



Visit us online at www.francispto.com ★ E-mail questions or comments to: president@francispto.com

From the PTO President

by Leslie Tente ■ president@francispto.com

VOLUNTEERISM PLAYS A VITAL ROLE in the success of any parent organization, and here at MJF, our school families have demonstrated time and again their commitment to the success of our students and school by always lending a helping hand and supporting PTO sponsored programs.

In order to continue what has been a historically successful and cohesive PTO, we are looking to the school community for new leaders. **The following positions will be open for the upcoming school year: President, Vice President and Secretary.**

Participation in the PTO is a wonderful way to meet new people and to ensure the continued success of our school. Further, new leaders will have the full support and guidance of outgoing members! Please feel free to contact me at 438-4388 or at TentLD@aol.com in order to discuss your interest in supporting our school and children further.

The **Sweetheart Dance** was held on Friday, February 5th, and the young ladies of MJF shared a fun-filled evening with the special gentlemen in their lives! It was a joyous evening that included delicious food, wonderful music, and great raffles! Thank you to **Erin Tewksbury** and **Angela Kondon** for organizing another special evening for the young ladies of MJF! Thank you to all of the MJF families who donated chips, delicious desserts and raffle baskets. Cherished events such as the Sweetheart Dance are possible because of the tireless efforts of our volunteers!

The boys will have their turn to “party” with the special women in their lives at the **Boys’ Event** on Friday evening, March 19th. Once again, **Mad Science of Southeastern MA** will be entertaining our boys with a brand new show! The boys were really mesmerized last year, and this year should prove to be just as spectacular. An awesome dinner buffet from Uncle Tony’s of East Providence will once again be served! Further information regarding the Boys’ Event will be going home within the next week! Please contact Leslie Tente, event chair, at TentLD@aol.com or at 438-4388 if you would be interested in helping out that evening, baking a dessert or donating a raffle prize. Your participation would be greatly appreciated!



From our Principal

by Lloydanne Leddy, Principal ■ laliddy@epschoolsri.com

THE ROLE OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL is both challenging and rewarding. I want to share some of the best principal moments I’ve had lately.

★ I love seeing the little faces in the windows of the yellow school buses.

★ I loved watching and participating in “The Running of the Torch”—our version of Olympic Opening Ceremonies (the torch was a decorated flashlight). Watching the smile and pride on a little kindergartner’s face running down the corridor carrying the torch while the big kids (fourth and fifth graders) were clapping enthusiastically for him. That was such a great feeling!



★ I was proud of the children’s efforts to help the people and particularly the children of Haiti. I loved the children taking the charge to better the world. I loved their faith and inspiration.

★ I love when a student comes to my office to tell me something he or she is proud of.

★ I love the Foster Grandparents Program. It is such a win-win situation for both the grandparents and the children.

★ I love when a substitute teacher, guest speaker, or visitors tell me what a great school Francis is with such great students.

★ I love when I see my teachers teaching and my students learning.

Your Principal,
Lloydanne Leddy

After School Program

MARCH IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, and so is the After School Program! The program begins March 23 and ends April 15. Information outlining course choices and registration information will be sent home. Thank you to program chairs **Sheila Vandal** and **Michelle Rogers** for organizing a great enrichment program for our students!

★ Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the school library ★

Cool to Be Kind

MJF raises over \$1,400 for Haiti relief

Myron Francis students, families, teachers and administration responded to the recent devastation in Haiti by dedicating the first week of February to the people of Haiti. The week featured a student initiated coin drive, teacher learning activities about Haiti, including the creation of posters and writing of encouraging letters to the children of Haiti. The week concluded by students encouraging fellow students to bring in a dollar bill and to wear red and blue (the colors of the Haitian flag) to honor the victims. Mrs. Leddy hosted an assembly to celebrate student efforts. Also, parents and students who have ties to Haiti brought in personal items for display and talked about their experiences with the Haitian people. Mrs. Crocker's fifth grade class counted the collected dollars and rolled coins resulting in \$1,444.45! The funds raised and letters will be sent to the student chosen charity—Save the Children.



Siblings find a way to share

During a recent family vacation, **Colby** and **Peyton Luiz** found \$51. The rightful owners could not be found, so they were told they could keep the money. Upon returning home from vacation, they learned about Quarters for Quakes and the difficult time families were having in Haiti. They decided to donate the money they found to charity. Colby chose to donate his half to help families in Haiti, while Peyton decided to help the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America to aid in the search for a cure for this chronic illness that is close to her heart.

Students go the extra mile

Meredith Cronin as well as her friends **Megan St. Hilaire, Katie Roslonek, Kathryn Macnie, Jenna Anthony**, and her siblings **Ryan, Caroline** and **Joshua Cronin**, decided even before notes went home about the school's drive that they wanted to collect money for the people of Haiti. They obtained donations by going door to door in their neighborhoods and phoning relatives, while adding what they could of their own savings. Meredith also corresponded with Vladimir Duthiers, a friend of her mothers, who had traveled to Haiti as CNN's Anderson Cooper's translator. Meredith was able to gain a much better understanding of the situation after having talked with him and reading his writings.

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

Treasurers' Report

IN JANUARY, we received \$1,124.37 from the Box Tops program. Wow! Keep them coming. Special thanks to Box Tops coordinator **Alyson Roslonek** and the students and families who support this effort.

Our total fundraising amount to date is \$12,980.30. We are half way to our goal!

Expenses for January included purchasing new books for the library (\$200), physical fitness (\$87.39), and magazine holders for Mrs. MacDonald's 1st grade class (\$54.85).

At the February PTO meeting one teacher request was approved for a jigsaw puzzle of New York City for enrichment activities in Mrs. Caffrey's 4th grade class.



Spring Fundraiser

YANKEE CANDLE® CATALOGUES and forms were sent home before February vacation. Extra order forms are available in the school office. **New iPod® shuffles will be given to both the top selling (highest \$ amount) girl and boy for this fundraiser.** Order forms are due back at MJF no later than Monday, March 8th. Good luck to everyone!

**YANKEE
CANDLE®**

Restaurant Night

Our next Restaurant Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 24th** at **Applebee's** on Route 6 in Seekonk. Details to follow.



Scholastic Book Fair

Instead of trudging to a local store for a birthday present for a best friend or relative—give the gift of reading! Perfect for your teacher and your own child too! Look for the March Scholastic Book Fair gift certificate order form coming to you soon!

Important Book Fair Dates:

Sneak Peek: Tuesday, March 23

Book Fair: March 24, 25, 26

Book Fair at Night: Thursday, March 25, 6:00-7:30pm

Yearbook photo deadline

THE DEADLINE to submit photos for the yearbook is Thursday, April 1. If you have photos from field trips, classroom activities or fun times at school please send your digital photos to mjfpto@gmail.com.

