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From the PTO President

by Leslie Tente ■ president@francispto.com

MAY HAS BEEN an incredibly busy month at MJF!

During the first week of May, our school community recognized our dedicated faculty and staff during **Teacher Appreciation Week**.

Many thanks to our Room Parents and The Teacher Appreciation Committee for all of your generous donations and your gift of time! We ended Teacher Appreciation week with a raffle for all of the staff, and in order for each staff member to receive a gift, we needed to gather 55 gifts! It was truly overwhelming to see the outpouring of gifts from our school families. Beautiful and creative gifts came in daily! Again, thank you for all of your efforts!

On May 5, our school community had the opportunity to assemble for **Arts Night**. Thanks to **Mrs. Singleton**, the halls showcased the many amazing projects that the children have worked on throughout the school year.

After having the opportunity to view all of the awesome works of art, families were then treated to a delightful musical concert under the direction of MJF's music teacher, **Mrs. Bowden**. Once again, we all had the opportunity to see just how much talent there is at MJF!

We would like to thank Mrs. Singleton and Mrs. Bowden for providing this wonderful evening for the students and their families. Our school is so very fortunate to have the chance to assemble for such a special night!

New Board Members Announced

THE PTO IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the following officers for the 2010-2011 school year:

Co-Presidents: Jo-an Cox and Sherri Silverstein

Vice President: Pam Heatherton

Treasurer: Sonda Pimental

Secretary: Mary Cabral

Many thanks to these smart and dynamic women for stepping up to lead our PTO! We all look forward to an exciting new school year, and supporting this new board!

From our Principal

by Lloydanne Leddy, Principal ■ laleddy@epschoolsri.com

THE HEADLINE in the *East Providence Post* last week was "City mourns for a beloved son: Myron John Francis." Our school's namesake, **Myron John Francis** passed away at age 81.

Mr. Francis was a dedicated educator who was passionate about teaching, learning and providing an excellent education for the children of East Providence. Mr. Francis, like many others I have known and do know, work in education to better the lives of children. Respect and honor for the educational profession are instilled in those of us who knew and worked with Mr. Francis. Over the years, I have had the privilege of meeting and conversing with Mr. Francis and his wife, Barbara.



Myron John Francis

Last week I attended the funeral mass for Mr. Francis, which was a celebration of his life. During his eulogy his grandson stated his grandfather's (Mr. Francis) proudest moment was when the City of East Providence named our elementary school in his honor in 1989 when the city's newest school opened.

When I left the funeral mass I felt a renewed energy and pride in my chosen career, education, and in our school.

Several years ago, **Mrs. Henneous** and her class interviewed Mr. Francis and wrote a biography about the man and his life.

Here's an excerpt from the last page of the biography; Mr. Francis' advice for the children in his own words:

"Be true to yourself.

Appreciate your parents and family.

Always remember that you are not an 'island unto yourself' meaning that you cannot survive alone and that you are the 'sum total of your life's experiences'—so make them good and happy times.

Keep faith in America.

Respect others particularly those in need and those who try to teach you the difference between right and wrong."

In conclusion, I am proud and honored to be the principal of this fine school, with its kind and generous students and their families, as well as a faculty who embody dedication and professionalism, who love teaching and learning and bettering the lives of children.

Spring Planting Update

STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN through grade two planted a beautiful array of spring flowers on Thursday, May 13.

While Mother Nature was kind to MJF later on Friday evening, she was less than cooperative in the morning! Therefore, our students in grades three through five had to postpone their planting. Stay tuned for a new planting date.



Sheila Vandal and her husband **Chris Vandal** once again did a fantastic job preparing the beds for planting (no easy task!). We would like to extend our many thanks and appreciation to Sheila and Chris for organizing Spring Planting Day as well as for their many years of service as The Environmental Committee Chairs. The Vandal family has made MJF a more beautiful place for sure!

Because their son will be moving onto middle school next year, the Vandals, sadly, will no longer lead the Environmental Committee! If anyone is interested in leading this very important committee, please contact Leslie Tente at 438-4388 or at TentLD@aol.com.

Let's keep our grounds looking beautiful all summer long! Please contact us if you would be able to water our lovely flowers during the summer months!

Cool to be Kind

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE FAMILIES who donated and helped make sandwiches for the **Breadlines** weekly distribution to area homeless. Also thank you to everyone who sent in food items to assist the Bread of Life Food Pantry as part of the Feinsein 1 Million Dollar Give-Away to Fight Hunger. Donations for the pantry totaled 250 items and were used to provide necessities to many families in our community.

It's a Baby Shower!

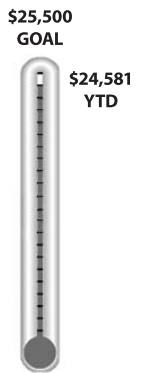
During the week of June 7- 11, we will be collecting items for a baby shower for the families with infants served by the **East Bay Community Action Program** (EBCAP). Donations will be collected in the MJF school foyer. The following items would be greatly appreciated: diapers (any size), wipes, baby food, formula or baby toiletries.

Our school community is beyond Cool. Thank you for your continued support!

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

INCOME FOR THE MONTH of April included School Spirit Apparel sales earned \$163. Love those new tie-dye t-shirts! The spring Fun Money Gift Card program sold over \$2,600 in gift cards and raised \$101 for the PTO. The spring Box Tops proceeds totaled \$519.60. The spring Yankee Candle fundraiser was a success for the second year. Over \$10,000 of merchandise was sold by our students and families, raising \$4,128 for the school. Thank you to all our families for your continued support of the PTO and our school!

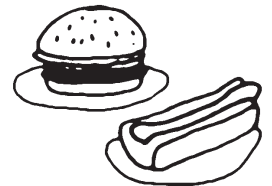


Our fundraising total to date has increased to \$24,581.12. We are almost at our goal!

Expenses for April included Reading Week \$1,200, Rooster Games \$678.56, library purchases \$40.50, Grade 3 Biomes in class field trip \$285. In addition, the PTO is proud to have donated \$250 to the CSF Citizens Scholarship Fund of East Providence.

Family Fun Night

MOTHER NATURE thankfully cooperated on Friday evening, May 14 —allowing us to celebrate MJF's annual Family Fun Night. Fun was indeed the theme for the evening! Students and their families enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers courtesy of some local East Providence High School culinary students while listening to the sounds of Mr. DJ. The evening provided fun-filled activities ranging from volleyball, karaoke, tattoos and *Minute to Win It* style games—organized by our awesome physical education teacher **Mrs. Donna Rapoza**. Students also had the chance to learn more about fire trucks thanks to the East Providence Fire Department.



Thank you to **Angela Kondon**, **Erin Tewksbury** and **Mrs Rapoza** for organizing this much anticipated event! We would also like to thank the many families that donated chips, raffle prizes, and brought canned goods for The Bread of Life Food Pantry.

Roller Skating Party

A PRIVATE ROLLER SKATING PARTY for MJF students will be held on Tuesday, May 25 from 6:30 to 8:30pm at United Skates of America. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. Skate rentals available or you can bring your own. The class with the most participation gets a free game of laser tag! Thank you to **Leslie Hey** for once again organizing this popular event!

