



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

HAPPY SPRING TO ALL! It has been so exciting and revitalizing to see the sun and experience warmer temperatures once again (even if it is short-lived, after all this is New England!) Spring symbolizes rebirth and renewal, and there are signs of spring emerging daily.

To that end, the boys of MJF demonstrated signs of “spring fever” on Friday evening March 19 at the Boys’ Mad Science Event. The boys were filled with high energy, spirit, and enthusiasm during the captivating performance by Mad Science of Southern MA and RI. Many thanks to branch manager, **Kathy Marabello**, and Navigant Credit Union of Rumford for sponsoring Mad Science for a second year in a row!

Uncle Tony’s of East Providence once again provided a delicious Italian buffet, and our MJF families supplied an incredible array of delicious desserts. The PTO thanks the **Ricard family**, the owners and operators of Uncle Tony’s of East Providence, for the great care and detail they took in preparing the menu for the evening.

A true community event

This event truly demonstrated the meaning of the word “community”. In addition to Navigant Credit Union and Uncle Tony’s of East Providence, the PTO would like to thank **Kevin Barry**, store director, Shaw’s East Providence for donating the water, seltzer and cups for the evening, and The Pepsi Bottling Group for donating soda. Thank you to Crugnale’s Bakery for providing the pizza. Last but certainly not least, the PTO thanks all of our wonderful volunteers that worked tirelessly to provide desserts, raffle prizes, as well as assisting in the setting up of the gymnasium, serving the meal, as well as cleaning-up! The sharing of your time and talents was overwhelming and heart-warming to witness and made the evening a true success!

Board positions still open for 2010-2011

As mentioned in last month’s newsletter, the PTO is seeking to fill the positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary for the upcoming school year. Serving on the PTO Board provides a great opportunity to support our school community. If you are interested in discussing these openings further, please contact Leslie Tente at 438-4388 or at TentLD@aol.com. MJF has had the distinction of a strong PTO board over the years, and it is vital to our students that this rich tradition continues!

From our Principal

by Lloydanne Leddy, Principal ■ laleddy@epschoolsri.com

ONE OF MY FAVORITE WEEKS of the school year is coming. Francis School will celebrate Reading Week April 12-16.

This year the theme of Reading Week will be mysteries. We have invited local Rhode Island author, **Lucinda Landon**, as our guest. Lucinda Landon is the author of the Meg Mackintosh series. Meg Mackintosh is a young girl who likes to solve mysteries. However, some of the titles of her books such as *The Case of the Missing Babe Ruth Baseball* should appeal to boys as well.



Lucinda Landon

Ms. Landon will be at Francis School on Tuesday, April 13. Lucinda Landon will also have a family presentation the evening of Tuesday, April 13. Lucinda Landon’s books will be available for purchase. Shortly, you will receive more information about our annual Reading Week.

The purpose of Reading Week is to promote the enjoyment of reading. All of the educational research is consistent with its findings that students who read often do well in school.

You may learn more about Lucinda Landon by visiting her website at www.megmackintosh.com

Treasurers’ Report

IN FEBRUARY, the Sweetheart Dance, our popular girls event, raised \$2,076.33. Restaurant night at Papa Gino’s earned \$111.74. Thank you to all the families who continue to support our events.

Our total fundraising amount to date is \$15,145.81!

Expenses for February included art curriculum purchases (\$60.77), physical education purchases (\$28.15), a New York City jigsaw puzzle for Mrs. Caffrey’s 4th grade class that was approved at the February meeting (\$20.50). The student’s enjoy working on the puzzle as an enrichment activity.

At the March PTO meeting, one teacher request was approved to purchase timers for the kindergarten classes.



Cool to Be Kind

Pennies for Patients

Students are participating in the annual Pennies for Patients fundraiser ending Friday, March 26. By sending in your loose change, we support efforts to find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin disease and myeloma. Thank you to **Mrs. Forget** for again bringing this program to our school and to all those super COOL students who have been working hard on collecting for a cure.

Coupons "Making a Difference"

Members of the East Providence Senior Center are collecting clipped coupons current and expired. These coupons are to be distributed to the spouses and children of troops at home and at military installations who sometimes struggle to make ends meet on military salaries.

Clipping coupons is a great way for our children to participate in service and for those in the earlier grades to hone those fine motor skills. Please contact **Tori Jessop** at 438-3865 if you would like to help out.



John (Gr. 2) and Hope Jessop (K) cutting coupons – COOL!

Breadlines: Bringing food to the homeless

Myron families will be packaging 150 bagged meals, April 2, to be distributed to the homeless in Providence as a part of the weekly efforts of Breadlines, a locally sponsored program which feeds and clothes the homeless by providing on-site distribution at three downtown locations each Friday evening. Please contact **Janet Miller** at 438-7608 to find out how you can help the homeless as a part of this program.

MJF Supports Bread of Life Food Pantry

During the month of April, MJF will collect food donations to support The Bread of Life food pantry located in Rumford. The food pantry is participating in the 13th Annual \$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger. All food and monetary donations will be matched by the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation according to challenge rules and requirements. The donations will be distributed to local families and would be greatly appreciated. The food collection area will be located in the school foyer. Thank you for your generosity!

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

Jumping for Hearts

MYRON KIDS will be jumping rope again for the Heart Association. Thanks to **Mrs. Raposa**, students will learn about the heart and take part in physical fitness that is good for their heart. Jump Rope for Heart is an educational fund-raising event. It's held each year in thousands of elementary schools across the nation. Myron students will participate during their physical education class and have the opportunity to send in money which will help find treatments and pay for medicines that will save lives. Students can win prizes including t-shirts and fun toys based on their fundraising totals. To create your own fundraising web page and learn more about this event visit www.americanheart.org/jump.



NECAP School Report Night

PLEASE JOIN US on April 14 at 7:00pm in the school library for our monthly PTO meeting. Students will be receiving progress reports and NECAP test results that day. In addition to our regular order of business, we will review the NECAP test score results as well as field questions from our families.



Yankee Candle—iPod winners

CONGRATULATIONS to Chapman White and Paige Coski, from Mrs. Goggin's class, for winning iPod Shuffles as the leading individual Yankee Candle fund-raisers. Special thanks to all the families who participated in the spring fundraiser and to **Angela Kondon** and **Erin Tewksbury** for helping make this event a success.

2009-2010 Yearbook orders

COMING SOON... Orders for the 2009-2010 Myron J. Francis Yearbook will be taken after April vacation. The yearbook is a great keepsake for students. Thank you to parents and teachers who submitted photos.



Accidents happen...

AND NURSE BETTY is always there to take care of them—big or small, stomachaches, or scraped knees. Sometimes the accidents are of a more personal nature and for that, Nurse Betty keeps a supply of sweatpants and running pants. But, supplies are low. If you have an extra pair of elastic waistband pants, please send them into Nurse Betty. It saves a child from needing to call home, when an embarrassing moment strikes.