Message from the Executive Director

The deeply covered, snow-covered hills out my window make it hard to imagine that spring is coming soon. But it is, along with two major events for the Fred Rogers Center.

On the evening of May 23, we will host the inaugural Fred Rogers Legacy Award. The Fred Rogers Legacy Award honors persons who have creatively advanced the legacy of Fred Rogers through their own contributions to the well-being of children and by inspiring others to help children develop their unique talents. We are pleased to announce that the first recipient of this award is Yo-Yo Ma.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, the Fred Forward Conference is June 1-3, and we are very honored to have LeVar Burton as our keynote speaker. LeVar has embraced new technology and reimagined Reading Rainbow into a chart topping interactive reading app through his educational company, RRKidz. We are also happy to announce our panel moderators for the event. They are: Jane Werner (Children's Museum of Pittsburgh), Warren Buckleitner (Children's Technology Review), Carla Fisher (No Crusts, Erikson Institute), and Emily Kirkpatrick (National Center for Families Learning).

We are also happy to announce our panel moderators for the event. They are: Jane Werner (Children's Museum of Pittsburgh), Chip Donohue (TEC Center at Erikson Institute), Warren Buckleitner (Children's Technology Review), Carla Fisher (No Crusts), and Emily Kirkpatrick (National Center for Families Learning). For my colleagues and friends in the northeast, stay warm and remember spring is around the corner.

-Rick Fernandes

The Most Unusual Naptime Lullaby

A short film dedicated to everyone who has ever rocked a child to sleep (or has been rocked to sleep)

The film, “Naptime Story: Just a Mail Lullaby,” honors the simple power of human connection and how much it matters in a child’s learning and growing. Produced by Junlei Li and Dave Safin, “Naptime Story” has been submitted to the BABY STEPS Film Competition. If you like the film, please take a moment to share it and vote for it. The film is a collaboration of the Fred Rogers Center, The Fred Rogers Company, and the Pittsburgh Association for Early Learning and Growing.

In the Archive...

In 1996, Fred Rogers traveled to the Binney & Smith factory in Easton, Pennsylvania to pour the 100 billionth Crayola crayon. Although Fred’s favorite color was yellow, the special crayon was in the limited-edition color Blue Ribbon. The commemorative replica that Fred received at the event is a new addition to the Fred Rogers Archive.

Carrying the Legacy Forward-
In My Own Words

Just as Fred Rogers understood the importance of community, we know that it takes advocates, collaborators, donors, and so many other friends, to help achieve our mission.

I chose to support the Fred Rogers Center because, growing up, I was a big fan of Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood. Now that I’m a father, my 4-year-old boy is growing up with the Neighborhood. The other thing that comes with parenthood, is the newfound appreciation for the important work that others do for young children. The Fred Rogers Center is certainly doing that important work.

-Aaron Schuelle

New Blog Post

"Being Picky"

The Center's newest blog post, "Technologys and Family Life," recommends "being picky" about tech and offers other great advice on protecting childhood in the digital age.

Elle’s Corner

We are pleased to welcome Kindermusik as our newest Elle content partner! Check out their suite of ebooks, videos, songs, and slideshows, called Family All Around Me, for great ideas to try with your toddlers! Talk with children about how the night sky changes, how your family wakes up in the morning, and other everyday events.

Connect with Elle

Congratulations

Congratulations to Fred Rogers Center Advisor, Ellen Galinsky, President and Co-Founder of Families and Work Institute, on receiving the 2014 Friend of Children Award from the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA). Past recipients of the award include Fred Rogers, Berry Brazelton, Hillary Clinton, and Rosalyn Carter.

Words of Wisdom

"Nothing can replace the influence of unconditional love in the life of a child."

-Fred Rogers