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From the PTO President

by Leslie Tente ■ president@francispto.com

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE, and on behalf of the PTO, I wish each and every member of our school community all the happy things that this very special season brings!

As we look to the New Year, I wish all of you 365 chances to love, laugh, and live your best year yet.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the PTO.

PLEASE NOTE: our January PTO meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the MJF library

Treasurers' Report

NOVEMBER EVENTS included Restaurant Night at Chardonnay's in Seekonk. Families enjoyed eating out and raised \$157. Rollerskating Night at United Skates of America was fun for all and raised \$138.

Expenses for November included the teacher requests approved at the October meeting: 3 wall-mounted projector screens for 1st grade (\$249.60) and a Thermofocus Non-Contact thermometer for Nurse Betty (\$70).

Special thanks to **Tori Jessup** and **Mrs. Tortolani** for coordinating an effort for all families to purchase Quick-Word® Handbooks for their children to use at home. A total of 80 books were ordered. These books are great reference tools for homework. If you missed the chance to order a handbook and are still interested, please contact Tori Jessup or Mrs Tortaloni.

Meal Applications

PLEASE REMEMBER that at any time during the school year families may submit an application for free or reduced student lunches and/or breakfast. The application was sent home on the first day of school for reduced meals. However, you may submit an application at any time during the school year. If you wish to submit an application please call the school at 435-7829 and we can send home an application with your child, or you may stop by the school office and complete an application.

From our Principal

by Lloydanne Leddy, Principal ■ lalreddy@epschoolsri.com

THE H1N1 CLINIC was held at Francis School on Monday, November 23, 2009. 336 children were vaccinated. Approximately 84% of the Francis student body received the vaccine.

School nurse-teacher, **Elizabeth Patnaude**, a.k.a "Nurse Betty," was instrumental in the organization of the clinic. Nurse Betty also recruited an army of parents and community members to serve as clinic volunteers. The clinic could not have run without the volunteers. I am forever grateful to the volunteers. Rumford is an amazing community filled with amazing people!

I would like to thank the **Jessop family** and **Best Buy** for arranging and providing a large screen television, Blu-ray high-def DVD player, and two currently released movies for the children to watch in the required observation area.

Our PTO provided refreshments to the clinic volunteers and lollipops for the children. Our volunteers included:

- ★ Donna Corrigan, R.N.
- ★ Nancy Cullion
- ★ Marie Fazioli, R.N.
- ★ Alexa, Tiffany, and Diane Ferreira
- ★ Mr. & Mrs. John Jessop
- ★ Angela Kondon
- ★ Francine Lasnier, R.N.
- ★ Patty Lima
- ★ Diana Medeiros
- ★ Marthe-Ann Monagle
- ★ Jennifer Rodrigues
- ★ Kendra St. Hilaire, R.N.
- ★ Dr. Julie Taylor
- ★ Leslie Tente
- ★ Erin Tewksbury
- ★ Stephanie Vinhateiro

The next H1N1 Clinic for Francis School is scheduled for winter 2010. More information about school-based vaccination clinics for second doses of the H1N1 will be made available in the coming weeks.

I hope all of the Francis families enjoyed the Thanksgiving Holiday. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season and a peaceful and Happy New Year.



H A P P Y H O L I D A Y S



Cool to Be Kind

Thank you to the many families, teachers and students who participated in this year's successful food drive. With your help, we were able to fill two cars with 15 large boxes carrying an estimated 360 items of food. A special thanks to those families and individuals who assisted with boxing and delivery of the donations to the East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) food pantry including: the **Bartlett Family**, the **Bates Family**, **Brenda Booth**, **Michaela Hermann**, the **Hey Family**, **Pam Heatherton**, **Janet Miller** and **Leslie Tente**. The line of families at the pantry, some with little children, was a powerful reminder that our families are, by doing something that we perceive to be small, truly making a difference in others lives.

Allison Gower, age 9 in Mrs. Caffrey's fourth grade class, recently donated 10¹/₄ inches of her hair for Locks for Love at an event at Five Bridge Inn in Rehoboth. Allison also recently appeared in *The End of the World Café* performance at PPAC—to educate people about Global Warming.



Cool contribution Allison! Thank you!

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

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!



PBIS Team Announces New Program

THE TEACHERS AND STAFF here at Francis school are excited and eager to tell you about the School Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) program introduced this year. This is a program that all of the elementary schools in East Providence will be or have instituted in their school. SWPBIS encompasses a proactive approach to school wide discipline with three levels of prevention/intervention to address the needs of all students and it is a process for individualized and sustained decision making, planning and problem solving. It is *not* a curriculum but rather a program designed to help teachers and staff implement strategies for school wide success for all students.

One of the PBIS TEAM's first goals is to create a positive school environment. We would like to engage the students in healthy indoor/outdoor recess games. If you have any gently used games, please send them to Francis School so we can create some portable traveling recess carts for the children to play with.

Happy Holidays!
PBIS TEAM

Reward Program Updates

We are now enrolled in the Shaw's Community Rewards Program.



Family, teachers, staff can simply register their Shaw's rewards card on-line enter the Myron J. Francis School Community Rewards ID 49001023241 and MJF will earn 1% of your total grocery bill for shopping on Tuesday's, Wednesday's, and Thursday's.

Don't forget that MJF is also enrolled in the Stop&Shop A+ Bonus Bucks rewards program.



So far, we've earned \$241.49 A+ Bonus Bucks...wow!

Thanks to everyone who has registered their Stop&Shop cards. If you have not done so already, there is still time to register your Stop&Shop card, the program ends March 25, 2009.

MJF is also enrolled in rewards programs for Campbell's, Target, Subway, and Foot Locker. Please visit www.francispto.com for more details.