

FRASER HIGH SCHOOL: Focused on every student's success!

FCCLA in action and helping others

By Sonja Tomovska
FCCLA Advisor

The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter at Fraser High School was formed during the 2010-2011 school year, but students have already led several projects and accomplished a great deal in such a small amount of time. FCCLA is unique because it is the only career and technical in-school student organization with the family as its central focus. Members in this nationally recognized organization enjoy being a part of the group because they are responsible for planning activities to help create healthy families and strong communities and, as a result, there are many opportunities for students to develop leadership skills.

Last year, students participated in a variety of FCCLA related activities. Some students organized smaller outreach projects, such as spending time volunteering at a local soup kitchen. Other students wanted to help develop a school-wide project and held a clothing drive to donate to a local Salvation Army. During the spring, FCCLA members volunteered to help out with Relay for Life, in hopes of finding a cure for cancer.



Natasha Rashwan and Alexandria Ruggeri at the FCCLA Fall 2011 Leadership Conference

Students organized several fundraisers and did a fantastic job encouraging the student body at Fraser High School to help donate for a great cause. Members also visited Dooley Pre-School in Fraser and helped out with a mini-relay that was organized to encourage kids to get involved at a young age.

During the 2011-2012 school year FCCLA will be participating in a fall leadership conference in Lansing. Attendees will participate in trainings and sessions that challenge, inform, and motivate members and their advisors to become leaders. There will be leadership coaches from Focus Train-

ing who will encourage attendees to stretch their leadership and teamwork skills through a series of hands-on activities. "It's a fun experience and you do take away a lot of good information from the conference," states Chapter President Brooke Domangue. The leadership conference inspires members to take action and the students come back eager to take on a new project.

In addition, each year, FCCLA establishes an outreach project with a partner organization to the community to help work towards, a noteworthy cause. In Ma-

comb County, the number of homeless families continues to grow. One out of every three homeless persons is a child. FCCLA students at Fraser High School recognized this and, as a part of an outreach program, are organizing a drive to fund-raise, collect or purchase needed items and donate them to the Youth and Family Program at Turning Point. FCCLA member Leah Carner also suggested that FCCLA donate toys to homeless children.

"It would be nice to help make the holiday season a little brighter for those children."

Other members quickly agreed that it would be a great project to develop. As part of this initiative, FCCLA will be asking people to bring donations to the local Food Pantry as an ongoing project throughout the year to help out families within the Fraser district.

A growing number of teenagers are now volunteering their time to help others or some selected cause and they are beginning to understand that they can make a difference. As members of FCCLA, Fraser High School students have learned that the best way to help yourself is to help others.



The Fraser High School Executive Board at the Fall Leadership Conference: Gaby Avila from left, Shannon Doran, Sabrina Maynard, Madelyn Olsen, and Emily Kilcline.

Business Professionals of America at Fraser High School

By Megan Elliott
BPA Advisor

The 2010-2011 school marked the return of a Business Professionals of America Chapter at Fraser High School. Met with great enthusiasm from the student body, 37 students joined the ranks of this nationally acclaimed organization. Business Professionals of America is a co-curricular national career and technical student organization that is part of an education program designed to develop leadership abilities, competency in business occupations and interest in the American business system. With 23 state associations and more than 54,000 members, BPA serves students who are currently, or were previously enrolled, in a business education program at a secondary or postsecondary institution. Chapters are located in high schools, career/technical centers, postsecondary technical institutions, junior and community colleges, and colleges and universities. The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills.

The primary focus for BPA members, The Workplace Skills Assessment Program, prepares students to succeed and assesses real-world business skills and problem solving abilities in finance, management, IT and computer applications. Defined as BPA's showcase program, the WSAP brings students together to demonstrate their career skills at regional, state and national conferences. With more than 25 participants at the regional competition held on Jan. 6, at Baker College in Clinton Township, the FHS chapter was proud to qualify three students for the state BPA competition held March 25-27 in Grand Rapids. Kate Christensen and Gabi Avila qualified in the Fundamentals of Word Processing event and Eddie Plaza qualified in Insurance Concepts.

The 2011-2012 chapter is off and running with an enthusiastic group of leaders prepared to once again demonstrate their skills and knowledge in the area of business as well as perform service at the local school and community level. The executive board is well represented by President Emily Kilcline, Vice President Arielle Martin, Treasurer Gaby Avila, Secretary Shannon Doran, Parliamentarian Madelyn Olsen, and Historian Sabrina Maynard.

On Oct. 10, 2011 the executive board participated in the BPA Fall Leadership Conference at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. A variety of activities focused on networking, creativity, teamwork, ethics, diversity, defining differences, leadership in service and enthusiasm had the students up and moving as they were led through high-energy workshops by professional speakers.

The 2012 Regional Workplace Skills Assessment Program is scheduled for Jan. 13th, 2012 at Baker College in Auburn Hills. The Fraser High School BPA Chapter will be prepared and well represented with a goal of advancing not only to the State Conference competition in Grand Rapids in March, but also to the National Competition to be held in Chicago from April 25 - 29, 2012. We wish them all Good Luck!

HOSA – Preparing the health care workers of tomorrow

By Marti VanEenaam-Iwanicki
HOSA advisor

School ended nearly two hours ago, but classroom 1212 at the north end of Fraser High School is still buzzing with activity. It is "Work Day Wednesday" and Fraser Health Occupations Students of America members are working on a variety of projects. Some students are raking leaves and pulling weeds in an exterior courtyard, some are making and hanging signs to advertise an upcoming blood drive, while others are planning a health fair slated for December.

HOSA is a national student organization dedicated to promoting career opportunities in health care, as well as enhancing the delivery of health care to all people. In addition to educational opportunities, HOSA gives students leadership experience through activities such as community service and competitive events.

"HOSA is an integral part of our Health Science curriculum," explained Marti VanEenaam-Iwanicki,



HOSA members prepare to take on yards full of leaves in their annual Rake & Run.

HOSA advisor and Health Science instructor. "It gives students the opportunity to develop some of the 'non-technical' skills they will need to be successful, such as professionalism and communication."

"I like all of the community service projects we do," stated junior Shayla Whitt. Fraser HOSA participates in several of these projects each year. The group recently completed a Rake & Run, in which members raked lawns in the Fraser community. Over 30 people participated, raking more than 40 lawns. Other projects include two

blood drives, sponsoring a family for Christmas, a Winter Wear Drive in January, making Valentine's Day cards with elementary children and delivering them to an area nursing home, and a Teddy Bear Repair clinic. The group has also participated in Jump Rope for Heart as well as Hoops for Heart with St. Luke's Lutheran School. This month, a health fair will be held for elementary students.

HOSA members also have the opportunity to put their knowledge and skills to the test through competition. Over 50 events are available

for students – including skills events such as sports medicine, nurse assisting and first aid/CPR; leadership events such as job seeking skills, extemporaneous writing, and researched persuasive speaking; knowledge events such as medical terminology, pathophysiology and concepts of health Care; and teamwork events such as career health display, medical reading, and biomedical debate. The Fraser chapter has done well in competition for the past several years, with students qualifying for the National HOSA Leadership Conference every year since 2005. The group has also earned state and national honors as an Outstanding HOSA Chapter in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Fraser HOSA is open for students in 9th through 12th grades who are interested in careers in the health care field. All members must pay state and national dues. Regular business meetings are held once a month, with committee meetings as needed; and every Wednesday after school, room 1212 is buzzing with activity for Work Day Wednesday.

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