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## From the PTO President

by Leslie Tente ■ [president@francispto.com](mailto:president@francispto.com)

**IN JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS**, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Here at MJF, there is much to be thankful for, and on behalf of the PTO, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful and supportive MJF families, principal, faculty and school staff as well as our PTO volunteers. You are always there to lend a helping hand, and exemplify the meaning of community! We are thankful for all of you!

On October 23rd, the school community came to together to participate in MJF's first **Walk-A-Thon**. Many thanks to **Angela Kondon, Cheryl Sheehy, Erin Tewksbury, and Mrs. Rapoza** for organizing this fun-filled event! The students were provided with an opportunity to participate in a healthy event which raised much needed funds for our school!

Further, students supported **The Bread of Life Food Pantry** that day by bringing canned goods to the event. These donations were part of the **Feinstein October Food Drive Challenge**. Feinstein will donate money to our school for all of the cans collected, and our school was able to generously stock the shelves of the food pantry. While the weather was certainly chilly that day, it was a day that warmed the hearts and souls of our MJF families.

Finally, there will be a **Family Skating Night** at United Skates of America on Thursday, November 19, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Thank you to **Leslie Hey** for organizing this event for our families!

## Fundraising Update

**THE PTO IS OFF TO A GREAT START** with fundraising efforts so far this year thanks in part to the successful Ice Cream Social and Walk-A-Thon events, the very popular After School Program and the annual Scholastic Book Fair.

Our fundraising goal for the 2009-2010 school year is \$25,500. To date \$9,185 has been raised. The money raised by the PTO is used to provide for classroom materials, technology upgrades, enrichment programs and field trips. Your support is greatly appreciated!



## From our Principal

by Lloydanne Leddy, Principal ■ [laleddy@epschoolsri.com](mailto:laleddy@epschoolsri.com)

**ON OCTOBER 25, 2009 PRESIDENT BARRACK OBAMA** declared a National Health Emergency related to the outbreak of H1N1 influenza across the United States.

The Rhode Island Department of Health and The Rhode Island Department of Education have arranged for all Myron Francis students to receive the H1N1 vaccine on Monday, November 23, 2009 from 4:00-8:00pm. The immunization is via injection, not a flu "mist."

I have sent home the consent forms to be filled out and returned to Francis School prior to the November 23rd clinic. Student absences have increased over the past two weeks.

You must keep your child home from school if they have a fever. Children should not return to school until they have been fever free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for over 24 hours.

Lastly, a reminder that frequent and proper hand washing, is the best defense against becoming ill. Adequate sleep is also important for all age groups to keep immune systems working properly. Sneezing into a tissue and coughing into elbows will help prevent spread viruses.

Please know that as your principal I am taking this health issue very seriously.

I wish you a healthy and happy Thanksgiving holiday!

## Treasurers' Report

**OCTOBER WAS A BUSY MONTH** for fundraising. Here is a recap of the activities that raised money for our school in October. A very successful **Walk-A-Thon** raised \$3,572.14. The **Fall Book Fair** grossed \$6,132.57 with \$600 going to the school along with book rewards for our teachers and library. The **After School Program** earned \$1,493. Hungry Francis families raised \$252.33 during **Restaurant Night** held at Papa Gino's. While the **School Spirit Apparel Items** collected \$45.50

The expenses for October included Art Curriculum (\$167.39), *Weekly Reader* and other classroom subscriptions (\$2,374.60), Quick Word Handbooks for all students grades 2-5 (\$480.98), Horseshoe-shaped tables for classroom use (\$450), renewal of RI Recycling Membership (\$215), and 10 new HP printers (\$759.30).

The following teacher request was approved at the October meeting: three wall-mounted, pull-down projector screens for the first grade teachers.

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

**WE ARE CURRENTLY** conducting our annual **Feinstein Fall Food Drive** (November 9-17) to benefit the food pantry, at East Bay Community Action in East Providence. Our efforts are more important than ever with area food pantries and emergency food banks reporting record numbers of recipients. Sources from the pantry say, "keeping up with the demand is a challenge these days—we had to extend our hours of operation and there are still long lines." The collection will be located in the school foyer.



*Suggested items include:* canned vegetables, powdered milk, coffee, pasta, hot or cold cereal, canned pumpkin, instant potatoes, canned yams, stuffing, gravy, pie crust or corn bread mixes, or cranberry sauce. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please contact **Steph de Abreu** if you are interesting in helping with food delivery on Wednesday, November 18th—between 10:00am-12:00pm.

## Family Skating Night

**YOU'RE INVITED** to a Myron Francis **Roller Skating Party** at United Skates of America in Rumford on Thursday, November 19th from 6:30-8:30pm. Thank you to **Leslie Hey** for organizing this event for our families!



## Cool to Be Kind

**WE THINK IT'S PRETTY COOL** that many of our teachers, students and families are active serving our community so we want to say we noticed and thank you!

**Grace Gomes**, a member of Mrs. Thacker's 4th grade class, decided two years ago she wanted to grow out her hair and donate it to another child in need. Recently, Grace had her ten inch ponytail cut off and mailed to Locks of Love. Kudos Grace!

*We want to hear from you! If you know a student or teacher who is doing something really kind for our school or community or if you want to get more involved just send a note to Steph de Abreu at [sdea531@aol.com](mailto:sdea531@aol.com)*



## Restaurant Night

**CHARDONNAY'S IN SEEKONK, MA** will be hosting our November restaurant night on Wednesday, November 18th from 4:00pm-1:00am. Chardonnay's **will donate 20%** of your check total to our organization. You'll enjoy fresh, eclectic American cuisine including: fire-grilled pizzas, steaks, sushi, pastas and more—while raising funds for MJF PTO. Call 508-336-0967 for reservations or to place your take-out orders. Please remember to mention MJF School or hand them the event flyer that was sent home.

## Community Service Project

**Support Ours Troops:** We will be sending home a list of items needed by U.S. troops who are stationed in areas that are in harm's way. The collection will take place from December 4-11. Thank you for your support!



## Holiday Shopping Night

**JOIN US ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH** from 6:00-9:00pm for a fun-filled evening of holiday shopping. Various vendors will be offering great products and services including: Silpada, hand painted furniture, New England photos, and much more. Admission is free, but a donation of a canned-good to benefit The Bread of Life Food Pantry would be greatly appreciated.

## New School Spirit Apparel

**JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS...**We will be unveiling three new MJF Apparel items at the Holiday Shopping Night. Come visit our table for a chance to purchase or order any of our apparel. Updated order forms will be going home on December 7th and all items will be delivered before winter break. ('Tis the season for gift giving...we will offer a pick-up night if school delivery is not an option!)

## Food Bank Bingo

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** The 11th Annual **Francis Food Bank Bingo** will be held the evening of Friday, January 8, 2010. MJF Elementary School has had a long-standing tradition of supporting the community with this event.

The MJF PTO will donate 100% of the proceeds to the local community Bread of Life Food Pantry.

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!

