The school year is three quarters past and students have been learning and growing. We will be celebrating Black History Month and commemorating Music in Our Schools month with a program put together by the arts team. This will take place in the morning and afternoon of March 24th. The academic and PBIS celebrations will happen during quarter four. Celebrating students is an important and integral part of a school community. Celebrating what we value is a part of who we are at FAIR.

In January, Mrs. Brashi, our theatre teacher, learned about a contest that the MN Reading Association was hosting called Writers are Readers. Students were told about it and nine of them submitted their work. On January 17th, 15 total pieces were submitted to the “Writers are Readers” contest. FAIR was notified that Ava Bur (8th grade) was selected as a winner out of hundreds of submissions! She attended and read a portion of her poem at the MRA Celebrate Literacy Reception on Friday, March 3rd in Maple Grove. Please check it out on page 5.

As many of you have heard, I have been reassigned to Armstrong High school by Superintendent Jenkins. He explained to me and the staff that he wants me to share my skills in building positive relationships with students and staff as well as my instructional background at the high school level. As a principal, I understand that we are employees of the district and that our calling is to all students in Robbinsdale. We work as an administrative team for all students. As hard as this may be, I understand what he is asking of me. I look forward to serving the Armstrong community with the same commitment and love I have served the FAIR community.

Sideways Stories from Wayside High is coming up next weekend. We are so excited about the work Stages and our students are doing on the stage. We had over 100 students audition for 19 positions and we have thirty students serving on the tech crew, front of house and paint crew.

I hope all were able to attend conferences and meet with your child’s teacher(s). I believe conferences serve as a good check-in as teachers and parent/guardians should maintain communication throughout the year. Conferences should not be the first point of contact, but rather, one of many.

MCAs are rapidly approaching. We will be doing testing prep for the building, but our approach will be about long term skills for test taking and relationship building. The one thing I implore from families is to make sure your child comes to school with a completely charged Chromebook. This is the tool students will be using for testing. We will not have extra chargers or Chromebooks and part of the prep will be how to use and navigate the Chromebook for testing. Please also make sure they have gotten enough sleep and are eating healthy!

I am eternally grateful for the support from all of you while we help your students become not just learners, but citizens of the world who work to understand everyone around them, including their differences.
Spring Conferences

Parent-teacher-student conferences for FAIR School Crystal are scheduled for Monday, March 13th in the evening from 4-8 pm.

Conferences for students in Kindergarten and grades 4 & 5 will be 15 minutes in length and scheduled with each child's homeroom teacher.

Conferences for students in grades 6-8 will be scheduled online and will be 5 minutes in length. Due to time constraints, parents should sign up for only one conference per teacher.

Arts Residencies at FAIR School

It's been a busy winter for our student artists and our Artists-in-Residence here at FAIR!

In early January, 7th grade students worked with local photographic artist Wing Young Huie to create Chalk Talks and spent time photographing one another as well as FAIR staff. Guiding questions for this residency, which focused on self-identity and community, included: How do you see yourself? How does the world see you? What don't they see? Stop by the FAIR Gallery and 7th grade house during conferences to see their artwork on display!

6th graders spent 3 weeks in February working on their arts residency- Stories of Indigenous Resistance- with Anishinaabe artist, puppeteer, and storyteller Julie Kastigar Boada. Students created incredible masks, puppets, scenery, and props and each classroom brought a story to life on stage for their Interdisciplinary Performance on February 23rd. Great job, 6th graders!

On Friday, March 3, 8th grade students began their arts residency with local spoken word artist and musician Alexei Moon Casselle. Alexei worked briefly with these students as 7th graders, and we are excited to have him back at FAIR for a residency focused around Identity and Social Justice! Students will be writing and performing poetry and spoken word pieces, with the goal of extending their ideas to other art forms as well for their Interdisciplinary Performance in April.

Finally, our 4th graders are in the beginning stages of their storytelling and music-based residency, Elder Wisdom, Children’s Song. In mid-February, each classroom interviewed an elder from their classroom community. From those interviews, students will work with local composer and performer Yanni Davis to write, rehearse, and perform a song for their Interdisciplinary performance in May.

Thank You, FAIR families, for your continued support of your students in all of their ARTS experiences and learning opportunities!

Meet Jamesha Wandrick: Receptionist

FAIR Families, please meet Jamesaha Shalette Wandrick.

Jamesha serves as the school receptionist and attendance clerk. She is 32 years old and is in her 3rd year of service here at FAIR Crystal. Aside from being our resident friendly face, she has also helped work in our former After School Matters Program as an Educational Assistant. She has subbed for the after school art and dance classes and also taught her own class, the Art of Zentangle.

Mesha is always eager to help in any way she can with students, staff, and parents. She loves greeting our families with her high energy and winning smile and she keeps busy making sure that love and kindness is being spread through the school with hugs and kind gestures for every member of our FAIR Crystal family!
Upcoming Spring Play:  
Sideway Stories from Wayside School

This spring, FAIR School Crystal will be performing Sideways Stories from Wayside School.

Spring Play Performance dates will be Friday, March 17th and Saturday, March 18th @ 7 pm with a matinee on Sunday, March 18th @ 2 pm.

IMPORTANT CHANGE: Donations will be accepted.

Recently, a communication was sent out that FAIR would be charging admission for the spring play and all other future plays per district policy. There has been further discussion around this and it has been determined for this year only we will accept donations at the door in lieu of an admission fee. Suggested donation is $5 for adults and $3 for students. Next year this will be the admission charge.

Library Media Moment

*Chromebooks: If your 5th-8th grade student has an issue with their Chromebook, please encourage your student to visit the LMC for us to take a look at it. This could be a problem with the screen, keys or sound, etc. Students will use their Chromebooks for MCA testing and we in the LMC want to make sure everyone has a working Chromebook.

*Introducing: MackinVia eBooks!  
FAIR's eBook platform is up and running! There are over 1000 eBooks to choose from and a small assortment of eAudiobooks as well!  
Students can access MackinVia via their Chromebook. Either use the MackinVia app from the Chromebook launcher or just go to mackinvia.com.

4th and 5th grade students will choose FAIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for the school.  
6th-8th grade students will choose FAIR MIDDLE SCHOOL for the school.  
Once the school is selected, students use their school technology login to finish the login process.  
If you are curious about what MackinVia looks like, use this link and scroll down to the the Mackin-Via Introduction video that Mrs. Braun made.  
Questions? Feel free to call and ask Mrs. Braun, our library media specialist at 763-971-4512.

Nurse Notes

Illness keeps numerous students home from school every day.

The most effective way to prevent illness is frequent hand washing. Good hand washing should consist of scrubbing hands and wrists with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.

Keep immune systems strong:  
-Get 8 hours of sleep every night.  
-Stay hydrated. Water is best!  
-Eat healthy foods.  
-Do something active for at least 30 minutes every day.

Thank you for helping our students to stay healthy!
Early Childhood Screening Info for Families with Incoming Kindergartners

Do you or a neighbor have a child starting Kindergarten in the fall? Sign up for the emailed Kindergarten Readiness Newsletter to receive information about important upcoming dates and events, and information on all of the ways you can support your soon-to-be Kindergartener with the transition to school! Enrollment is easy, go to: Rdale.org-->Parents Tab-->Enroll Your Child-->Kindergarten Enrollment--> Kindergarten Readiness Newsletter-- then click on the sign up here to enroll. Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten!

Early Childhood Screening is required for all children prior to entrance to kindergarten. Screening is free and takes about an hour. Call now for an appointment: 763-504-4180

Early Childhood Screening
New Hope Learning Center
8301 47th Ave N
New Hope, MN 55427
ced.rdale.org

6th Grade Field Trip to Minneapolis Institute of Arts

On Tuesday, 2/28 the entire 6th grade went to MIA! We had guided tours, used our Visual Thinking Strategies skills, and had time to explore and do a scavenger hunt. Ask your student what their favorite thing was to see!

Did you know?
MIA is free to the public!
Consider a family field trip to experience art with your kids.
MIA is located at 2400 3rd Ave S in Minneapolis.
For upcoming family programming, check out https://new.artsmia.org/discover/#youth-and-family

Weekly Reading Warrior Winners
Tribute to Childhood by Ava Bur

What day does a child learn why the sky
Is blue?
What day when they learn why
Grass is green?
When do they see ugliness in themselves
That isn’t there at all?
When does their imagination stop?
When do they begin
To listen to the world around them?
When do books stop painting pictures?
When do movies become movies,
And stop becoming memory?
When does a mother put down a baby,
And never pick them up again?
When are you no longer
A shiny new thing?
When do colors become
Too sharp and precise and too painful
And stop mushing and fuzzing together?
When do words materialize on a page?
When do we stop making up our own stories?
When do distant objects
Stop really becoming as small as a fingernail?
When did Christmas stop
to really becoming as small as a fingernail?
When did Christmas stop
When did you stop
Trick or Treating?
When did you stop hunting for Easter eggs?
When did you stop coloring and
Start drawing?
When do you stop slipping on ice
And stop bruising your knees?
When do you stop getting grass stains?
When do you start worrying about the world?
When do you start worrying about weight?
When does the sun stop feeling warm
On your back?
When was the last time you laughed
until it hurt?
When does a child stop being a child?

CONGRATS AVA
on your award!
Keep up the fantastic work!

Dragons