



For Immediate Release
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10th Annual Celebration for Education Set for Saturday, November 22th

(MILTON) “Shake, Rattle and Roll: Help Our Students Reach Their Goals” is the theme of this year’s Celebration for Education to be held on Saturday, November 22nd, at Lombardo’s in Randolph. This is the tenth year for the fundraiser which is sponsored by the Milton Foundation for Education (MFE) and has raised more than \$1.5 million for Milton public schools since 1998. Tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased at the website www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org.

Mary Gormley, Superintendent of the Milton school system, is quick to praise the non-profit foundation, noting that since its creation, the MFE has enhanced the educational experience of every public school student in town. “Thanks to grants from the Milton Foundation for Education, teachers have been able to access instructional materials, supplies, techniques and texts that go beyond the limits of the Milton Public School budget,” Gormley said. “Quite simply, instruction has improved and achievement has increased as a result.”

In years past, a specific school department was designated as the recipient of the Celebration proceeds. Last year, the event supported English language arts, with all six public schools receiving grants for specific language arts initiatives and supplies. This year, the money raised will be allocated to the schools to meet each one’s specific needs. Each principal, in consultation with the administration, has identified capital equipment, programs and initiatives that will enhance that particular school. Every principal’s “wish list” is different, depending upon the specific needs of their school.

MFE president Erika Donahue cites this year’s extremely tight school budget as the reason for the change. “We have had the luxury and privilege of funding some fantastic initiatives in the past because of the generosity of Celebration sponsors and supporters,” Donahue said. “The Biotech Lab at the High School is one such example; this was funded almost exclusively from Celebration monies. This year, though, we felt that the principals were having to make very difficult decisions about what to cut in their schools, and we wanted to help restore some of those important programs and provide them with money for capital equipment that they truly need.”

Dr. John Drottar, principal of Milton High School, has three things on his list: he hopes to purchase a microscope projector for the science department; introduce Robotics, which would be an interdisciplinary program in mathematics, science and technology; and create a video lab, to allow students to create and edit digital videos, which are essential skills for many careers. With school budgets frozen, Drottar knows that without a Celebration grant, he will not be able to fund any of these important initiatives.

Celebration organizers hope to raise \$250,000 this year, but to meet that goal, they will need a lot of help from parents, businesses, and residents. They are still looking for sponsors, auction donations and volunteers to help with everything from room set up to ticket sales to dealing cards at the event. Anyone interested in helping should email celebration2008@msn.com.

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★ A fundraising event sponsored by the Milton Foundation for Education ★
P.O. Box 223 Milton, Massachusetts 02186-0001 www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org