



**For Immediate Release
October 23, 2008**

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Principals Counting on 2008 Celebration for Education Grants to Keep Schools Up to Date

For the last nine years, proceeds from the Celebration for Education have benefited a specific department within the Milton Public School system, such as language arts, physical fitness or the libraries. This year will be a departure, however, with money raised from the 10th Annual Celebration for Education going directly to the schools to meet each one's specific needs. Each principal, in consultation with the administration and the Milton Foundation for Education which sponsors Celebration, has identified capital equipment, programs and initiatives that will enhance that particular school.

James Jette, principal of Pierce Middle School, hopes there is a good turnout at the November 22nd Celebration. He is counting on his grant to purchase an additional SmartBoard for each of the three grade levels at Pierce. Currently, teachers are sharing the interactive boards that have revolutionized teaching, moving them in and out of classrooms. With the current school budget spending freeze, he knows things like SmartBoards, computer software and programs for the state of the art language labs will simply be out of the question without a grant from the Milton Foundation for Education.

Christine Gerber, principal at Cunningham Elementary School, is also hoping to purchase SmartBoards for her school. "I recently observed a wonderful math lesson using the SmartBoard that was interactive and targeted high level skills," Gerber said. "I would like to be able to maximize Cunningham's ability to use this technology to support instruction." Gerber would also like to build upon last year's Celebration for Education Literacy grant to ensure classroom libraries and teacher resources are top notch.

"Shake, Rattle and Roll: Help Our Students Reach Their Goals" is the theme of the 10th Annual Celebration which will again be held at Lombardo's in Randolph. The evening will include Casino Night entertainment, the popular Silent and Live Auctions, Texas Hold 'Em and Bingo tournaments, as well as great food, music, dancing and raffles.

Invitations to Celebration will be mailed later this month, and organizers are looking for event sponsors, volunteers and auction donations. Celebration Co-Chair Alison Corcoran hopes that 1,000 people will attend this year, noting the need has never been greater in the Milton Public Schools. "This is a very difficult budget year in our town, with every single town department feeling the pinch. We are extremely fortunate to have beautiful new schools and tremendous faculty and staff," Corcoran said. "We want to provide the principals at every public school in town with the support they need so that they can provide the superior education we all expect in Milton." For more information on Celebration for Education, please visit www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org.

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