

November 2008



# Myron J. Francis Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization

Rumford · Rhode Island

## From the PTO President

By Leslie Tente

Happy fall to one and all!

It is hard to believe, but we have now completed the first quarter of the school year, and now, the holidays are right around the corner!

As you all know, our **Thanksgiving Food Drive** has begun, and our collection table is beginning to fill up with your generous donations. **We will be collecting donations from now until November 21<sup>th</sup>.**

Whenever I see the collection table in the foyer, I am reminded how fortunate I am to be a part of this school community. This table is a reflection of all that our school embodies: kindness, generosity, and unity. It is inspiring to see how MJF families are **always** there to lend a helping hand!

We are entering the time of year where we all stop to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful MJF families, Principal, faculty, school staff, and our hard-working PTO board for all of your support. This is a truly amazing school community!

## Food Drive Tip

As a reminder, the MJF Fall Food Drive is underway. If you don't have time to get to the market to get non-perishables for area families in need, no problem!

**Consider purchasing a Stop & Shop or Shaw's gift card** from our Fun Money Program. Cards are sold in \$25 increments. Just send \$25.00 in an envelope marked "Fall Food Drive – Fun Money" by November 20<sup>th</sup> and a percentage of this donation will go to our school! Please make checks payable to the Myron J. Francis PTO. Thank you.

## Skating Party

You're invited to the annual **Myron Francis Roller Skating Party** at United Skates of America in Rumford on **Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30-8:30pm. There will be a drawing for two free Providence Bruins tickets, and the best class participation gets a free game of Lazer Tag!



## A Note from Our Principal

Dear Myron J. Francis Families,

The Myron Francis Feinstein Jr. Scholars had a visit on Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> from Alan Shawn Feinstein. The entire school gathered in the gymnasium as Mr. Feinstein encouraged the children and adults to continue on their journey of performing good deeds. It was an inspirational visit.

Mr. Feinstein was impressed with a group of female students who grew their hair long, and then had it cut short, donating their hair to "Locks of Love," a program that creates wigs for cancer patients. Mrs. Forget and Mrs. MacDonald also participated in the "Locks of Love" program.

In addition, Mr. Feinstein was impressed with a group of fifth grade students who are currently volunteering their time at the local animal shelter. These two examples are extra special because they are student-initiated.

All students received their Feinstein Junior Scholar cards. These cards allow the children to have **free** admission to the Bank of America Skating Rink, the Providence Children's Museum, Roger Williams Zoo & Carousel, RI Stingray soccer games, Majestic Newport Cruise, Reptile Adventure, and Battleship Cove.

Our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive was also underway during Mr. Feinstein's visit. Thank you all in advance for your ongoing generosity to those in need.

Lastly, as the city, state, and nation are facing challenging economic times, I would like to remind everyone that Free and Reduced Meal Applications are always available at your child's school. Should your economic circumstances change, please know that these applications may be submitted at **anytime** during the school year.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Myron Francis School we wish you a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Sincerely,

Lloydanne Leddy, Principal  
laleddy@epschoolsri.com

## Check our Website

Be sure to check out our website for the latest news, information, and calendar events! We had a typo in the web address in our last newsletter, so if you couldn't find it before, check it out soon!

## *A Great Start for Box Tops*

By October 31<sup>st</sup>, we collected 6480 Box Tops for Education to earn an additional \$648 for Francis programs. Our total collection this calendar year exceeded \$1500! Great job, everyone, in supporting Francis School programs.

Be on the look out to "gobble up" some Box Tops this November. Every completed sheet will produce a canned good donation to our local community food bank from the generous folks at Stop and Shop!

## *Food Bank Bingo*

Mark your calendar! **The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Francis Food Bank Bingo** will be held the evening of Friday, January 9, 2009.

MJF Elementary School has had a long-standing tradition of supporting the community with this event. The MJF PTO donates 100% of the proceeds to the local community food bank.

This is a great opportunity to come out for a night of family fun while supporting a great cause. There will be bingo, snacks, prizes, and raffles. We hope you can join us!



## *Book Fair Report*

By Betsy Boyer, Book Fair Chair

With the unstable economy, I was concerned that this Fall's Scholastic Book Fair would not be as successful as it has been in the past few years. I was worried that we would not be able to make our financial goal for the PTO and still get books into the hands of our teachers and the library and thereby your children. Happily, my worries were for nothing!

I have been a part of the book fair since 2002. October's Safari Book Fair was the second best book fair we ever had! As I tallied the sales and realized how well the book fair did, I became choked up. I want to thank you for your generosity, your support of our school and your commitment to your children. You clearly value books highly, which in turn shows how much you value your children.

During each book fair, some special moment always stands out. As I was putting the final touches into setting up the book fair, a kindergarten class tramped through for a Sneak Peak like little ducklings, one after another. One little one looked around and exclaimed, "This is AMAZING!" My sentiments exactly. Families and friends of Francis, you are amazing. Thank you!

## *3rd Annual Thanksgiving Pie Day*

Families and friends are invited to bake a pie for the teachers and staff of Francis. Pies may be delivered to the teachers' room the morning of Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. On any given day there are 40+ devoted teaching and administrative personnel in the school, so we are hoping for a strong response from all of you bakers! If you find that you are unable to volunteer in the classroom, this is a wonderful way to reach out to the teachers and staff of Francis who do so much for our children.

Please contact Betsy Boyer at 270-0845 or miacomet4@cox.net if you can bake a pie.

## *Fundraising News*

Join us on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-8:30pm for the **Second Annual Holiday Shopping Night** at MJF! We'll enjoy a relaxed evening of holiday shopping, featuring Silpada jewelry, children's painted furniture, professional baked goods, designer handbags, Avon, Mary Kay, holiday and other seasonal cards and Dunkin' Donuts, topped off with a quick back massage! Best of all - **free admission!** Watch for more details!

Also, please note that the next dates to order Francis Fun Money gift cards before the holidays are November 20<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>, and December 17<sup>th</sup>.

## *Community Service Committee*

Our new community service committee is ready to start planning a variety of service-based events and activities. You're invited to join us on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:45-7:45pm at Leslie Tente's home to discuss the committee's objectives, service ideas, events and opportunities to contribute. Please contact Steph de Abreu at 435-5988 for directions or with any questions.

## *Treasurers' Corner*

The PTO has been successfully raising the money needed to provide field trips and classroom materials for Francis students. We raised \$1420 through the ever-popular After School Program, with over 100 registered students for the fall session! We also had a wildly successful Scholastic Book Fair, with \$1204 raised in just three short days! The Fall Fundraiser is wrapping up and we'll report the results next month.

Recent expenditures include Weekly Reader and Time for Kids (\$2061), plantings for Mum Fest (\$66), reading software (\$84.95), Kindergarten field trip to Four Town Farm (\$323), materials for the art room (\$200.38), and a renewal of the Rhode Island Recycling Membership (\$215).