

Dear Island Park Parents and Families,

We are quickly approaching the Mercer Island School's Foundation Phone-a-Thon on October 26th and 27th. I am sending this document to further highlight and answer questions you may have about the important impact of Island Park PTA and MI Schools Foundation fundraising on the Island Park program. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. Thank you all for your amazing support. We care so much for your children's learning. We could not do it without you!

Dr. Nancy Loorem

Please read on to understand how your many donations are helping Island Park!

PTA Fall Fundraising for 2009-10

In the opening school Parent Pack there was a donation request for Steps for School. GREAT NEWS, with your contributions we raised \$50,000! These funds provide direct support to Island Park everyday for enrichment and supplemental programs including:

- Field trips
- Garden & Art Docents
- The 5th Grade Musical
- Learning Garden support
- * Green School Efforts
- * Assemblies
- * Teacher Professional Development
- * Teacher Leadership Stipends
- * Enrichment grants
- * AND MORE ...

Mercer Island Schools Foundation Phone-a-Thon 2009-2010

On the nights of October 26th and 27th over 150 volunteers will be calling every household on the island asking for donations. This year's goal is \$537,000. Of this, \$192,000, or \$64,000 for each elementary school, will pay for our new district-wide **K-5 math curriculum**. In addition, Island Park receives funds for fine arts, science materials, our school improvement plan time for teachers to assess student's learning, and enrichment and 2020 Vision grants. Last year, your contributions to the MISF made these programs possible: The Challenger Museum of Flight 5th Grade field trip, 3rd Grade northwest native history and culture with artist Roger Fernandez, Vision 2020 3rd Grade Sea Shore studies, our "green school" effort and much more. The Foundation funds enrichment programs *across the grade levels*. This fall we submitted \$8500 of new grant requests. Assuming this coming MISF Fund-A-Thon is successful, we are encouraged that all of these grants will meet the criteria and will be funded.

MISF Breakfast of Champions – Bridge the Gap 2009-2010

Last spring Mercer Island families donated over \$430,000 to the district through the MISF Breakfast of Champions-Bridge the Gap campaign. This was a wonderful community-wide partnership that restored 5.4 teaching positions throughout the district. This spring, we anticipate the same budget scenario and will be asking for donations during the Breakfast of Champions on April 27, 2010. Below is a chart that shows how this campaign directly impacted class size at Island Park.

	Number of Classrooms	Number of Students	Average Class Size
2008-2009 School Year	23	542	23.6
Original Projection for 2009-10 without Bridge the Gap Donations	21	532	25.4
Actual for 2009-10 after Bridge the Gap donations	22	520	23.6

- The Bridge the Gap campaign reduced projected class size by nearly 2 students per class on average. Without the campaign we would have received many more new students and added more open enrollment students to help offset funding losses.
- The Bridge the Gap campaign added a teacher at Island Park and Lakeridge allowing the elementary schools to achieve better class sizes across the 3 schools while having no split grade classes.

Hand in Hand Fund-A-Thon and Spring Party

The Fund-A-Thon direct mail campaign in February and our final fundraiser of the year takes place in May with the spring party, an auction and dinner. Both raise funds for our wonderful "Hand in Hand" paraprofessionals. Last year this effort raised \$140,000, bringing 6 paraprofessionals into every one of our classrooms on a daily basis to work with students.

Every student and teacher is enriched by your contributions. Thank you again for your continued support.