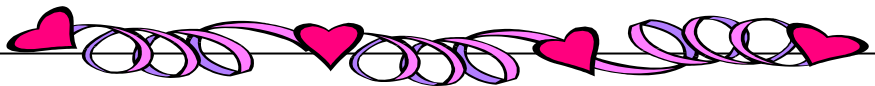


MLK Elementary School PTO February 2011 Newsletter



News and Updates from the PTO . . .

International Potluck Night: Feb. 9, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Join us for our annual International Potluck Night. Bring your favorite cultural dish to share with other families. There will be guest speakers, musical selections, and student readings. This event includes lots of food and fun! Hope to see you there!

MLK Elementary Open Houses

Help us let friends and neighbors know about King's upcoming tours/open houses: 2/15 at 6:30pm, 3/4 at 9:30am and 3/18 at 9:30am. Interested families should call the school office at 456-9398 to register. To volunteer to lead a tour contact Jill Davidson at 345-2464.

Calendar

Feb. 9	International Potluck, 5:30 - 7:30
Feb. 21-25	No School - February Vacation
Mar. 7	No School - Teacher Prof. Dev.

Coming Soon: Salad Bar!

We received word that we were awarded the grant to bring a salad bar to MLK (the next step in our efforts to make salad and other fresh veggies a staple in school lunch). This effort started early in the school year thanks to a partnership with Whole Foods Market in University Heights that raised helped MLK raise \$2500 to support this effort. Salad bar equipment will be shipped soon. Look for updates in the coming weeks!

A Tradition Continues: Mosaics at King

For the past 13 years, it has been a tradition at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School that the fifth grade students create a mosaic project with local artist, Jess Regelson. Fifteen mosaics colorfully decorate the hallways of MLK. Once a concept has been decided, such as last year's mosaic, "We Love to Read", students work with Jess and parent volunteers to create breathtaking mosaics. This work takes place during the springtime and requires many hours of work. Once completed the mosaic is dedicated to the school in a ceremony at the end of each school year. This invaluable project teaches the students to work together over a period of time to achieve a common goal. In between commissions, Jess can be found making mosaic art and furniture in her studio in Pawtucket. Jess recently won a commission to create a bus shelter mosaic for RIPTA at Charles Street off Branch Avenue. In addition, in 2006 Jess received a Citizen's Citation from then Providence Mayor Cicilline for her work with schoolchildren. **The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts awarded the MLK PTO a \$750 grant for this year's mosaic project.** If you would like to volunteer to work with Jess and the students on the 2011 mosaic, please contact the MLK PTO. For more information about Jess visit www.indigomoonmosaics.com.



2010 MLK School Mosaic
"We Love to Read"



Spotlight: MLK School Enrichment Programs

Contact the Main Office for Information or to Register



Chinabridge: Do you know the third longest river in the world? The kids at the Chinese afterschool program know. It is called Yangtze River in China. They know where it is located on the China map because they drew it. Do you know the most popular sport in the world? The kids at the Chinese afterschool program know. It's Ping Pong. They played it. Do you know how to use the brush to write? The kids at the Chinese afterschool program know. They used the brush to write Chinese characters. It's called calligraphy. Do you want to be a part of the program? Join now. Class start on February 8.

Dates: (Tuesdays) Feb. 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 / Time: 3:15-4:40

Family Math: This program will increase the comfort zone between parents and your children to share math experiences. The mathematical problems are presented in a relaxed and fun way that participants will work together to find solutions to games, puzzles, and problems of a mathematical nature. Martin Luther King PTO sponsors this program.

Dates: (Wednesdays) March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 3 / Time: 3:15-4:30



Mommy & Me: This program will help to connect what happens inside the classroom with what happens outside the classroom so that literacy can become a tool for making changes in students' lives. In this program, learners will learn to read and write while participating in group discussions about their everyday problems. By looking into the causes of their problems and how to solve them, participants are encouraged to realize that they themselves can do something to improve the situation. Smart Test, Inc. sponsors this program.



Dates: (Fridays) March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15 / Time: 1:40 - 3:10



Principal's Page: From the Desk of Mr. Ciesla

Sooner than you'd expect, a manila envelope will be headed your way with your child's report card in it. As you open the envelope to find out if the teacher thinks your child is as wonderful as you do, you might think to yourself, "What *is* all this?" Our standards for education have had a big effect on the way we report a child's progress. Our report cards are formatted based on the level at which your child is meeting state and local standards. If you can't make heads or tails of the number system in the scoring key in your child's report card, relax. Underneath all the mumbo-jumbo, our report cards still contain all the important information, even if the format can seem overwhelming. Our scoring system is based on numbers 1,2,3 and 4 . Students who are right where they are suppose to be will receive a 3 – **Achieves Grade Standard**. Students receiving a 4 – **Achieves Grade Standard with Honors** are per-

forming above grade level in that specific category. However, if your child does not receive a 3 or 4 in a specific area "don't panic." It's not a sprint rather a marathon event. Students have two more quarters to reach grade level standard. When report cards come home take the time to go over the report card with your child and if you have concerns you are encouraged to call the school and make an appointment with your child's teacher. Please pay attention to the comments portion of the report card, your child's teacher might want to make an appointment with you to discuss the classroom progress. The winning combination is a collaboration between home and school to ensure success for all.

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