Message from the Executive Director

As you take a deep dive into the Fred Rogers Archive, one thing becomes apparent -- the power of human connection was very important to Fred. Fred Rogers Center Co-Director Junlei Li, Ph.D., has written about the importance of relationships in the past, and has partnered with organizations in Pittsburgh to create a professional development tool to identify simple interactions and grow them through a community of practice.

At the Rogers Center, we've come to think of these groups as communities of learning and are working to expand this concept using a community-by-community approach. We are happy to announce we will be launching our first rural community of learning in partnership with the Ligonier Valley School District this fall, which is a close neighbor to the Center. By working with local stakeholders, we look forward to identifying and amplifying best practices, and sharing updates on the program as it moves forward as well as keeping you apprised of new opportunities to build more communities of learning in other regions.

In gratitude,

Rick Fernandes

New On the Blog

You Are (Not) Special -- in this season of commencement addresses, Dr. Junlei Li reflects on two messages to graduates.

Putting the Education in Educational Apps

What makes an app "educational"? In the new issue of Psychological Science in the Public Interest, Fred Rogers Center Director of Digital Learning and Research Dr. Michael Robb and coauthors suggest four key principles that lead to a more effective educational experience: active involvement, engagement, meaningfulness, and social interaction.

New Newsletter Launched

If you haven't had the chance to check out PNC Grow Up
The end of May means the beginning of beach vacations and summer relaxation. In the Fred Rogers Archive, we are thinking about Fred's favorite get-away spot-Nantucket. Most of the archival searches for Nantucket lead us to Fred's friend, Mildred Jewett, a physically and emotionally strong woman who dedicated her life to caring for animals and people on Madaket Beach. "Madaket Millie" was so important to Fred that he interviewed her and highlighted her good deeds on an episode of his television program Old Friends, New Friends. After her death, Fred shared his memories of her with Reader's Digest. He titled his piece, "Unforgettable 'Madaket Millie': A Woman of Few Words and Even Fewer Social Niceties, She Taught Me Something About the Human Heart."

Over the years, the Fred Rogers Center has created some amazing apps, videos, songs, and other resources to support families and educators as they share meaningful media experiences. Check out a Fred Rogers Center Play!List that includes all of our great resources!

Connect with Ele!  

Carrying the Legacy Forward -- In My Own Words

The Fred Rogers Exhibit can be explored at the Center or viewed online by anyone who wants to learn more about Fred's life, work, and legacy. Every now and then, we receive comments that really touch our hearts. Here is one of those inspiring remarks.

Fred Rogers has been part of my life and consciousness my entire 65 years of life. I always smile when I hear him singing, "Won't you be my neighbor." Yes, Fred, always.

The reaction of Fred and the entire audience when Great Senior Fellow Hedda Sharapan's newsletter, "What We Can Continue to Learn From Fred Rogers," we promise it is a great read. This month she focused on how to foster creativity in young children. To sign up to receive it, simply click here.

Day of Giving

Thank you to everyone who supported the Day of Giving on Tuesday, May 5. It is most appreciated!

Words of Wisdom

"Our world hangs like a magnificent jewel in the vastness of space. Every one of us is a part of that jewel. A facet of that jewel. And in the perspective of infinity, our differences are infinitesimal. We are intimately related. May we never pretend that we are not. Have you heard my favorite story that came from the Seattle Special Olympics? Well, for the 100-yard dash there were nine contestants, all of them so-called physically or mentally disabled. All nine of them assembled at the starting line and at the sound of the
Jeff Erlanger came on stage at his induction into the TV Hall of Fame was one of the most endearing and enduring moments, and I'm so glad that it has been preserved. We so desperately need a few Mister Rogers in the world today -- what a different place it would be. I like to think of Fred out there in the cosmos with Carl Sagan -- always in our hearts and just slightly out of reach.

-Anonymous

gun, they took off. But not long afterward one little boy stumbled and fell and hurt his knee and began to cry. The other eight children heard him crying; they slowed down, turned around and ran back to him. Every one of them ran back to him. One little girl with Down Syndrome bent down and kissed the boy and said, "This'll make it better." And the little boy got up and he and the rest of the runners linked their arms together and joyfully walked to the finish line. They all finished the race at the same time. And when they did, everyone in that stadium stood up and clapped and whistled and cheered for a long, long time. People who were there are still telling the story with great delight. And you know why. Because deep down, we know that what matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win too. Even if it means slowing down and changing our course now and then."