

Milton Monster Dash

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Contact: Ed Hayward
617-696-1275

Milton Monster Dash Set for Sunday, October 28th

The 9th annual Milton Monster Dash takes place at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 28, 2007 from Cunningham Park as several hundred participants – from the competitive to the costumed – run, jog and walk the course to raise money to benefit the Sam Cichello Memorial Fund, which supports science enrichment in the Milton public schools.

The race, held in memory of the Tucker Elementary School student who died following a playground accident in 1999, will help Milton Public Schools science coordinator Barbara Plonski undertake hands-on science lessons, train teachers and partner with the Blue Hills Trailside Museum on a number of educational projects. The Monster Dash is organized by the Milton Foundation for Education, a non-profit group that funds innovative programs and opportunities that are beyond the reach of the school system's budget.

"We love that the Monster Dash is a great way to remember Sam and his passion for science," said Chris Kamp Cichello. "The Monster Dash has become a tradition for many Milton families and we look forward each year to the new families and runners who participate. We're grateful that so many people over the years have turned out to run and have fun."

Proceeds from The Monster Dash are administered by the Milton Foundation for Education, which works closely with the Milton Public Schools and the Cichello family to develop science enrichment programming.

One of the programs that the Monster Dash supports is Science Across Milton, known as Project SAM, led by Plonski, who takes

innovative science lessons and lesson plans to classrooms across town. The program also draws on the resources and expertise of the Blue Hills Trailside Museum on Route 138, where students visit to learn from museum exhibits and also present the results of their scientific investigations.

Last year, several hundred runners turned out on an afternoon perfect for running or walking to make the Monster Dash another successful day to honor the memory of Sam and to raise more than \$11,000 to support innovative science teaching and learning programs.

"The Monster Dash has something for runners of all ages and abilities," said Lisa Rask Viola, co-chair of this year's race. "You can run in your favorite costume, or come and compete for a trophy in your division. Or you can walk with friends and enjoy the fall season. We look forward to returning runners and new participants."

For the hardcore weekend runner, Milton Monster Dash offers split times, water stations, refreshments, computerized finish line by Spitler and prizes to the top finishers in divisions by age and gender. Entry fees are \$18 for adults who sign up before October 18 and \$20 after that. The Kid's Run for children ages 10 years and under has a \$5 entry fee and all participants receive medals.

The parents of Milton schoolchildren will find informational fliers coming home in their kids backpacks. More information and a downloadable entry flier, go to www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org, under the menu Monster Dash. The first 300 entrants receive a free Monster Dash T-shirt. Businesses or individuals interested in becoming a sponsor of the Monster Dash are encouraged to email monsterdash@comcast.net for more information.

The Monster Dash covers slightly more than three miles, starting at Cunningham Park, down Edge Hill Road, to Randolph Avenue, down Centre Street, to Brook Road, up Otis Street and back down Edge Hill to the finish line at the Cunningham Foundation Hall.

For those who cannot attend the race, tax deductible donations can be sent to: Milton Foundation for Education, P.O. Box 223, Milton, MA 02186-0001.

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All proceeds benefit the Milton Foundation for Education in
Memory of Sam Cichello