they could maximize the small amount of respite funding. Fraser School is waiting for the RFP to come out so we can determine if we will be able to meet the requirements.

At this time, Fraser School's respite program is scheduled to end on June 30, 2018. Families that are on respite have been contacted individually. They will be able to transition to private pay tuition, explore other sources of funding (such as county child care assistance or early childhood scholarships), or discharge their child. If Fraser School is accepted as a future vendor of Hennepin County respite services, we will notify the existing families receiving respite.