

Milton Foundation for Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Save the Date to Celebrate Education

Milton Foundation for Education awards nearly \$120,000 in grants to schools

By Ed Hayward

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The Milton Foundation for Education will hold the sixth annual Celebration for Education on Saturday, November 20, at Lombardo's in Randolph, with the goal of raising funds to support world language programs in the Milton Public Schools.

The evening's theme, "For the Love of Language", reflects the goals established by the Foundation board and organizers of this year's Celebration, one of Milton's social and philanthropic highlights during the fall season. Co-chairs for this year's event are Mary and Brendan McLaughlin and Fran and Joseph Launie.

Proceeds from the evening, which includes silent and live auctions and dinner, will support foreign language programs in all six town schools, the Foundation's endowment fund and the ongoing work of the Foundation, which awards grants to classroom teachers and presents the annual Teacher of the Year Awards each

spring.

“Fran and I are excited by the challenge of making this year’s Celebration for Education an entertaining evening that will benefit language programs that serve all of the children in Milton,” said McLaughlin, the parent of a Collicot Elementary School student.

Last year, more than 800 Milton residents, local officials and friends of the town’s public schools turned out at Lombardo’s to make the 5th Annual Celebration for Education the most successful fundraiser ever for the non-profit Foundation. Funds are raised through ticket sales, auction items, individual and corporate sponsorships, as well as the Pathways to Fitness project, a commemorative brick walkway to be located at the new Milton High School.

In all, the five Celebration events have raised roughly \$550,000 to support the educational programs of each Milton public school, as well as the ongoing work of the foundation.

In August, the Foundation board awarded nearly \$120,000 in grants from the 2003 Celebration to supplement health, athletics and physical education programs in all six Milton schools.

Each elementary school received grants of nearly \$13,000 to purchase items such as tumbling mats, volleyball standards, cargo nets, climbing walls, and health and fitness media kits. Approximately \$33,000 was dedicated to the Pierce Middle School to provide a range of fitness machines and equipment as athletic facilities become available. The high school will receive approximately \$33,000 for equipment that will add to the

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capabilities of the Copeland Field House and other athletics facilities.

“These funds will help us make sure that the state-of-the-art facilities constructed as a result of the school building project will also have equally excellent equipment and programming,” said Milton Public Schools Superintendent Magdalene Giffune. “The students and teachers of Milton are grateful to the Foundation and

its many supporters.”

Just as the athletics facilities in the new schools are top-notch, so are the new facilities for students studying foreign languages including French, Spanish and Latin. This year, the schools have two new digital language labs – one each at the high school and middle school. Such labs entail start up costs, particularly in the area of hardware and software, especially technology licensing rights.

“The language department has been successful in obtaining needed texts, workbooks and other print materials over the years, but we have a real need to obtain technology for use in teaching language,” said Gracie Burke, director of world language instruction for the district. “It will take significant external funds to purchase the needed technology.”

Milton is known for its French Immersion program, which allows parents to choose to have their children educated in French during their first two elementary school years before adding English language instruction. The schools provide Spanish language instruction as early as first grade. French, Spanish and Latin are offered throughout the middle and high school grades.

“World language learning is a priority for the parents of Milton,” said Foundation Board President Carol Rosner. “This year’s Celebration is a great chance to say ‘thank you’ to our teachers and school leaders who have helped to make these programs national models for language instruction.”

Over the past five years, proceeds from the Celebration for Education fundraiser have provided significant support to the science, technology, math and arts programs in the Milton Public Schools.

For more information about the 2004 Celebration for Education, or to volunteer, call Mary McLaughlin at 617-698-6726 or Fran Launie at 617-696-2534.

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