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From the PTO Co-Presidents

by Jo-an Cox and Sherri Silverstein ■ president@francispto.com

AS WE LEAP INTO FEBRUARY we have begun planning many of the events from now through the end of the school year. I find it hard to believe June will be here before we know it but in four short months it will be time for shorts again!

The annual **Sweetheart Dance** will be held on Friday, February 3, and the young ladies of MJF will share a fun-filled evening with the special gentlemen in their lives! It will be a wonderful evening that includes delicious food from **Uncle Tony's**, great raffles and lively music. Thank you to **Steph de Abreu**, **Tori Jessop** and **Janet Miller** for organizing this special evening. Also, thank you to **Miller Chiropractic** for sponsoring the music! Events like the Sweetheart Dance are possible because of the tireless efforts of you, our volunteers.

Planning for the **Boy's Event** is underway as well. A flyer with the evening's details will be going home shortly. Please contact **Erin Roche** at erinroche@cox.net if you are interested in helping out that evening, baking a dessert or donating a raffle prize. We are looking forward to another fun night and cannot wait to see what Erin has planned.

Please join us at the February PTO meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, February 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Thank you again for all you do to support the students, faculty and PTO events at MJF. Without your support, many of these great activities would not happen!

Parenting The Stormy Child

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION will take place at our monthly PTO meeting on Wednesday, February 1. **Dr. Laurence Hirshberg** from the Children's Neurodevelopment Center will be presenting his workshop, *Parenting The Stormy Child: How to Calm the Waters and Teach/Improve Control*. This is one in a series of workshops being offered by the CNDC to local parent groups. We are thrilled to bring Dr. Hirshberg to Francis and hope that you will join us for an evening of education and insight into one of the most challenging aspects of parenting. Please contact **Jo-an Cox** at president@francispto.com if you plan to attend. We anticipate there will be a large interest and we want to be able to plan accordingly. We will be providing brief PTO updates following the presentation.



Dr. Hirshberg

From our Principal

by Lloydanne Leddy, Principal ■ laleddy@epschoolsri.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY READING! Students not only need to learn to read but must also read to learn. One change in Reading Education is that students will be required to read more non-fiction books.

This expectation is being communicated to all teachers at this time as the Rhode Island Department of Education has adopted The Common Core Standards.

Happy Reading!

Treasurer's Report

INCOME: \$1,167

Disney On Ice = \$1,142 & a generous donation of \$25. On behalf of the PTO Board, thank you to the parents who made this donation. We appreciate your support!

EXPENSES: (\$7,777 ESTIMATED)

Scholastic invoice = (\$5,371) (same amount as deposits) for the Fall Book Fair in November and paid in the beginning of December. Also, Disney On Ice = (\$1,142), Curriculum Associates = (\$216) for Quickword Books, Trinity Rep = (\$478), which was the remaining balance of the 5th grade field trip, supplies = (\$531), and some misc. expenses = (\$39).

Sweetheart Dance

THE SWEETHEART DANCE will be held on February 3, 6:30-8:30pm (snow date 2/10). There will be a heart decoration to color and return for display the night of the event. Girls bring that special man and enjoy our Italian dinner and dancing to the music with the DJ. Raffle items, volunteers and baked goods are needed—please contact **Steph DeAbreu** at sdea531@aol.com or **Tori Jessop** at tori_bigfoot@yahoo.com if you can help.

Spring After School Program

THE SPRING SESSION of the After School Program will be running from March 13 to April 5. Watch for registration flyers coming home in early February. We need an instructor for a Lego class. If you or someone you know might be interested, contact **Michelle Rogers** at RogersFamilyRI@gmail.com or 438-2397. We also need baby food jars, especially the taller ones. If you have some, please send them in to **Mrs. Fisher** at the school.

★ Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 7:00pm in the school library ★