

From The Desk Of The Superintendent

EXCERPT FROM SUPERINTENDENT GROMLEY'S FEBRUARY 14, 2014 LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There is some exciting news about science in our elementary schools. The Milton Foundation for Education (MFE) and the Milton Public Schools are partnering with Science from Scientists, an amazing non-profit which strives to inspire and motivate students to embrace Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) through hands-on experimentation and discussion. The Cunningham and Collicot fifth grade classes will be working with Science from Scientists as a pilot for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year. The hope is to expand the program into all four elementary schools in fall of 2014.

Through this partnership, fifth grade teachers will work closely with a Science from Scientists instructor to co-teach enhanced lessons that align with our curriculum and the standards. The instructors are passionate about science, have undergraduate degrees in STEM, and have received or are working towards pursuing advanced degrees in STEM or education.

The benefits of this partnership are endless. Every other week, the Science from Scientists instructor will come into the classroom to teach a 45-minute science lesson, with the classroom teacher there to co-teach. In the days to follow, the classroom teacher will continue to teach the concept. Parents are given online access to the lessons, photos and even at-home versions of the experiments. The kids are engaged, energized and filled with questions for which they are encouraged to find answers. Through co-teaching with a science expert on an on-going basis in this way, our teachers further benefit from this partnership by earning valuable Professional Development Points (PDPs). Feel free to learn more about this innovative organization at www.sciencefromscientists.org.

For the past 18 years, the MFE has worked to advance its mission of enhancing the quality of education and expanding opportunities within the Milton Public Schools beyond the normal school budget. This work is possible because of the generous support of the Milton community. This initial pilot with Science from Scientists will be funded with money raised through Celebration for Education, Monster Dash and money donated in memory of Dr. Ann Coghlan. The Monster Dash is a road race held each year at the end of October in loving memory of Sam Cichello, a Tucker elementary student who passed away in 1999. Sam loved science and the funds raised each year go toward supporting elementary science programs. Dr. Ann Coghlan, President Emeritus of the MFE, and lifelong Milton resident, was a Professor of Biology, Chair of the Biology Department and Dean of Sciences at Simmons College for 35 years. When she passed away in 2012, donations were made to the MFE in her memory. With this new partnership, the MFE hopes to spread Sam's passion for science and inspire future generations of scientists and educators like Dr. Coghlan.

Look for news very soon about even more exciting science opportunities for grades Kindergarten through 5 made possible through Monster Dash and Sam's Fund.

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