

October 2008



Myron J. Francis Elementary School
Parent Teacher Organization
Rumford · Rhode Island

From the PTO President

Fall Greetings from the PTO! Here we are at the beginning of October, and already there are so many wonderful things to report – September proved to be a very busy month here at Francis School!

The school community planted a beautiful array of colorful flowers at our seasonal **Mumfest** planting day on September 12. Thank you to Paul Lawrence and Chris Vandal for their hard work on this event. The school looks so festive, and is now officially “dressed” for fall! Many thanks to all of you who provided flowers!

On Friday September 19, we all enjoyed our annual **Ice Cream Social**, and we had an astounding turnout. A fabulous entourage of Celebrity Scoopers dished up some tasty ice cream from Sundaes of Seekonk. We’d like to thank our scoopers: Mrs. Silveira, Mrs. Rapoza and her student teacher Miss Sitnik, Mrs. Caffrey, Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. Henneous, Mrs. Brun and Mrs. Orsini, and MJF’s librarian, Mrs. Barton. They all made it a fun and memorable evening for all!

We would also like to thank all of the members of the Ice Cream Social Committee for going above and beyond the call of duty to make the evening run so smoothly: Lisa Doucette, Alison Drainville, Maria Aiello, Erin Heatherton, Juliette Petion, Tracey Ferreira, Nicole Handrigan, and the “official fudge lady”, Mona Iacovino (and thank you to Mr. Iacovino, who made an extra ‘ice cream run’ to make sure we had enough). We also had extra help from Valerie Kolb, Chris Vandal, and Dr. Kevin Miller, among others. Randall and Tracey D’Amico helped take care of the popcorn sales for the evening, and Janet Miller made sure there was water for everyone. Holly Campbell helped sell our raffle tickets. Without all of our great volunteers, it would not have not been nearly as fun or successful. **Thank you all!**

On September 24 we had the chance to **Meet the Teachers**. It was wonderful to see so many parents visit the classrooms and hear the teachers speak about all of the many interesting things going on.

We held our **first PTO meeting** of the school year on October 1. Our Treasurers presented the new budget and it was unanimously approved. Further, the proposed amendment to the PTO by-laws was unanimously approved as well. We hope that you will be able to join us at our next monthly meeting on November 5, 2008. As you may know, every month we meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm in the school library.

We do know that not everybody who is interested in PTO activities can make it to every meeting. For the benefit of all of you, starting this Fall, all PTO meeting agendas will be posted on the **new PTO website** at **www.francispto.com** for viewing prior to each monthly meeting. Further, meeting minutes will also be posted there within a week after each meeting. We are also now publishing other news, events, and our calendar at our website, so be sure to check it out the next time you’re online!

We all showed our colors and our spirit at the **Townie Pride Parade** on Friday, October 3, 2008 at Pierce Stadium. Over a hundred of us from Myron J. Francis paraded with groups from the city’s other schools before the EPHS football game. We showed our “Townie Pride” by waving our blinking star lights and pom poms, and marching behind a beautiful banner designed by Jeff Pimental, one of our ‘star’ parents. Navigant Bank sponsored our school’s efforts with a generous gift, and it was a fun and spirited evening. Thank you to all of you that joined in!

October will continue to be a busy month with the following activities:

NECAP Testing (Grades 3-5)

October 7, 8, 9 (Reading)

October 14, 15, 16 (Math)

October 19, 20 (Writing; Grade 5 only)

After School Program (Oct 20 – Nov.13)

Cool Yule Rehearsals (begin Oct. 20 and will end prior to Dec. 10 performance)

Fall Book Fair (Oct. 21-23)

Picture Day (October 24)

Fundraising activities are well under way at MJF and we thank Angela Kondon, Erin Tewksbury, and Cheryl Sheehy for all of their hard work! Our Entertainment Book campaign ended on October 6, and our popular **Fall Fundraiser** will begin in October. More information will be coming home soon.

Also, please remember that the PTO will be conducting its **annual food drive** in November. More information will come home soon about this important event, as well.

As always, thank you for your continued support and interest in the PTO. For more information about any of our events, activities or programs, please do not hesitate to contact Leslie Tente at 438-4388 or by e-mail at president@francispto.com.

A Note from Our Principal

Dear Myron J. Francis Families,

I often eat lunch in the cafeteria with the children. The other day I was eating my lunch with a bunch of first graders. It is interesting to hear the students' conversations. Several first grade boys were talking about watching TV, particularly the World Wrestling Federation (WWF).

I told them if they lived in my house they would not be able to watch those shows. They explained to me how WWF wasn't real, it was pretend. I told them I knew that, but I still didn't think it was a good idea for kids to watch WWF and similar shows.

Children often imitate what they see and watch, even if they know it's pretend. I would suggest that watching such shows is not having any positive impact on young children. In fact, I recommend boycotting such television programming.

Please keep this in mind. There are many fun and appropriate television shows for kids to watch. There are also many educational programs kids can watch on PBS and other channels.

I usually write about current school happenings, but I felt compelled to write about this topic of WWF and extreme fighting, which is now making its way to the major networks during primetime, because I really feel that it sets a bad example for kids and sends the wrong message to our kids about violence.

Of course, this is just my opinion as your elementary school principal, and I welcome your comments. As always, you can call me at the school or send e-mail to me at laleddy@epschoolsri.com.

Thank you, and have a great school year!

Lloydanne Leddy, Principal



New Community Service Committee

We have recently formed a new community service committee, and we're looking for volunteers to help. We'll focus on supporting student and family service activity, fostering existing and community partnerships, and assisting in the coordination of school community service projects, events, and drives. For more information on how you can help, please contact Steph de Abreu at 435-5988.

Treasurers' Corner

At our PTO meeting on October 1, the budget for the 2008-2009 school year was approved, with an operating budget of \$37,251.59. Recent sources of income include the Ice Cream Social (\$1234.07) and the Target Charge Card program (\$157.98).

Some recent expenditures include PTO insurance (\$525.00), Teacher gifts at Meet the Teachers Night (\$1,042.50), year-long aquarium program from Biomes (\$800.00), and 60 recorders for the 4th Grade Recorder Karate program (\$147.15).

A Great Start for Box Tops

According to our program page at www.boxtops4education.com, the MJF PTO ranks number 14 out of 402 Rhode Island schools in Box Tops earnings! We're at the 96th percentile in the state, and 94th nationally. We collected a total of 3,711 box tops in September with 12 classes contributing. Miss Rogers' fifth grade class, who collected 906 box tops, won a prize for their efforts! Thank you to all the families who diligently clip and submit their Box Tops – they really help improve the school for all our children.

Send in your collection sheets by October 24th to receive a spooky prize!



Patty Buteau, our Box Tops Chair, would appreciate some volunteer help in preparing the box tops for the October 31st fall submission deadline. Volunteers can contact Patty via email at pattybuteau@cox.net or by phone at 573-9420.

Fall Book Fair - Safari Time

Have you "herd?" The Safari Scholastic Book Fair is coming! You are invited to 'prowl' around and 'pounce' on some great books. Look for the opportunity to purchase a gift certificate for a friend, teacher or your own child.

Book Fair Days – school hours:
October 21, 22, and 23

Book Fair at Night:
October 22, 5:30 - 7:30

