



# MLK Elementary School PTO October 2010 Newsletter



## Fall Fundraiser Raffle

The Fall Raffle Fundraiser has begun! Each student received 10 tickets to sell for \$1 each. Please return all money collected with ticket stubs in the envelope provided (indicate if you want more tickets to sell).

The top selling class wins a pizza party. Students are entered to win a \$25 Toys R Us gift card for every 10 tickets sold.

**Winners will be announced on November 10.  
Top prize is \$500!!**

*(Raffle will replace the fall catalogue sale.)*



## Mark Your Calendar!!

- 10/5 NECAP Testing Begins (Grades 3-5)
- 10/11 Columbus Day Holiday, No School
- 10/13 School-wide PTO Meeting, 6 pm. Child care is available.
- 10/29 No School (Professional Development Day)
- 11/2 No School (Election Day)



## News and Updates from the PTO . . .



### Playground installation

On Sept. 25, students and families came out in full force to install MLK's new playground. This equipment was generously donated by St. Patrick's School. It took community support, careful coordination, and lots of help to bring it to our campus. Special thanks to Rep. Kevin Jackson, Bob McMahan and the City Parks Department, Mt. Hope Learning Center AmeriCorps members, YMCA volunteers, Geoffrey Gunter, Principal Cielsa, PPSD and MLK faculty & staff. Stay turned for details on a ribbon cutting ceremony!

### Afterschool French Lessons

Learn French with Mr. Aly Bangoura during after-school on Thursdays (Grades 2-3) and Fridays (Grade 5). \$10 per lesson. For information, contact the office or email [Aly\\_Bangoura@yahoo.com](mailto:Aly_Bangoura@yahoo.com).



### MLK PTO Awarded RISCA Grant



For the third year in a row, MLK is the recipient of a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts to support its after school guitar program. Students in grades 4-5 will be given the opportunity to take lessons on Friday afternoons. Look for a flyer soon!



### Fresh to You

Don't miss the Fresh to You, a year round fruit and vegetable market where you can buy fresh, high quality fruits and vegetables for less. This market will be at MLK every Wednesday from 3-6 pm. Fresh to You accepts EBT-Food Stamps, Cash and Credit Cards!

### Whole Food's Salad Bar Project

We reached our \$2,500 fundraising goal! Thank you for your generous donations! Through this program, we will be able to provide another healthy option for students to promote good eating habits.

### Harvest Fest and Open House

This event brought the MLK community together to celebrate our wonderful learning community! Families met with teachers and learned about the life of their students- from reading and writing to lunch and recess. This year included a Thanksgiving play. Special thanks to event chair Helen Dukes and her army of volunteers!



**School Contact Information:**  
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## Principal's Page: From the Desk of Mr. Ciesla

The year is off to a tremendous start! Thank you for the effort and commitment that I see put forth by our families day in and day out. Without your hard work, MLK would not be such a great place. Many exciting things have been going on at MLK, such as the instillation the new playground, the salad bar initiative, Harvest Fest/Open House and NECAP preparation classes.

As many as 60 children have attended **NECAP preparation classes**, where teachers review test taking strategies and reinforce students' academic skills. While our hope is that every one of our students is successful and demonstrates his/her ability level on this criterion-referenced test, it is my belief that we should not make critical judgments of students, teachers or families based on one data point using a summative assessment. The real work that we put in as MLK community members is year-round, and success is measured by growth over time. Our goal is to develop life-long learners and to equip students with knowledge that will translate into real word experience. If we focus our energies on the development of the whole child and provide rigorous instruction in the classroom, children will foster a love for learning. The rest will take care of itself.

We have strengthened our staff with the addition of **Mr. Mathew Russo** (1<sup>st</sup> grade) and **Mr. David Baxter** (Science). **Mr. Patrick Tierney** (Librarian) and **Ms. Annmarie Sirois** (Kindergarten) joined our staff permanently this year.

During October, I will be looking for candidates for a new program at MLK called "**Principal for a Day.**" Once a month I will invite a parent, community member, college or university affiliate, or member of the business sector to share in a unique experience and become Principal for a Day. All interested parties can email Ms. Diane Lord at [diane.lord@ppsd.org](mailto:diane.lord@ppsd.org).

I hope to see each and every one of you this year, making MLK the best that we can be!

Warmest Regards,  
Principal Derrick Ciesla

### Help Wanted: Room Parents

The PTO is still seeking room parents for these classes: Egerton, Smith, McCarthy, Cowen, Audette, Paige, Sullivan, Martin, and Quirk. To volunteer, please contact Kristina Emberg at [mama2thomasreed@aol.com](mailto:mama2thomasreed@aol.com) or (339)832-1435.

### Box Tops for Education & East Side Marketplace Receipts

Don't forget to clip Box Tops! Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10 cents. If you shop at East Side Marketplace, send receipts into school. We collect these receipts and receive a rebate. Every little bit really does count!



### Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program

Logon to [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) to register your Stop & Shop Card to earn cash for MLK every time you shop! Ask friends and family to do the same.



### Stay Connected

Sign up for the weekly PTO email by emailing [MLKPTO@gmail.com](mailto:MLKPTO@gmail.com). Or, join our Facebook group—MLK Elementary School PTO Providence.

### NECAP Testing



During October, grades 3-5 will take the NECAP test. This standardized test measures reading, math skills, and writing skills. New this year: all testing will be in the morning and students will have the afternoon to enjoy special activities and relax. Special events include a pep rally, games, dance, field activities and a BBQ. Volunteers welcome! Contact Lizzie Araujo Haller at 450-7754 or [lizziearaujo@gmail.com](mailto:lizziearaujo@gmail.com).

#### NECAP Testing Schedule

- October 5-7: Reading (Grades 3-5)
- October 8: Math (Grades 3-5)
- October 12 - 13: Math (Grades 3-5)
- October 14 - 15: writing (5th grade)
- October 20 - 24: Make-ups