Message from the Executive Director

It has been a busy May here at the Fred Rogers Center. We have been planning the Fred Rogers Legacy Award and the Fred Forward Conference, plus we selected our 2014 Early Career Fellows.

First off, we are all very excited about the Fred Rogers Legacy Award, which is being given to Yo-Yo Ma this Friday, May 23rd. The support for this event by our sponsors has exceeded our expectations and will help us keep our mission moving forward by allowing us to fund our Early Career Fellows program and Fred Rogers Scholars program at Saint Vincent College.

And the Center is happy to announce that we have selected the speakers for our first ever Fred Chats at the Fred Forward Conference. Fred Chats will showcase fantastic work being done on behalf of children by students and young professionals. They are: Ronnell Anderson of Slippery Rock University, Julia Hlavacik of Saint Vincent College, Tatenda Mbudzi, a 2012 Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation Fred Rogers Memorial Scholarship recipient, Dennis McClintock of Elizabeth Forward High School, and Divya Shah of Markham District High School.

We also had the incredibly difficult task of choosing this year’s Early Career Fellows. We not only had a large jump in applications over last year, but the level of quality in applicants was so high that making the final selections was extremely challenging. We will announce our fellows at the Fred Forward Conference.

That’s all for now. I look forward to seeing many of you at these upcoming events. -Rick Fernandes

How Do We Support Early Childhood Teacher Preparation So It Keeps Pace with Technology?

In the Center’s most recent blog post, “Digital Media Literacy for Early Childhood Educators,” Chip Donohue, director of the TEC Center at Erikson Institute, discusses ways to enhance digital media literacy for early childhood educators.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh! “Tone Phones,” part of “XOXO: An Exhibit about Love & Forgiveness,” won a bronze MUSE Award from the American Alliance of Museums! Kudos to Fred Rogers Center Early Career Fellow alum, Greg Witt, and the Exhibits team at the museum!

App Updates!

Our two newest apps, Museum Mix Up and Nina and Peanut have been updated to include support for more devices (including most 5” phones). If you have an Android phone, give them a try!

Can television prepare children to become good learners? In this article from the March 1984 issue of PTA Today, Fred Rogers lists what is necessary for learning readiness: self-esteem, trust, curiosity, the ability to pay attention, playfulness, and quiet time. Multifaceted, intelligent television characters could help to develop some of these fundamentals, but what are most important are the connections and relationships a child experiences in the real world. This article is an excerpt from the 1983 book Mister Rogers Talks with Parents.

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Lots of new content this month!
- Learn more about feelings and managing frustration with videos from The Mother Company!
- From our new content partner, ReadyRonie, learn techniques to help children “chime in” when reading, in English and Spanish.
- And from the Carnegie Science Center, create a weird and fun substance called Oobleck with your preschooler.
Carrying the Legacy Forward

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.

The Fred Rogers Center is grateful for the generosity of our sponsors for the Fred Rogers Legacy Award and the Fred Forward Conference.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Words of Wisdom

“There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.”

-Fred Rogers