



Director’s Corner

September 2018

Dear Fraser Families,

Welcome to all the new families joining Fraser School and welcome back to all of the returning families! We are excited to start the 2018-2019 school year.

The Fraser School staff spent many productive hours in professional development and in preparation for your children. Each child new to a classroom should be greeted with a labeled locker or cubby and a welcome packet. If your child is remaining in the same room, please look at the locker/cubby names as the teachers may have changed it up a bit! In addition, each family will receive a new 2018-2019 parent handbook in the near future. We are awaiting their arrival from the printer and will distribute them when they arrive. There are a few changes in the handbook, so please make sure to review them. I have detailed some of the more dramatic changes in this newsletter.

One policy that I like to highlight in September of each year is the late pick-up/early drop-off policy. Each child is scheduled to be at Fraser School with a drop-off time and pick-up time. If a family drops off a child prior to his/her scheduled drop-off time, the family will incur fees. Because our teachers are scheduled according to the number of children that should be present, dropping off a child early can put us out of ratio compliance. Likewise, if a child is picked up after his/her scheduled departure time, it may skew the ratios and force a teacher to stay late. However, we understand that there may be times that parents arrive late due to unforeseen circumstances such as traffic or weather. We give each child 45 cumulative minutes of grace period per school year (September through August) for

these unforeseen events. After you use all 45 minutes of grace periods, then you will be charged for late pick-ups. Since we close at 6:00 PM, you will not be able to use grace periods for late pick-ups if your child is scheduled until 6:00 PM. The charge is \$1 per minute for the first 15 minutes and \$5 per minute for the 16th and subsequent minutes.

If you have a need to drop your child off early or pick up late on an occasional basis, you can pre-arrange extra hours by calling 612-798-8332 or by emailing extrahours@fraser.org. This request needs to be made at least 48 hours in advance. Your request will be confirmed or denied by a coordinator. If you have questions about this, or any other policy, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Finally, I want to let all families know that we will be changing the door codes soon. We do this annually. I will email a separate letter with more details in the first week of September. Each family will receive new code cards prior to the change. Please only share the code with those people that pick up or drop off your child regularly.

Thanks for sharing your children with us,

Deedee Stevens-Neal
612-798-8319
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Revised Policy Regarding Exclusion for Fever

Our policy has always been that children are excluded if their fever is at 101° F or higher. We will continue that policy. However, our health consultant wanted us to clarify that policy so the new Parent Handbook reflects that.

Because we use a temporal artery thermometer, our temperature readings are about 1° higher than if you take a child's temperature with an ancillary thermometer (under a child's tongue or under his/her armpit). The Department of Human Services guidelines states exclusion is at 100° F with an ancillary thermometer so, therefore, our exclusion is 101° F since we use temporal artery thermometers. Rectal thermometers should register the same as temporal artery thermometers. If we send your child home and you take your child's temperature with an ancillary thermometer, your child's temperature will probably register lower. As long as your child's temperature is at 100° F or higher with an ancillary thermometer, your child still meets exclusion.

If we think that your child may meet exclusion due to a fever, we measure his/her temperature with two different temporal artery thermometers to ensure that the reading is accurate. If your child meets exclusion, he/she must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g. Tylenol) before returning. If your child meets exclusion and we call you, it is expected that your child be picked up within one hour. If you cannot pick up your child, you are welcome to send any person that is authorized to pick up the child. If someone else picks up, we may give some general health information such as any other symptoms that the child may be exhibiting. I hope this additional information clarifies our policy.

Family Fun Nights

Three times per year, Fraser School hosts Family Fun Nights. These events are a week-long thematic unit with a culminating celebration on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM.

The Family Fun Nights are based on the SPARK curriculum. SPARK stands for Skills Promoted through Arts, Reading, and Knowledge. This curriculum emphasizes the importance of repeating the same book several times to emphasize different concepts within the book. Teachers then use various activities, including arts, to strengthen the concepts that the children are learning. Family Fun Night weeks are the only time that we follow the SPARK curriculum at Fraser School.

Each Family Fun Night focuses on a children's book. Each classroom reads the same book daily, so that the children are very familiar with the story by Thursday. The teachers will call out different concepts in the book and emphasize those concepts with activities and arts.

Each Family Fun Night has approximately the same schedule of events. At 6:30 PM, we start by reading the book which has provided the theme for the week. Then, there are a variety of activities available that are designed for children and their families to do together. There are usually 6-8 different activities available. About 7:20 PM, we join together again for a goodbye activity. Sometimes, that may be a song, a dance party, or a live action play of the book. Then, at 7:30 PM, we say goodbye.

Our first Family Fun Night of the school year will be on Thursday, September 20. The other Family Fun Nights will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019, and Thursday, May 16, 2019. We hope you can join us!

FDA Advises Consumers to Avoid Eating, Drinking, or Handling Food Products Prepared with Liquid Nitrogen at the Point of Sale



August 30, 2018

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration alerts consumers and retailers of the potential for serious injury from eating, drinking, or handling food products prepared by adding liquid nitrogen at the point of sale, immediately before consumption.

These products are often marketed under the names "Dragon's Breath," "Heaven's Breath," "nitro puff" and other similar names.

Liquid nitrogen, although non-toxic, can cause severe damage to skin and internal organs if mishandled or accidentally ingested due to the extremely low temperatures it can maintain. Inhaling the vapor released by a food or drink prepared by adding liquid nitrogen immediately before consumption may also cause breathing difficulty, especially among individuals with asthma. This safety alert advises consumers to avoid eating, drinking, or handling foods prepared using liquid nitrogen at point of sale and immediately before consumption, due to risk of injury.

Foods and drinks prepared by adding liquid nitrogen immediately before consumption may be sold in malls, food courts, kiosks, state or local fairs, and other food retail locations. These products may include liquid nitrogen-infused colorful cereal or cheese puffs that emit a misty or smoke-like vapor. Similarly, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks prepared with liquid nitrogen emit a fog.

The FDA has become aware of severe -- and in some cases, life-threatening -- injuries, such as damage to skin and internal organs caused by liquid nitrogen still present in the food or drink. There has also been a report of difficulty breathing after inhaling the vapor released by liquid nitrogen when added immediately before consumption. Injuries have occurred from handling or eating products prepared by adding liquid nitrogen immediately before consumption, even after the liquid nitrogen has fully evaporated due to the extremely low temperature of the food.

In general, other foods treated with liquid nitrogen prior to the point of sale and before consumption, for example some frozen confections, are treated in such a way that results in the complete evaporation of liquid nitrogen before reaching the consumer and are no longer at an extremely low temperature, and therefore do not pose a significant risk of injury.

Consumers who have experienced an injury because of handling or eating products prepared with liquid nitrogen at the point of sale, immediately before consumption, should consult their healthcare professional. Consumers should also consider reporting their injury to [MedWatch](#). The FDA encourages consumers with questions about food safety to [Submit An Inquiry](#), or to visit www.fda.gov/fcic for additional information.

This month's events

> **No School**

September 3, 2018
Labor Day

> **Family Fun Night**

September 20, 2018
6:30-7:30 PM

Upcoming events

> **No School**

October 19, 2018
Parent/Teacher Conferences

> **No School**

November 22 & 23, 2018
Thanksgiving Break

Accreditation Surveys

As part of the re-accreditation process, it is mandatory that we collect completed surveys from at least 50% of the enrolled families. These surveys are anonymous. We have both English and Spanish versions. These surveys are created by the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) Council and will go directly back to them. I will not see the results of the survey to gain feedback. All surveys will be sealed and given directly to the verifier on the day of the visit.

In addition, we also need to collect surveys from at least 75% of staff members employed at Fraser School. Again, these surveys are anonymous and are returned, unopened, to the NECPA Council on the day of the verification visit.

Early in each calendar year, we send a Fraser-sponsored client/consumer survey to collect feedback. These surveys are across all Fraser programs and offered through electronic and print means. We will see the feedback and comments that are written on these Fraser created surveys.

To give feedback regarding the program before 2019, feel free to contact the director directly at 612-798-8319 or at deedee.stevens-neal@fraser.org.

Monthly Snack Menus

Each month, the Food and Nutrition Coordinator gives a monthly snack menu to the classrooms. The classrooms then send the menu to parents via email and it is posted outside of the classrooms. We are required to provide at least a serving of food from two different food groups for each snack. In addition to the snack menu, we also send a list of ingredients for all snack items served.

If your child cannot eat an item that is planned on the menu, parents should provide a substitute for the item. Preferably, it will be within the same food group but if that is impossible, it must be from a food group different from the other item on the menu. For example, if your child is allergic to dairy products and we are serving crackers with fluid milk, you should bring a substitute for the milk. Since your child is allergic to all dairy products, you can provide a piece of fruit, some vegetables, or a protein. You should not bring another item in the grain food group. This is for families that have a child with food allergies, food dietary limitations (such as gluten-free), or a time-limited preference (such as no dairy while a child finishes a course of antibiotics). If you have questions, please feel free to contact the director or the Food and Nutrition Coordinator at jane.mcaleese-schrupp@fraser.org.