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From the PTO President

by Leslie Tente ■ president@francispto.com

I THINK THE BEST WAY TO BEGIN is with a big “thank you” to our school community! You have all “jumped right into the school year” with such great enthusiasm, and incredible support of PTO sponsored activities! Here’s a highlight of activities that have taken place to date:

Your flower donations and participation in our after school **Mumfest** has made the front of the school a symphony of fall colors! The entrance looks festive and inviting. Many thanks from the PTO to our Environmental Committee Chairs, **Chris and Sheila Vandal** for preparing the beds ahead of time, and coordinating the actual planting.

The Ice Cream Social was held on Friday, September 18, and was once again a great success! MJF families had the opportunity to gather and reunite with friends to welcome in the new school year together. Thank you to our volunteers who worked tirelessly to keep the long line moving! Our volunteers served approximately 420 people that evening—that’s a lot scooping!



MJF families had the opportunity to visit their children’s classroom during **Meet the Teachers**. Thank you to our teachers for your informative presentations and for making your classrooms a “home away from home” for our students. After classroom visitation, there

was a brief assembly in the gymnasium where teachers and staff were presented with Staples gift cards from the PTO. These gifts cards are presented as a way to assist teachers and staff with the start-up costs for the school year.

On October 7, we gathered for our first PTO meeting. The attendance was excellent! Thank you to everyone that was able to attend! Our treasurer, **Sonda Pimental** presented the new budget for the school year which was unanimously approved. The membership also voted for the PTO to become a 501 (c)(3). This filing status will provide the PTO with several advantages including: further tax-exemption, additional credibility in the business community, and increased donation eligibility.

The PTO would like to thank **Richard Leroux, CPA** for all of the time that he has volunteered to our organization.

Finally, if you’re unable to attend a meeting, please take advantage of our website, www.francispto.com in order to stay up-to-date with the latest school information. You will find the monthly meeting agendas on our site as well as the monthly meeting minutes.

From our Principal

by Lloydanne Leddy, Principal ■ laliddy@epschoolsri.com

THE FRANCIS SCHOOL COMMUNITY has grown to include two additional classrooms of special needs students and one additional classroom of kindergarten students. Currently, our enrollment is about 410 students and a faculty and staff of approximately 55 adults.

I’d like to welcome all of our new families to our school and hope the many events and activities planned during the school year are well attended.

I would also like to remind families that meal applications are always available at any time of the year to determine eligibility for free or reduced student lunch and breakfast prices. As the numbers of families who need assistance in both the state and our local community grow, our school will conduct community service projects designed to help our local families and residents. Community service is important to Francis School.

With that being said, Francis School will continue to be a Feinstein Leadership School. The students are Feinstein Jr. Scholars, children who pledge to do good deeds. Social responsibility is our goal.

My best wishes for your child and your family to have a challenging and enjoyable school year and experience. Students who are well rested and have set routines for homework completion and preparing in advance for the school day will have a more productive and relaxed school day.

Treasurers’ Report

THE 2009-2010 PTO BUDGET was approved at the first meeting on October 7.

We enjoyed another successful Ice Cream Social raising \$1,725.43. School Spirit Apparel sales have earned \$129. Keep the orders coming!



The PTO received two generous donations from local businesses. **Shamrock Financial** located in Rumford, donated \$800 to sponsor the Biomes program. **Navigant Credit Union** donated \$450 which was used towards the PTO Welcome Folders distributed to each family. These are great examples of community support for our school.

Recent expenses included Staples gift cards presented to each teacher at Meet the Teacher night (\$1,622.50) and 4th Grade Recorder Karate Program (\$211.41)

The purchase of various items from the spend down approved at the last 2008-2009 PTO meeting included: books, calculators, overhead markers, printers, projectors, tables and white boards—totaling \$5,126.59.

Finally, the following teacher requests were approved: Quick Word Handbooks for all students in grades 2-5 requested by Mrs. Tortolani and two new horseshoe shaped tables for the special resource rooms Mrs. Branco and Mrs. Dorney.

Apparel Orders Extended

MYRON J. FRANCIS APPAREL has been spotted around town! Lots of students have ordered the new school spirit shirts and are looking good while showing their MJF pride!

The order deadline has been extended to Friday, October 16. All orders will be ready for school spirit day and the Townie Pride Parade on Friday, October 23. The deadline for personalizing your garment has passed.

If you need an order form just visit www.francispto.com and print one out. If you have any questions feel free to call Alyson Roslonek at 438-9191.

Reminders/Updates

★ **Restaurant Night** will take place this Thursday from 4-9 p.m. at Papa Gino's (Newport Avenue). The PTO will receive 20% of dine-in and take-out sales. Remember to bring your flyer with you to the restaurant so that MJF will receive credit. You can make copies of the flyer (available on our website) to share with family and friends!



★ **Scholastic Book Fair** will take place on October 20-22 (Evening Book Fair on October 21). The PTO would like to thank **Betsy Boyer**, for her dedication and creativity which makes this a treasured event for the students and a financial success for the PTO.

★ **The After School Program** will begin on Tuesday, October 27. The PTO would like to thank **Sheila Vandal** and **Michelle Rogers** who have organized an interesting variety of programs that offer excellent enrichment opportunities for our students.

★ The PTO's focus in November will be community service. Information will be forthcoming regarding two community service projects. **Bread of Life Food Pantry Playathon**® will be held on November 6, from 6-8 p.m. in the MJF gymnasium. Our annual **Canned Food Drive** will take place from November 9-19. It is extremely gratifying to take part in community service activities as a school! MJF families have been extraordinarily generous with any community endeavor that the PTO has sponsored, and it is with gratitude that the PTO says "Thank you!"



Calling all Shutterbugs!!!

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED in taking pictures during the many events and activities that take place at school, please contact, Leslie Tente via the contact form at www.francispto.com or at 438-4388. We need pictures for the yearbook, and we don't want to miss any opportunities!



If anyone took pictures during the Ice Cream Social, please contact Leslie as well!

Walk-A-Thon, School Spirit Day & Townie Pride Parade

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009 is going to be a busy and fun-filled day for Francis students!

★ Students will be able to celebrate the end of NECAP testing by enjoying a day of physical fitness and fun during MJF's first ever **Walk-A-Thon**. Fundraising chairs **Erin Tewksbury** and **Angela Kondon** have organized a wonderful day for the students that will also raise funds for the PTO. For additional information about this event, please visit www.francispto.com

★ The theme of the Walk-A-Thon event is "School Spirit" and students are encouraged to wear their MJF "falcon" apparel or the school colors which are red and white to school that day.



★ After a day of showing their school spirit, students and their families are invited to show their "Townie Pride" at the annual **Townie Pride Parade**.

Students and their families are invited to assemble at Pierce Stadium at 5:45 p.m. There will be areas marked for each school to line-up, and then all city schools will march around the track behind the East Providence High School Band. Local dignitaries and school officials will address the assembly, and families are invited to stay for the scheduled EP High School Football game. A flyer about this evening will be sent home with the students.

The East Providence Education Foundation will also be unveiling the "Townie Bead Chain" that they have been working on with area schools and businesses. We will find out if the chain qualifies to be in the Guinness World Records!

Show your School Spirit and Townie Pride—be part of history! We hope that you will make it!



Box Tops Update

BOX TOPS KEEP POURING into Francis! Our students can be proud of their outstanding response to this month's Box Tops collection. The new collection sheets have been working great—if you need more just visit www.francispto.com and print out another!



The pizza party contest is well under way, with a few classes leading the pack. The contest ends officially on Friday, October 16. Keep clipping...you never know who will win!

Finally, a big thank you to all volunteer counter/bundlers...we really appreciate your help!