

**Welcome to FMA!**

**A Guide for Families, by Families**



Fletcher Maynard Academy  
225 Windsor Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617.349.6588

(Updated: August 2016)

Dear New / Returning FMA Family,

Welcome to FMA! We are delighted to include you in our community of scholars, teachers, parents, guardians, professionals, caregivers, coaches, musicians, and artists, and we hope you find this guide useful as your child becomes an FMA scholar.

We wrote this guide because we all had questions when we joined FMA. We hope it will begin to answer some of the questions you might have (hours, meals, uniforms, buses, etc.). Even more than that, we hope it will help connect you to the community, including Principal Robin Harris, Assistant Principal Deborah Hood-Brown, Family Liaison Phyllis Newton, FMA's fabulous teachers, FMA PTO officers, and others who are eager to answer your questions.

We hope that you are looking forward to getting to know other families and that you enjoy being a part of our wonderful FMA community!

Best,

Shani Ellis  
FMA PTO President

## **CONTENTS**

Why We Love FMA	Pages 3-4
Six Key Facts About FMA	Pages 5-6
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	Pages 7-12
Community Resources for After-School and Summer Programs	Pages 13-15
Contacts	Page 16



Here are some of the many distinctive features that make FMA special:

### **1. Academic Excellence**

FMA is committed to academic excellence. FMA is ranked a Level-I school by the Massachusetts Department of Education for its success in closing the achievement gap. In 2013, FMA was featured as one of the top 15 elementary schools in the state of Massachusetts, by Boston.com's "Dreamschools" project. Research on test scores shows that the primary driver of a school's test scores is the socioeconomic status of the students in that school. Given that a significant number of FMA scholars qualify for free or reduced lunch, we are even more proud of our high test scores. Indeed, we think FMA proves that socioeconomic diversity and high academic achievement can be combined in one school.

### **2. Respecting and Valuing Differences**

We are proud that members of our community come from over 40 countries and speak more than 30 languages at home. We believe it is important for our children to respect and appreciate cultural differences and to develop the skills, habits and heart to contribute successfully to a diverse society. In 2016, we put these beliefs into action by embarking on a series of evening "Courageous Conversations" about race, class, and gender, facilitated by experienced leaders from Tufts University. In these conversations, we shared our own "racial autobiographies" and learned from each other through innovative, guided experiences, and ultimately crafted detailed action plans to support the further strengthen our community.

### **3. Inclusion Model**

We proudly house an Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) program that has classrooms designed to provide special assistance for students who are on the spectrum, while at the same time maximizes educational inclusiveness for all students. Having scholars with ASD integrated into regular classrooms benefits all students because of the additional instructional support, universal design for learning, and community-building experiences. Make sure to ask to view the video our scholars made about what autism means to them! Many of us attended the world premier of this video in the FMA gym and we can tell you: there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

### **4. Spanish Classes**

FMA is the only Cambridge school to offer non-immersion Spanish language classes at the elementary level. Classes begin in the preschool and JK. The addition of Spanish was enabled in part by the efforts of families and by FMA's extended day, which lasts 8 hours rather than 6, allowing more time for innovative instruction (and additional recess!) After school, the FMA Community School offers Spanish language classes coordinated with the FMA Spanish program.

### **5. Kodaly Music Program**

FMA is one of the few Cambridge elementary schools to offer music class four times per week. Students display their talents at concerts, which are attended by family members, parents,

caregivers, friends, and members of the community. Last year the Mayor of Cambridge joined us for a concert after students wrote letters inviting her!

### **6. Scholar College Preschool Program**

FMA's Scholar College is one of only three programs in Cambridge Public Schools that accept 3-year-olds by lottery. Established in 2013, the program serves one class of 18 students and is led by two wonderful and experienced teachers, Ms. Corey and Ms. Gaetane. The program utilizes an active, hands-on, and student-directed curriculum. These young 3 and 4-year olds participate in the full 8-hour day and are a wonderful addition to the FMA community!

### **7. Principal Robin Harris**

Principal Harris is the most experienced elementary school principal in Cambridge. She is widely recognized for her extraordinary vision and her dedication to her students and their progress. We believe the warm, supportive, and rigorous culture starts at the top, and we are grateful to Robin Harris for setting such a positive tone throughout the school. To see how she does this for herself, watch her greet all students by name at the start of the school day, 7:45 am sharp! She also has a fascinating biography – ask her about her life as a poet!

### **8. Global Citizenship**

FMA is committed to getting students to think globally from a young age. We celebrate our diversity through events throughout the year that encourage global awareness and engagement. FMA also organizes an annual international trip for interested students and their families. This is a longstanding tradition of FMA that reaches back to when FMA was a K-8 school and the international trip was an annual tradition enjoyed by all 8<sup>th</sup> graders when they “graduated” FMA. We brought our eighth graders to England, Mexico, Costa Rica, China, and Italy. Since then, the younger students and their families and teachers have gone to Senegal, Puerto Rico, and India. Every other year, the school selects a Spanish-speaking destination to support its Spanish program and reinforce its identity as Spanish heritage school. In 2017, we will go to Spain!

### **9. Extended Day**

The 8-hour day allows students to receive instruction in a wide range of subjects, including Spanish language (every day except Wednesday, when the school day ends at 2:00 pm rather than 3:45 pm). The extended day also allows more time for field trips around Cambridge and Boston as well as double recess!

### **10. Fletcher Maynard Community Schools**

This is our wonderful after school program. The classes offer a wide variety of educational enrichment experiences for students. These range from Lego activity groups to Reader's Theater to Origami to Hip-Hop to Step Dancing. The Community School also works closely with our neighborhood, The Port, organizing community events such as the annual Halloween Party and a celebration for Haitian Independence Day.

## **SIX KEY FACTS ABOUT FMA**

### **1. School Mission and Values**

The Fletcher Maynard Academy is committed to building and nurturing a community of caring citizens who are lifelong learners. For years, this mission has been expressed through our core values, FMA C.A.R.E.S.: **C**uriosity, **A**ttitude, **R**esponsibility, **E**xcellence, and **S**elf-Discipline.

### **2. School Hours**

Students are welcome to play on the FMA playground starting at 7:30 am on school days. School grounds are closed until 7:30 am, when adult supervision of the playground begins. The first bell rings at 7:45 am every morning. After that, students have fifteen minutes to get to class. After the second bell at 8:00 am, students are marked tardy. Please help your FMA scholar(s) to arrive on time! Everyone deserves a full day at FMA.

School ends at 3:45 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, students are dismissed at 2:00 pm. Parents who pick up their children should pick them up in the gym (except for preschool and JK students, who can be picked up in their classrooms).

Tip: Parking around FMA is limited, but there are a few spots reserved for pick-up and drop-off right in front of the school on Harvard St. Parents who drive also often find parking on Boardman St., which is parallel to Windsor St., or further down Harvard St. near Izzy's Park.

### **3. School Bus Information**

Cambridge Public Schools has an extensive school bus system. All FMA students who walk one mile or more to get to the school are eligible for free bus transportation. Additionally, students who must cross Massachusetts Avenue, Fresh Pond Parkway, McGrath Highway, Alewife Brook Parkway, or the railroad tracks at Sherman Street, are eligible for bus transportation to FMA. Students with special needs are eligible for door-to-door transportation if it is included in their IEP (Individualized Education Program). Note: Children may also be transported to afterschool programs at the end of school day.

There are many different bus routes and schedules for FMA students depending on what neighborhood of Cambridge you live in. For more information about the FMA bus schedules or policies, please stop by the main office or visit the CPS Transportation website at: <http://www.cpsd.us/departments/transportation/>. For specific questions about pick-up and drop-off times and locations, please contact Tina Fisher by phone at 617.349.6862 or by email at [tfisher@cpsd.us](mailto:tfisher@cpsd.us).

### **4. Student Absences, Tardies, and Dismissals**

If your child must be absent from school, please call the school secretary before 8:00 am at 617.349.6588. If students are tardy or need to be dismissed early from school for something like a doctor's appointment, please provide a written explanation to the FMA office and alert your child's teacher. Many teachers communicate with parents via email or text. Please ask your teacher about their preferred method of communication.

## 5. School Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast is free for all FMA students and is served in each classroom at 7:45 am. FMA has its own breakfast menu: assorted cereals, yogurts, breads, muffins, fresh fruits, 100% orange juice or apple juice, milk, and a hot option at least twice per week. Encourage your child to eat a healthy breakfast and start the day right to learn and grow strong! Every month, your child will receive a school breakfast and lunch menu in their homework folders. You can also access these menus online on our school website at <http://fma.cpsd.us/>

Families pay for school lunches in one of two ways:

1. Online with a credit card at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com)
2. By mailing a check to: Food Service Office, Kennedy/Longfellow School  
158 Spring Street Cambridge, MA 02141

Elementary Breakfast/Lunch Prices

	Reduced	Standard
Breakfast	Free	Free
Lunch	\$.40	\$2.75
Milk	Free	\$.50

To learn more about the school breakfast and lunch program, visit: [http://www.cpsd.us/departments/food\\_and\\_nutrition\\_services](http://www.cpsd.us/departments/food_and_nutrition_services). If you have questions or concerns about your child's school meals or to get an application for free/reduced meals, please contact Mellissa Honeywood, the Director of The Food and Nutrition Services Department, by phone at 617.349.6858 or by email at [mhoneywood@cpsd.us](mailto:mhoneywood@cpsd.us).

## 6. School Uniforms

FMA scholars should wear school uniforms every day. Students should wear white, light blue, or navy collared shirts with navy or khaki pants or skirts.

Families can purchase uniforms at many stores including: Target, Old Navy, Sears, Children's Place, JC Penney, and Wal-Mart. FMA also accepts donations of gently used school uniforms. Families who need help accessing school uniforms can receive them at reduced cost or free from the main office. For more information, please see Phyllis Newton, the Parent Liaison.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

### **1. What is the history of FMA? Who was Fletcher? Who was Maynard?**

FMA was originally two separate K-8 schools, the Fletcher School and the Maynard School. The Fletcher was named after Ruel Hasseltine Fletcher who served as the school's principal for almost 50 years. The Maynard was named in honor of Joseph Maynard, a longtime member of the Cambridge School Committee.

In 1999, a Steering Committee comprised of parents, teachers, community members, and Cambridge Public Schools central office staff was elected to discuss the merging of the Fletcher and Maynard Schools. Working together, they developed a turnaround plan for these low-performing schools, which centered on establishing one new school focused on educational excellence and smaller class sizes. FMA opened its doors in September 2000.

In 2003, Cambridge Public Schools implemented a new consolidation and improvement plan that restructured its 15 existing elementary schools from the K-8 model to K-5 Elementary Schools and 6-8 Middle Schools. As a result, FMA retained its name but became a K-5 school and students who graduated moved to the Cambridge Street Upper School.

Fun fact: The Maynard School's Spanish immersion program began in 1986. In 2001, this program became an autonomous bilingual (dual-language) school known as the Amigos School.

### **2. What are the school's top priorities?**

The Fletcher Maynard Academy is committed to building and nurturing a community of caring citizens who are life-long learners. With perseverance and courage, this community fosters respect for cultural and social diversity, family and education.

To support this overall mission, FMA also has a school improvement plan that spans two school years. The plan is a road map that sets out the changes we need to make to improve the level of student achievement, and it shows how and when these changes will be made.

### **3. Who teaches at FMA?**

FMA proudly features a diverse group of talented teachers and professionals. Many have received wide recognition for their excellent work, including a feature story in the *Boston Globe* about JK teacher Rosalind O'Sullivan (or "Ms. O"). In addition to the homeroom teachers, your scholar may work with a wide range of education specialists including teacher's aides, math coaches, language coaches, Title 1 specialists, librarians, art teachers, music teachers, and athletic coaches. For a complete list, please ask Principal Harris or consult the FMA web site at <http://fma.cpsd.us>.

### **4. What is Monday Morning Meeting? And should I attend?**

Monday Morning Meeting is a community meeting for the whole school that takes place every Monday from 7:45 - 8:00 am in the gym. A student committee plans the meeting and presents the topics for the week. Yes! All are welcome, and you should come. It is a great way to hear



about what will be happening at school that week, hear about the wonderful work our scholars are doing, and sing some beautiful songs as a whole school community. There is seating for families on the side of the gym.

#### **5. Where can I find the library and who can use it? Who is the FMA librarian?**

The library is located on the second floor of FMA in room 207 and is run by our wonderful librarian, Ms. Aishah Abdul-Musawwir or “Ms. A.” She has been a part of our school community since 2007 and is a rich resource for FMA students and families. Our library has an excellent collection of books that reflect the diversity of our student body. All FMA students go to the library weekly and have many opportunities to browse, borrow, and read books.

FMA families are also welcome to use the library to browse and check out books from 7:30 – 8:30 am and from 2:45 - 3:45 pm when Ms. A is in the library. Family members who wish to borrow from the library’s collection may sign up for a “Family Library Card” and may check out two books. If you have any questions about the library or to schedule use of the library space during the school day, please contact Ms. A at 617.349.6588 or [aabdul-musawwir@cpsd.us](mailto:aabdul-musawwir@cpsd.us).

#### **6. How does the school support children with medical needs like allergies?**

Over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol require a signed parental consent form. Only the school nurse may administer consented medication. The nurse may also administer prescription medications, but there must be both a physician order and parental consent form on file for each medication. It is the parent’s responsibility to ensure that prescriptions are filled and given to the nurse.

If your child has an allergy, you may ask that a 504 Plan be implemented to ensure that there is a plan in place to manage the allergy within the school setting. Please contact the school nurse if you have questions; the nurse’s office is on the second floor of the building, at the Broadway/Windsor corner.

#### **7. What are the benefits of an extended day? Isn’t it too long for small children?**

In fact, the extended day is something that many Cambridge parents have expressed an interest in, and which will likely become a part of all Cambridge public elementary schools in the near future. So far, only two Cambridge elementary schools have the funding for it: FMA and the King school. Far from overwhelming students, the extended day allows teachers and students the flexibility to make adjustments to their schedule and to structure their day according to student needs – balancing “work” and “play” – rather than limiting themselves to the state curriculum. The extended day also saves working parents a significant amount of money, as after school costs are dramatically reduced.

#### **8. What does the school day look like? What subjects do my kids study throughout the day? How often do they exercise? How often do they make art and music?**

Each class has a set schedule that the students in the class become quickly familiar with. It includes music four times per week, gym twice per week, and art, library, and technology once per week each. The number of recesses varies by grade, but all children have the equivalent of

a double recess period, made possible by the extended day. For more information, please contact your child's teacher, who will be happy to show you the classroom's daily schedule.

### **9. Why does my child have to wear a uniform? Doesn't a uniform stifle creativity?**

The uniform policy was a parent-based initiative that dates to the founding of the school. The idea behind the uniform policy was to shift focus from what children wear to school to what they do in school. Far from stifling creativity, uniforms allow children to focus on where they can be truly creative – in art, in music, and in the classroom. Uniforms were NOT a response to disciplinary problems, and instead emerged naturally from the culture of many FMA families who traced their family histories to the Caribbean, where school uniforms are common.

### **10. I live in a different part of town. Isn't FMA too far away?**

We have families from as far away as Fresh Pond, North Cambridge, and Riverside. These families are benefiting from Cambridge's unique School Choice system, which allows them to choose the best school for their child, regardless of where in Cambridge they live. Many Cambridge families find FMA's neighborhood a more inclusive learning atmosphere than their neighborhood schools. From Cambridgeport, the drive up to FMA takes less than 7 minutes. As with all Cambridge schools, many students also travel to school by bus. If you plan to drive, we recommend trying different routes; Cambridge is geographically compact, so you may not live as far away as it seems!

### **11. How can I get involved or volunteer in the FMA school community?**

Here are some ways you and all FMA families can get involved in the community:

- Volunteer with the FMA PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). Every parent, caregiver, and teacher at FMA is a member. The FMA PTO meets three times a year to discuss a wide variety of topics. We welcome parents to attend and participate or just listen in. Like Fletcher Maynard PTO on Facebook and follow @fmapto on Twitter. To get involved, please contact the FMA PTO President at [president@fmapto.org](mailto:president@fmapto.org) or visit [my.fmapto.org](http://my.fmapto.org).
  
- Serve on a FMA PTO Committee. There are five PTO Committees that are always looking for active volunteers. They include:
  1. Membership and Community Building: organizes family engagement events and activities. Contact: [membershipcommunity@fmapto.org](mailto:membershipcommunity@fmapto.org)
  2. Fundraising: organizes fundraisers and raises money. Contact: [fundraising@fmapto.org](mailto:fundraising@fmapto.org)
  3. Marketing and Advocacy: develops marketing and communication strategies. Contact: [advocacy@fmapto.org](mailto:advocacy@fmapto.org)
  4. Spanish Program: promotes Spanish fluency and familiarity with Hispanic / Latin American countries. Contact: [espanol@fmapto.org](mailto:espanol@fmapto.org)
  5. Executive: PTO leadership committee made up of officers elected each year and responsible for executing mission of PTO. Contact: [president@fmapto.org](mailto:president@fmapto.org)

- Serve on the Leadership Team. The FMA Leadership team is comprised of parents, school administrators, teachers, and community members and meets the first Friday of every month from 8:00 - 9:30 am. To get involved, please contact Principal Harris at 617.349.6588 or rharris@cpsd.us.

- Serve on the Cambridge PAC (Parent Advisory Council on Special Education). The mission of this council is to work for understanding of, respect for, and support of all children with special needs in the community. For more information or to serve, please contact Special Education Liaison Zuleka Queen-Postell at 617.593.4402 or zqueen-postell@cpsd.us or visit <http://cambridgepacse.org>.

- Volunteer as a Room Parent. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher for more information.

- Volunteer to staff the school store or help with Scholastic Book Fairs. To volunteer, please contact Phyllis Newton, Family Liaison at 617.349.6588 or PNewton@cpsd.us.

- Help organize the annual yard sale in June or one of the other fundraisers throughout the year that support the PTO's activities and the annual international trip. To get involved, please contact the FMA PTO President at president@fmapto.org.

## **12. How does the school communicate with parents/caregivers and keep us informed? What do I do if I have a concern about an issue in or outside of the classroom?**

A monthly school-wide newsletter is sent home with each child in her/his homework folder. You can also find the newsletter on the FMA website. Many teachers also send out a classroom newsletter by email. Monday Morning Meetings are another great way to learn about what is happening at FMA.

If you have a concern about your child you should first speak with their teacher. If you feel you need more help, please contact Principal Harris or Assistant Principal Ms. Hood-Brown. Parents' broader interests are also represented through the FMA Leadership Committee, and through the elected School Committee members.

## **13. How can I learn more about the curriculum and what my child is learning?**

Here are some ways to learn more about what your children are learning in the classroom:

- Talk with your child's teacher.
- Read the FMA Newsletter.
- Review homework every evening.
- Visit your child's classroom and/or serve as a Room Parent.
- Visit [http://fma.cpsd.us/fmaacademics/fma\\_academics](http://fma.cpsd.us/fmaacademics/fma_academics).
- Attend Monday Morning Meetings, Math Carnival, Science Fair, etc.

**14. How much homework will my child have each evening? What help is available to my child and I if we have questions about homework?**

Teachers are encouraged to use their discretion when assigning homework. The following outline is offered as a guide. Average time allotment per day for homework:

- Kindergarten: an average of 15-20 minutes, 2-3 times per week
- Grades 1-2 an average of 30 minutes per day all subjects combined
- Grades 3-4 an average of 1 hour per day for all subjects combined
- Grades 5: an average of 1 hour and 30 minutes per day for all subjects combined

**15. What are some annual events at FMA like the International Dinner of Thanks or the Turkey Trot?**

The International Dinner of Thanks happens around Thanksgiving and draws many families from our school and the greater Cambridge community who come together to celebrate our diversity and strengths. Performances, art displays, and delicious food round out a fun evening.

The Turkey Trot happens on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving during the school day. The children race for prizes like cider, pie and turkeys! Family members are invited to join the fun and race with the staff members before heading home for the long Thanksgiving weekend.

**16. What is Quall's Academy?**

The mission of Qualls Academy is to improve the academic achievement, self-esteem, and social competence of young men of color and to enable each one to achieve and recognize their overall potential in their personal, social, and academic lives. Scholars are assigned an adult mentor and meet twice monthly as a group for field trips and projects that recognize FMA's location in a city renowned for developing new ideas and technologies as well as compassion and understanding for others. Projects have included design collaboration with MIT graduate students, visits to the Harvard museums, Kwanzaa celebrations, and trips to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). For more information please contact Domenic Casselli at [dcasselli@cpsd.us](mailto:dcasselli@cpsd.us).

**17. What is the CitySprouts Garden program?**

CitySprouts is a school garden program in Cambridge Public Schools founded on the principle that all children should experience hands-on learning with real-world applications, support and practice in making good food choices, and a life-long connection to the natural world. Our CitySprouts garden educator, Erin Taylor, is at FMA twice each week during the fall and spring to support teachers' lessons and projects in the school garden. Our FoodCorps service member helps teachers with projects through the winter. For questions about the program, contact Erin Taylor at [etaylor@citysprouts.org](mailto:etaylor@citysprouts.org).

**18. Does FMA travel internationally every year? How can I learn more about the International Trip?**

FMA encourages scholars to think globally from their first day at our school. In addition to offering Spanish classes, we celebrate our diversity with events throughout the year that encourage international engagement. FMA also organizes an annual international trip for

interested students and their families. In the past, the school has traveled to England, Mexico, Costa Rica, China, Italy, Senegal, Puerto Rico, and India. For more information, check out the FMA Newsletter, attend Monday Morning Meeting, or contact Principal Harris.

**19. How are disciplinary issues dealt with at FMA?**

FMA utilizes Responsive Classroom, a research based approach to teaching that focuses on the strong link between academic success and social-emotional and behavioral skills. We believe that a high quality education for every child is based on the foundation of a safe and joyful learning community. We also utilize an R & R (reflection & recovery) Coach, Mr. West, who, when needed, helps students process reasons why they are having difficulties and supports a quick return to work and class. We are also the only school to use the innovative and award winning “Peace Couch” - a space for students to initiate discussions surrounding potential conflicts with their classmates. This is not a “disciplinary” space, but a space for students to learn valuable life skills about how to communicate their own concerns, listen to the concerns of their peers, and resolve issues collaboratively among themselves. Many families with siblings at FMA find the “peace couch” resolution method so useful that they also use it at home!

**20. What schools will my child attend after graduating from FMA?**

The Cambridge Street Upper School is where FMA students attend grades 6, 7 and 8. All the Upper Schools then feed into one high school, Cambridge Rindge and Latin, for grades 9-12.

**Note for FMA Families:**

If you have a question that is not listed here and you think it would be a great addition to this FAQ section, please contact the FMA PTO. We welcome feedback on this welcome packet and plan to revise it each year!

## **COMMUNITY AND SUMMER RESOURCES**

As families with shared but also varied experiences, we can learn from one another and share our recommendations and experiences as we navigate the variety of out-of-school-time activities. Below, we list several programs that are located near Fletcher Maynard Academy. For a more complete listing, please visit the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) website at <https://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/programsforkidsandyouth>. Also, please share information about programs that you would recommend so we can add these to our list.

The City of Cambridge and many nonprofit organizations provide high quality, affordable afterschool and vacation week childcare and Summer Programs options. The Cambridge Public Schools have partnered with DHSP to provide transportation to Community Schools, Childcare Programs, and Youth Centers which are closer to a child's home which may be more convenient for parents to pick up or older children to walk home at the end of the day. Many of the descriptions below are taken directly from the web sites of the programs themselves.

### **1. Fletcher Maynard Child Care Program** (225 Windsor Street)

For ten months of the year (including early release days), Fletcher Maynard Child Care Pre K-3 provides care from the end of the school day until 5:55 pm. Programs are open during school vacation weeks and on snow days. All programs have a staff-to-teacher ratio of 3 staff to 24 or 25 children. All after-school programs are licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care and all staff members are trained in basic inclusionary practices. For more information, please contact Chandra Green, the Enrollment Coordinator, at 617.349.6254.

### **2. Fletcher Maynard Community Schools** (225 Windsor Street)

The Fletcher Maynard Community School offers a variety of programs that fulfill the needs of our neighborhood by providing affordable activities for children, adults, seniors, and families, and the Neighborhood Council serves as an advisory group to the Community School Director. Scholarships are available for families with financial need. For more information, please contact Director Jessica Pegg at 617.349.6295 or [jpegg@cambridgema.gov](mailto:jpegg@cambridgema.gov).

### **3. Cambridge Community Art Center** (119 Windsor Street)

Youth ages 5 -12 participate in this School Age Child Care (SACC) Program, where they learn to become creative problem solvers through a hands-on arts curriculum. Classes cover disciplines including the visual arts, dance, theater and media arts. Junior Leadership Groups and intermediate level arts classes prepare pre-teens for success in high school and beyond. All students participate in sequential, semester-long focus classes and present their work four times each year including at the Center's outdoor summer event, Arts Interactive, and the final spring show. The Community Art Center School Age Program is open after school weekdays from 2:00 to 6:00 pm, and from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm during snow days, school vacation weeks, and summer. For more information about our rates or to receive an application, please contact Eryn Johnson, Executive Director, at 618.868.7100 or [info@communityartcenter.org](mailto:info@communityartcenter.org).

#### **4. Cambridge Youth Programs - Moses Youth Center** (243 Harvard Street)

The recently renamed Moses Youth Center has deep roots in the community and offers children homework assistance, healthy snacks, leadership development opportunities, sports leagues, arts, community service, enrichment activities. The Center's programming is enhanced through partnerships with several local organizations.

The Pre-Teen Program, for youth in grades 4 -5, has many enrichment activities as well as recreational activities such as basketball, cultural cooking classes, and art classes. The Center's programs balance fun activities with learning and service to the community.

During the Summer, CYP offers full-day enrichment programs for 4th-8th graders from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm throughout the city. Moses Youth Center offers a full-day, co-ed Sports Leadership Academy. Scholarships are available based on need. For more information, please contact Director, Nicole Rodriguez at 617.349.6262 or [nrodriguez@cambridgema.gov](mailto:nrodriguez@cambridgema.gov).

#### **5. The Cambridge YMCA** (820 Massachusetts Avenue)

The Y offers childcare and afterschool program that are fully licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care, recreational activities, and a summer program. At the Cambridge YMCA Afterschool Program, children have many opportunities to grow and discover new hobbies and interests. Children have access to a wide range of enrichment and educational activities including musical theatre, arts and crafts, swimming lessons Monday through Thursday, cooking, dance club, and sports club. Children are also offered a quiet, supervised space specifically for completing homework. Snack is given daily and full-day care is available during February and April Vacations.

The Cambridge YMCA's Summer Program provides structured, fun-filled activities and outings to local parks, as well as weekly field trips to museums, movies, beaches, and other exciting locations in the Boston/Cambridge area.

For more information about childcare, please contact Janet Belanger at 617.661.9622 x722 or [jbelanger@cambymca.org](mailto:jbelanger@cambymca.org). For more information about after school and summer programs, please contact Chad Shabazz at 617.661.9622 x721 or [cshabazz@cambymca.org](mailto:cshabazz@cambymca.org).

#### **6. The Margaret Fuller House** (71 Cherry Street)

The Margaret Fuller House provides specialized services to more than 70 young children from low-income families every year. Its programs offer a family-style environment that encourages each child's individual growth and leadership development in a supportive atmosphere. The School Age Program focuses on building a strong sense of community in a recreational and educational after school environment for kids age 5-12 years. Summer Explorations provides an opportunity for youth to try new activities and continue to build relationships with their peers during the summer months. For more information, please contact Ben Crystal, School Age Program Site Manager, at [bcystal@margaretfullerhouse.org](mailto:bcystal@margaretfullerhouse.org).

### **7. The Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program (1 Harvard Yard)**

PBHA's Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program, or CYEP, began in 1982. Today, CYEP serves 160 low-income children at three sites across Cambridge for seven weeks each summer. CYEP engages campers in mornings of academic enrichment, afternoons of educational field trips, and artistic, cultural, and service-learning workshops throughout the week, along with two overnight camping trips and a day-long final trip.

CYEP works to prevent summer learning loss, providing an academic foundation from which students may actively and enthusiastically follow their own curiosity. CYEP hopes to inspire creativity and ambition within each and every camper; foster cooperation between campers, staff, and the community; and forge strong ties between youth, parents, and community members.

CYEP costs only \$130 per camper, with a sliding scale for siblings. Preference is given to returning campers and children who have particular academic or financial need for the program. For more information, please contact Robert Bridgeman at robert@pbha.org or 617.496.9127 or email CYEP@pbha.org.

### **8. Programs for Children with Special Needs (Including ASD)**

The Cambridge Department of Human Services operates the following two programs:

- The Cambridge Program is a recreational program that caters to individuals with special needs. It is designed to enhance the lives of its participants by providing quality programs that are geared to promote self-esteem, encourage social interaction, and increase physical well being. Its goal is to help create an inclusive and empathetic community through programs and activities that promote health and fitness, care, respect, and understanding differences. The Cambridge Program offers numerous programs that run throughout the school year such as a Saturday Recreation Program. For more information, contact Director David Tynes at 617.349.6829.
- Camp Rainbow is a summer camp program for individuals ages 6 and older with special needs. The camp operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for seven weeks during July and August each summer. Swimming, field trips, arts and crafts, and tennis are offered. Transportation is provided for all. For more information, please contact Bob Goodwin in the Cambridge Recreation Department at 617.349.6228.



## **CONTACTS**

**(Please do connect with us!)**

We are keen to connect with as many members of our community as possible! All of us were lucky to have “veteran” FMA folks who helped us when we were new, and we are eager to serve the same role. Also check us out online at <http://fma.cpsd.us>!

### FMA Administrators:

- Principal, Robin Harris - [rharris@cpsd.us](mailto:rharris@cpsd.us)
- Assistant Principal, Deborah Hood-Brown - [dhood-brown@cpsd.us](mailto:dhood-brown@cpsd.us)
- Parent Liaison, Phyllis Newton - [pnewton@cpsd.us](mailto:pnewton@cpsd.us)

### PTO Officers:

- President - [president@fmapto.org](mailto:president@fmapto.org)
- Vice President - [vicepresident@fmapto.org](mailto:vicepresident@fmapto.org)
- Secretary - [secretary@fmapto.org](mailto:secretary@fmapto.org)
- Treasurer - [treasurer@fmapto.org](mailto:treasurer@fmapto.org)

### Folks (mostly parents of FMA scholars) who worked on this Welcome Guide:

- Jason Beckfield - [jbeckfie@wjh.harvard.edu](mailto:jbeckfie@wjh.harvard.edu)
- Luis Cotto - [luis.cotto@gmail.com](mailto:luis.cotto@gmail.com)
- Tatiana Cruz - [tatianamariacruz@gmail.com](mailto:tatianamariacruz@gmail.com)
- Lisa Downing - [lisamdowning@gmail.com](mailto:lisamdowning@gmail.com)
- Shani Ellis - [shanie131@yahoo.com](mailto:shanie131@yahoo.com)
- Toni Kim - [tonikim4@gmail.com](mailto:tonikim4@gmail.com)
- Phyllis Newton - [pnewton@cpsd.us](mailto:pnewton@cpsd.us)
- Mercedes Soto - [soto.mercedesm@gmail.com](mailto:soto.mercedesm@gmail.com)
- John Trevor - [jtrevor970@gmail.com](mailto:jtrevor970@gmail.com)
- Jocelyn Viterna - [jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu](mailto:jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu)