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## From the PTO President

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

**DUE TO A LATER PTO MEETING DATE**, our January newsletter is going out to our families a bit later than usual. Even though we are into the third week of January, I would still like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

For many, the New Year is a time for making resolutions (some that will be kept and some that may not!). Like many of you, I have made many resolutions with the hope of making this year a positive and productive one. An important goal for the second half of the school year is to instill a renewed interest and enthusiasm in PTO activities and initiatives. I think this can best be accomplished through communication and teamwork!

As we begin 2010, take the time to visit our website [www.francispto.com](http://www.francispto.com) or attend a PTO meeting. It is through these forums that families can become more informed and involved.

**PLEASE NOTE:** our February PTO meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 11, 2010** at 7:00pm in the school library. Mr. Glenn Piros, principal of the Martin Middle School will be our speaker for the evening.

## Treasurers' Report

**FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES** for December included Holiday Shopping Night which earned \$768. Smencil Days were a huge success with the students raising a total of \$820. The December Fun Money (gift cards) order earned \$500.37 and the School Spirit Apparel orders earned \$92.

Our total fundraising dollars to date are \$11,885.

Expenses for December included the following purchases for the teachers; laminating film \$143.80, overhead transparencies \$88. Grade 5 field trip to see *A Christmas Carol* movie \$409.75 and the PTO purchased paper for \$128.46 and replenished the popcorn supply for \$33.50.

One teacher request was approved at our January meeting. All students in Mrs. MacDonald's 1st grade class will receive magazine holders to hold books.



## From our Principal

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!** The end of January will bring an end to the second of four academic quarters. Students will receive their progress reports on Wednesday, February 3, 2010. Kindergarten students will receive their Progress Reports for the first time on February 3rd as well. Kindergarten students receive Progress Reports twice during the school year. The second and final kindergarten report will be in June.

February 3, 2010 will also be the date of the second H1N1 clinic. This clinic will take place at Francis School from 4:00pm-7:30pm (*please note the earlier closing.*) Students attending Francis School will receive their second H1N1 vaccine. This clinic is designed for children under the age of 10. More in-depth information will be sent home about the second H1N1 clinic shortly.

All Francis School students are Feinsein Jr. Scholars, which makes our school a "Feinsein Leadership School." What this basically means is as a school we agree to perform community service projects, with emphasis on feeding hungry people. Family Food Bank Bingo is an event that promotes the spirit of a "Feinsein Leadership School." Mr. Feinsein encourages schools to combine efforts and help feed local citizens in need. I would also like to thank parents **Andi White** and **Sonda Pimental** for their efforts to assist the local Bread of Life Food Pantry on behalf of our PTO. **Donna Mc Enery**, a fourth grade teacher and Rumford resident, volunteers at The Bread of Life Food Pantry. As a school, and as individuals we recognize the need in our community.

I would like to thank the Rumford Lions Club and The East Providence Democratic Committee for providing complete Holiday Meals for a growing number of Francis Families. I would also like to express appreciation to those anonymous donors of holiday meal gift cards. All families were grateful for their holiday dinners.

Rumford is a great community with a true spirit in helping others. I see this first hand on a daily basis. I see this in your children. Visitors to this school always compliment me on the kind and polite student body. I want to pass this compliment on to you. Thank you.

## Cool to Be Kind

### Help Needed in Haiti

On January 12th, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake devastated the city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Although, specifics on casualties and damage are not yet complete the needs are incredible. Many international agencies have mobilized emergency response teams to assist in relief efforts. Those agencies have announced that monetary donations are the most effective form of assistance because they allow humanitarian organizations to purchase (often within the affected region itself) the exact type and quantity of items needed by those affected by the crisis.

The Myron community has always been ready to act to assist those in need. Therefore, families who would like to donate may find the following link a useful resource in locating organizations that are assisting victims:

[www.interaction.org/crisis-list/earthquake-haiti](http://www.interaction.org/crisis-list/earthquake-haiti)

Additionally, as a part of our ongoing efforts to involve our children in service we will be conducting a loose change drive later this month. Additional information on this drive will be forthcoming.

*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)*

## Looking for indoor/outdoor recess games

**THE PBIS TEAM** would like to engage the students to enjoy 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.

## Sweetheart Dance is right around the corner

Looking ahead to February, the Sweetheart Dance is slated to take place on Friday evening, February 5th in the school gymnasium. Information will be forthcoming. Once again, **Erin Tewksbury** and **Angela Kondon** will be chairing this very special evening for the girls of MJF.



## Helping The Tomorrow Fund

by Mrs. Silveira, Grade 2 teacher

During the month of December, students in Grade 2 and their families donated supplies needed to create Christmas tree ornaments. Students made many different kinds of ornaments and sold them for \$1.00 each. The ornament sale raised \$260, which went directly to The Tomorrow Fund.

The Tomorrow Fund is a local non-profit organization that provides daily financial and emotional support to children with cancer and their families.

The Tomorrow Fund would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who's generosity helped make this possible.

The TOMORROW FUND

## Reward Program Updates

**STOP&SHOP** – We are excited to report that our school has earned \$337.43 from the Stop&Shop A+ Bonus Bucks Program. The program ends March 25th—it is not too late to register your card at: [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus)

**SHAW'S SUPERMARKETS** – Just a reminder that our school is also enrolled in the Shaw's Community Rewards program. This is a continuous program (no end date). Register your card at: [www.albertsons.com/cp/shaws/](http://www.albertsons.com/cp/shaws/)

**TARGET** – We are also enrolled in Target Take Charge of Education and SchoolPAX. The SchoolPax program includes Subway, Foot Locker, Lady Foot Locker, Kids Foot Locker, 1-800-Flowers, Verizon, Travelocity. The office has extra family packs if you are interested.

## Food Bank Bingo recap

On Friday evening, January 8th, our school community gathered together for the 11th Annual Food Bank Bingo. The PTO would like to thank Mrs. **Sonda Pimental** and Mrs. **Andi White** for chairing this very special event for a third year in a row! Further, a very big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who baked and donated raffle baskets!

As always, a wonderful time was had by all, and there was a great deal of enthusiasm displayed by many of the participants during the various rounds of bingo!

This event raised \$838.00 for Bread of Life and 160 cans were collected as well. Before the games commenced, **Nancy Banaczuk** and **Janet Bache** spoke about the food pantry and the important role it is serving here in Rumford. Food Bank Bingo is yet another shining example of the civic-mindedness and generosity of our school community!