

For Immediate Release
October 25, 2007

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2007 Celebration for Education Set for Saturday, November 17th

"All Lit Up: Bringing Ideas to Light" is the theme of the 12th Annual Celebration for Education to be held on Saturday, November 17th at Lombardo's in Randolph. This year's gala event will support language arts in the Milton Public Schools. Sponsored by the Milton Foundation for Education, the Celebration for Education is the largest annual fundraising event in town. In the last dozen years, it has raised over \$1.25 million to fund innovative initiatives that support math, the sciences, world languages, physical education, and art within the public schools.

According to Jim May, one of this year's Celebration co-chairs, the theme "Bringing Ideas to Light" was inspired by the French novelist Paul Bourget who wrote: "Ideas are to literature what light is to painting." Noting that language arts have not been the focus of Celebration fundraising efforts in the past, May believes the time is right to highlight that aspect of the public school education. "Proceeds from Celebration 2007 will enhance and enrich English-language reading and literature programs by providing innovative curriculum, a broad collection of books, and state of the art classroom equipment to each of the six Milton Public Schools," May said. "Nothing will prepare our students better for the world they live in."

Annellen Lydon, another one of the 2007 Celebration co-chairs, couldn't be happier with this year's emphasis on literature. Lydon is a Reading First Literacy Coach in the Boston Public Schools and freely admits that reading is her passion. "I see first hand how important reading is to all students," Lydon said.

"My goal is to flood the classrooms with a wide variety of materials, from *Grapes of Wrath* to *Magic Tree House*, so that every child in the Milton Public Schools has an opportunity to discover the joy of reading." Celebration organizers are quick to point out that the success of this year's event is completely dependent on the generosity

of parents, businesses, and individuals who are willing to contribute in one way or another. Last year, the Celebration for Education raised over \$200,000 through ticket sales, a live and silent auction, a raffle, and direct contributions.

“Every single donation is important to us,” said MFE President Helene Haddad. “We encourage everyone to visit our website at www.miltonfoundationforeducation to see how they can help. We need items donated for our auction, and we need volunteers to help with everything from room set up to ticket sales.” Invitations to Celebration for Education will be mailed to Milton families in October, though Haddad encourages everyone to put November 17th on the calendar now. “Celebration for Education is the official kickoff of the holiday season and a wonderful chance to have a fun night out while raising money for a good cause.”

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