

November 3, 2009

Dear Lower School & Fifth Grade Parents,

Beginning this week in your children's Quaker Values classes, I will be focusing on the season of gratefulness that is upon us. We will read the books The Greatest Table in PreK and K, and Tikvah Means Hope in 1st and 2nd as springboards to a discussion of sharing our bounty with families who have less. In 3rd I read Molly's Pilgrim, a story of immigrants...another kind of pilgrim. Ask your children about these special books!

Our Thanksgiving season here at MFS takes place for the entire school family in two ways. First, **from November 3 to November 18** we all participate in collecting foods to make up about 100 boxes of complete Thanksgiving dinners. The boxes contain cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, muffin mix, vegetables, gravy, potatoes, and ingredients for pumpkin pie: pumpkin mix, pie crust mix and evaporated milk.

Our new idea for this year is to have each classroom complete 2 dinner boxes within their classroom. The classroom teacher will assign one item of the 9 dinner ingredients for your child to bring in by 11/17.

As usual we ask in addition for a donation of \$1.00 from each child for the purchase of turkey vouchers. The dinners and vouchers will be taken to New Visions Center in Camden. Their food bank handles the distribution to needy clients on their lists. **If you have a truck or large van and are willing to deliver the boxes on Wednesday afternoon, November 19, please let me know as soon as possible.** We have strong Upper School students to do the loading!

The second part of the season for our school family is the "Thanksgiving Happening", on Wednesday, November 26th. That morning, before we leave for our own family festivities, we join in small mixed groups of children, faculty and staff. We spend time getting to know one another and talking about thankfulness. Groups make decorative murals and small table decorations for nearby community relief centers and retirement homes. The morning culminates with very special all school Meetings for Worship.

My colleagues and I thank you for your interest and generosity in furthering your children's development of a spirit of sharing.

Sincerely,

Lynne Brick
Lower & Middle School
Quaker Education Coordinator

Parker Curtis
Lower & Middle School
Service Coordinator

FOOD ASSIGNMENT FOR YOUR CHILD WILL BE MADE BY THE CLASSROOM TEACHER.