

## Mark Your Calendar

### Support Meetings

First Saturday  
of the Month

**When:**

- February 4, 2012 \*
- March 3, 2012
- April 14, 2012 \*\*

**Business Meeting**

6 - 7 p.m.

**Support Meeting**

7 - 9 p.m.

\* Business Meeting will start @ 6:30 pm

\*\* Date Change

**Where:**

Beaumont Hospital  
Royal Oak Campus  
Administration Bldg  
Private Dining Room

**Special Events:**

**February 4, 2012**

Free FXAM Party  
see page 5

**March 6-7, 2012**

Advocacy Day  
advocacy.fragilex.org  
see page 4

**July 25-29, 2012**

13th International FX  
Conference, Miami

**Fragile X Association of Michigan**

Contact Information:

313-381-2834

FXAM.org

## Three Cheers for...

**Adam Popejoy!** Plymouth-Canton Community Schools has over 10,000 students, at three high schools, in a one square mile radius known as the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Most students travel to all 3 schools on a daily basis to cover the curriculum, Adam included. Adam was chosen, the first month of his first year of high school, along with many other students who have excelled, as the Student of the Month for Plymouth High School!

Adam was honored, for excellence and being an all around good student, at a special breakfast for the students and their parents. Each student was given a certificate of achievement from the high school principal and had their picture posted in the school hallway for everyone to see.



Take a walk, or run,  
on the wild side ...

See page 4



The Holiday  
Party

## A Great Alternative to the iPad for Autism

Linda Hodgdon, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

There has certainly been an iPad explosion related to individuals with autism, Asperger's and similar learning needs. An iPad is not the only option to provide some important learning opportunities for our kids.

I've received a lot of correspondence from people who want access to academic games for the iPad. Reading, spelling, math. Well . . . those are available for an iPad, but if that is what you really are interested in, check out the **LeapFrog LeapPad Explorer Learning Tablet**.

The **LeapPad Explorer Learning Tablet** gives you access to more than 100 educational books, games, videos, and apps. Subjects like mathematics, reading, science, spelling, phonics, music and more are covered in a fun and interactive way. Some activities are on the tablet when it is purchased. Others can be purchased and/or downloaded later, just like apps for the iPad.

**Here's what I really like** The **LeapPad Tablet** has a great 5" screen. It's large and bright. This is a much larger screen than many of the other "child" electronics. The screen resolution is much higher, too, which means the picture quality is considerably better than a lot of other options.

The **LeapPad Tablet** has a touch screen that works basically like the iPad.

The **LeapPad Tablet** comes with a camera, video recorder and microphone. It can take 30,000 pictures and record 120 minutes of video. That's a lot of capacity.

The **LeapPad** automatically adjusts learning so that kids can learn at their own pace.

They can practice writing with an included child-sized stylus.

Kids can read e-books, play learning games, enhance art and animation skills, listen to and play music, learn writing, watch videos, and do flash cards and lots more.

An online tool enables you to track your child's progress

The child has no direct access to the internet so the **LeapPad Tablet** is SAFE. (You need to plug the device into your computer to access the website to download more apps or work with the progress tools.)

**MOST IMPORTANT.** The price of the **LeapPad Tablet** is under \$100. Much cheaper than the iPad. Additional apps are available for purchase just like the apps for the iPad. You are able to choose which ones are most appropriate for the individual child the device is purchased for.

### What it IS and what it IS NOT

The **LeapPad Explorer Learning Tablet** is a very child friendly alternative to the iPad. It offers a lot of educational activities in a format that is highly desirable from a child's point of view. We have already established that our students on the Autism Spectrum are drawn to visual learning. This **LeapPad Tablet** meets a lot of educational needs at a price point that is considerably lower than the iPad.

Just keep in mind that **LeapPad Explorer Learning Tablet** is NOT an iPad. It will not work with some of the specific communication apps like Proloquo2go that have been developed for the iPad. But if you are looking for a less expensive, child friendly, child durable option that will help teach "basic skills" then the **LeapPad Tablet** might be a great option.

### Good news . . . They are BACK again

The **LeapPad Tablet** was one of the HOT items during the holiday season. (Don't tell anyone that I stood in a pretty long line to get the one for Bella!) The good news is that now that the holiday rush is over, they are back again. Definitely worth checking out.

Linda Hodgdon is the author of the best seller, **Visual Strategies for Improving Communication**.

To learn more or to sign up for her FREE E-newsletter, visit

[www.UseVisualStrategies.com](http://www.UseVisualStrategies.com)

## Apps for iDevices (iPhone, iPod, iPad)

Mary Beth Langan

Looking for free apps for your new (or old) iDevice? Here are a few short reviews:

### **Photo Touch Sight Words (free)**

If you have a child who loves technology but is hard to motivate in other ways, this is a great way to see how many sight words they already know and encourage them to learn more! Starts with asking for the user to match the spoken sight word with one of three words. As the user does well, the field of three grows and grows while encouraging the user along.

### **Learning with Puzzles (free for intro set)**

The user gets to choose from 6

categories of puzzles and three levels (easy, medium, hard). A great puzzle app!

### **Whimsy (free for intro set)**

This one is interesting puzzle app because you don't see the actual photo until you complete the puzzle! While working, you don't know what you're creating (although you can sometimes guess).

Both puzzle apps are good for fine motor, hand/eye coordination. Whimsy is less forgiving of where you 'drop in' the puzzle piece; Learning with Puzzles lets you succeed with putting the piece close to where it belongs.

### **I See Ewe (free)**

Many options with this matching app: colors, objects, animals, shapes; multiple levels and multiple languages (English, German, Spanish & Chinese), so although this looks simple, everyone in the family can learn from this app!

Does your child have a favorite game, app, PC software that you believe other children/adults might enjoy? Please share and send your review to the editors for inclusion in a future newsletter.

Mary Beth  
mblangan@hotmail.com

Sally  
sallyn423@wyan.org

## Survey Says ...

RTI International is working with the National Fragile X Foundation to invite their constituents to participate in a survey. Your answers to their questions are very important to make sure they draw the right conclusions about the opinions of people like you. We need you to help make their study a success.

The survey will take less than 20 minutes to complete. To take the survey, please go to the following website:

[Fragilex.rti.org](http://Fragilex.rti.org)

When you complete your survey, RTI International will donate \$15 to the National Fragile X Foundation to support fragile X research and other Foundation activities.

Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary and all your responses will be kept confidential. No personally identifiable information will be associated with your responses in any reports of this data. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact RTI International at:

[fxs@rti.org](mailto:fxs@rti.org) or 1-800-334-8571 ext. 26404.

## What are the Ingredients for a Great Picnic?

Kim Young

I know, I know. I'm talking about picnics when the snow is finally here. Close your eyes and imagine summer.

When I think about what makes up a great picnic I think about three things; a beautiful location, yummy food and great company. The last few years for our annual Fragile X Family Picnic we've had two of those things. We've been missing you! This year I hope to make our family picnic the best yet. This event does happen in conjunction with our Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk, but keep in mind it is not mandatory to do both. It is an easy walk if you are not in it for the competition. I promise it's not an Olympic trial! We'd love to have your company out on the trails, but would be just as happy to enjoy some good food and conversation afterwards with you.

This year's picnic will be Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, out at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston. (We moved it away from the Dream Cruise weekend, so now you can do both!) It takes place right after the run, usually about 11:30. The Fragile X Association of Michigan covers the cost of the picnic, supplying the picnic shelter, the hot dogs and hamburgers and the drinks. All you have to bring is yourselves and a dish to pass! The only cost for this event is the entrance fee to the park which is \$5 per vehicle.

Please think about this date when you are planning your summer (ahh..summer) vacations and try to pencil us in. This event will be taking place right after the International Conference in Miami so it is a great way to discuss what you've learned, if you were there, or come here all the latest information from those who did go.

Come out and meet families we don't see often at the meetings. Come meet the kids you hear all about at the meetings. Come see what a great network of fragile x families we have here in Michigan!

Registration forms can be found on our events page at [fxam.org](http://fxam.org).

## Advocacy Day Scholarship

FXAM offers a scholarship to help ease your budget if you'd like to participate in the NFXF Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. This year, the event is March 6-7.

If you are interested in attending and would like to apply for the scholarship or for more

information, please contact Laureen Majeske at

[lmajeske1@comcast.net](mailto:lmajeske1@comcast.net) or  
586-978-9079

by **Monday, February 6**, stating your intention to apply for the scholarship.

"Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself at all."

~William Temple

### Does FXAM have your correct email address?

In this electronic age, we try to send many of our updates and our event information via email to help our group save postage. If you think we may not have your correct email address, please contact Mary Beth at

[mblangan@hotmail.com](mailto:mblangan@hotmail.com)

to change or confirm your email address. Thank you!



## From the President's Desk *by Lauren Majeske*

Happy New Year! We are off to a great start this year with many activities already in the works!

Shortly, you will be receiving information about the grand opening of our new fragile X clinic at the University of Michigan. There will be an event where you can come into the clinic, meet the doctors, ask lots of questions and socialize with other families.

On February 4, attend a free, fun-filled afternoon at Eastern Michigan University where we

will watch the women's basketball team battle it out with Miami University in our own private suite. Come and get a taste of Miami (the Ohio version) before you travel to Miami (the Florida version) in July for the NFXF International Fragile X Conference! See page five for more info on the Feb. 4 event. Stay tuned for scholarship info to help you attend the conference in July.

In addition, these FXAM 2012 activities are already on the books: our family picnic and 5K

(August), our annual golf outing (September) as well as the What About You Walk in Ann Arbor (also September). Plan ahead to attend! There are a few other surprises in the works as well.

Make this the year that you commit to being a part of the best fragile X group in the nation!



### Visit

[michiganallianceforfamilies.org/edu](http://michiganallianceforfamilies.org/edu)

for educational opportunities they sponsor, both in person and online, to have you learning at your convenience!



## Free FXAM Party @ EMU



Are you interested in bringing your family to the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center to watch the women's basketball team play Miami University at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 in celebration of our upcoming conference in Miami? (yes, Miami University is located in a different city, but you get the point) The event includes free tickets, free parking, free very large suite just to ourselves (plenty of room for movement and pacing), free food and drinks (yes, everything is free, seriously). Best of all is the TRUEMU welcome package: fan tunnel, PA announcement and welcome message on the big screen.

Please contact Mary Beth at [mblangan@hotmail.com](mailto:mblangan@hotmail.com) or 313-881-3340 or reply to Ted's post about the event at the

Fragile X Association of Michigan Facebook page



