Ferndale Family,

In 2013 the Ferndale Schools community created a five-year strategic plan that included pillars such as Community & Collaboration, Communication & Trust, Inclusion & Respect, and Sustainability & Development. In the five years since this plan was adopted by the Board of Education, Ferndale Schools has undergone a significant transformation. One area where tremendous progress has been made is “inclusion & respect.” However, while much progress has been made, there are still opportunities for growth.

This summer, the Board of Education and the Administrators of Ferndale Schools began work with the Great Lakes Equity Center. The Great Lakes Equity Center, based out of Indiana University, is one of four regional Equity Assistance Centers funded by the United States Department of Education under Title IV of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Also known as the Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center, they provide technical assistance and training to public school districts and other responsible governmental agencies to promote equitable education opportunities.

As Ferndale Schools continues developing our tools and systems to support a sustained equitable future, we need your input! Starting on Monday, November 26th, Ferndale Schools and the Great Lakes Equity Center will be releasing a survey to the community. This survey is part of a comprehensive Equity Context Analysis Process (ECAP) that is being administered by the Great Lakes Equity Center. We encourage EVERYONE to take this survey which can be accessed by filling it out online.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your vital opinions with us! Together we can make Ferndale Schools an equitable environment for all.

In Education,

Dania M. Sragi, PhD
Superintendent
Ferndale Schools
**PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSES**

Everyone is welcome to our upcoming open houses for our earliest learners. Activity centers will be set up for the future students, and the staff will be on hand to answer questions, as well as representatives from parent organizations.

**FERNDALE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

**PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24TH**

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**FERNDALE LOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH**

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

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**FERNDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SEARCH UPDATE**

Ferndale Family,

We wanted to update you on the search for our next Ferndale Middle School Principal. Earlier this week we identified 13 candidates which we will interview as part of the first round of the selection process. These interviews will take place early next week.

After those have been completed, the top three to four candidates will return for second round interviews. That is where we need your help!

During the second round (Wednesday, December 12th from 3:45pm to 8pm), candidates will be interviewed by three groups: Parents/Students, Teachers/Staff, and Administrators. We are looking for interested parents and students who want to take part in this process.

If you are interested in participating in the 2nd round interviews, please sign up with our Google Form:

[CLICK HERE](#)

**BUY SOME BOOKS, HELP THE ORCHESTRA!**

This Sunday December 2nd at the Barnes and Noble in Troy, The Ferndale Orchestras will be hosting a holiday book fair. The Ferndale Orchestra Boosters will receive a percentage of every purchase made on that day, and it does not cost patrons anything extra. Ferndale Orchestras Students will be performing between 10am and 6pm as well as providing gift wrapping. Barnes and Noble has a great selection of holiday gift options in addition to books. Any and all discounts (educator discounts etc.) can be combined with the fundraiser. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help bringing back the Electrify Your Strings program to Ferndale in the 2019-2020 school year.

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**P.A.C. HELPING HANDS**

We’d like to extend a heartfelt welcome and our sincere appreciation to our Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Representatives, Ron Owens and Lisa Rajt.

As PAC reps, they are available to:

- Act as a parent resource in collaboration with the IPS Special Education Department
- Solicit information from parents of students who receive special education services regarding areas in need of development
- Participate in problem solving discussions with special education administrators for program improvement
- Provide information, expertise, representation and participation in an advisory capacity
- Attend monthly committee meetings at the county IDE level to participate in the development of the IDEA plan and provide advisory input on matters regarding improvement of special education services within the IDE

Ron and Lisa are available to help or answer questions.

RON OWENS - RONDALLOWENS@GMAIL.COM
LISA RAJT - LMRAJT@GMAIL.COM

Thank you, Ron and Lisa!
Ferndale High School Transition Night

Tuesday December 4th
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Please join us and meet Ms. Kelly Lewis from Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)
Ms. Lewis will give an overview of what types of services MRS can provide for our students as they transition from High School and/or Post High School programs.
She can also provide information about MRS Pre-Employment Services (Pre-Ets), that are offered during the year at Ferndale High School.

Any questions can be directed to Amy Ceglarek- Teacher Consultant
248-541-1783 x. 2502
amy.ceglarek@ferndaleschools.org

Or
Hannah Plotkin- Post High Teacher
248-586-8600 x.2632
hannah.plotkin@ferndaleschools.org

FERNDALE BASEBALL STAR TO CONTINUES HIS CAREER IN COLLEGE

Congratulations to FHS Senior Drake Landry who signed his letter of intent last week to attend Henry Ford Community College next year on a baseball scholarship!

FHS STUDENT SELECTED FOR ALL STATE ORCHESTRA!

Congratulations to FHS student George Van Der Vennet who was selected to represent Ferndale High School in the 2019 MSBOA All State Orchestra. George was selected from over 2,000 auditionees across the state of Michigan. The MSBOA All State orchestra will perform as part of the Michigan Music Conference January 25th-27th, 2019 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS HONORED AT 2018 GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS

Citizens for a Fair Ferndale is proud to announce the 2018 winners of its Good Neighbor = Strong Community awards. The annual awards celebrate the ongoing efforts of those who live, work and attend school in Ferndale, who value the fair and equal treatment of others and are engaged in making this happen on a daily basis. The Good Neighbors = Strong Community Awards program identifies and honors individuals, organizations and businesses in our community who are outstanding examples of “good neighbors.”

This year’s honorees include:

GRACE BACON
DOUG GILLESPIE
LINDSAY GONSKA
CAROL JACKSON
STACEY BELLOTT JAMISON
BETH O’CONNOR
MAKISHA REED
LAURA MIKULSKI, SUZANNE JANIK & ERIC GEINER
OF THE FERNDALE RAT PATROL

CHERYL SALINAS-TUCKER & JENY BULATOVIC OF ROUGE MAKE UP AND NAILS

“As always, the selection committee had a diverse pool of nominations, proving once again that Ferndale is full of Good Neighbors,” said Bridget Deegan-Krause, an organizer of the event. “This year we are honoring everyone from a school teacher who helps get food on kids’ tables to a local business that helps clients feel good inside and out.”

CONGRATS TO OUR FUEL 5TH GRADERS FOR THEIR GREAT CONCERT!

Big thanks to Kim Schroeder and Debbie Hillebrand for their great work with our students!

FMS STUDENTS VISIT RETIREMENT HOME

Recently Mrs. Phillips and Ms Nicholson took a small group of FMS students to visit the First and Main retirement center in Commerce. The goal of the trip was to introduce the students to the concept of working with the elderly and to develop compassion and awareness with the retirement community.

When they arrived the students were taken on a tour of the facility and then listened to a short presentation on the different career pathways within the retirement center.

After lunch the students spent 45 minutes doing activities and interacting with the residents.

Upon returning to the school students were asked to reflect on the trip. Below are some of the comments they shared.

STUDENTS COMMENTS:

“The field trip that I attended was really fun and an inspirational experience. I learned about a lot of things that will help me in the future. One of the things I learned about is patience. The employees at the nursing home were very patient with the residents. This will help me in my life because in life, you cannot rush things, you have to be patient. I also learned that getting a degree in a certain field doesn’t mean you have to do only that job. There are many different things you can do with one degree.”

“This field trip taught me that helping the elderly is better than being on my phone all day. The field trip helped me understand that helping older people, getting to talk to them, and playing games with them is way more fun than just being at home all day. I also learned that choosing this career path is very good because you would get to do your part in helping others. The trip was very fun because we got to help them and just talk to them. The trip showed me how to just have fun and help others while you still can and do your part.”

“This field trip was fun. I learned how everything isn’t about us. We need to think about our elders.”

Ferndale High School Transition Night

Tuesday, December 4th
5:30 to 6:30 pm
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
6:00 PM
Board of Education Special Meeting
- Committee of the Whole
FHS Nest

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
Early Release Wednesday

DECEMBER 6TH
FECC No School
Parent Teacher Conferences

DECEMBER 6TH
7:00 PM
5th Grade Band/Orchestra Concert
FHS Auditorium

DECEMBER 7TH
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
FMS PTSA after school Dance (Social)
Middle School Gym
*Parent Teacher Student Association sponsored after school dances are for FMS only, grades 6th, 7th, and 8th.