Merriam's 2016 Awesome '80s Auction

SATURDAY, April 9th, 2016

PLEASE CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN MERRIAM'S LARGEST FUNDRAISER BY PROVIDING A <u>COMMUNITY DONATION</u>!

WHY DO WE RAISE FUNDS? Project-based learning and portfolio assessment -help to define elementary education at Merriam. These methods teach important 21st century skills to our children - however, this approach requires lots of preparation and planning. This makes our assistants a ***must have*** versus a "nice to have". For this reason, 100% of PTO funds raised annually are used to support these vital classroom assets.

HOW DO WE RAISE FUNDS? The funding of several teaching assistants each year cannot happen without YOU, the parents – described by Ed Kaufman as one of the most important groups in our school community! The Auction committee is now calling on YOU to support our school's largest single fundraiser, the annual auction, through your community donations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP? Please consider donating a good or service to be included in the silent or live auction. We appreciate all donations including big-ticket items like vacation homes, sports tickets and dinner parties, as well as smaller, unique items. You don't need to spend a lot of money or go it alone. Think about a skill or service that you (or a small group of parents) could provide to others. ***Each year, donations from parents and school staff bring in over half of total auction revenues.*** Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Host a party for kids	Pool, cookie decorating, teddy bear tea, sports, dance, movie screening or treasure hunt
Host a party for adults	Cinco de Mayo, Cocktails, Backyard BBQ, Fondue, Martini, Poker Night, Sports Tailgate, Superbowl, Oscar Night or Cooking Class
Host an International Dinner Party	Vietnamese, Indian, Jamaican, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Cuban, German, French or Thai
Share your passion for wine, beer or spirits	Donate a special bottle, case, or basket of spirit-related goodies or host a tasting party
Donate a vacation home or timeshare	Host a family for the weekend or let someone else enjoy it for a week!
Donate Season Pass tickets	Bruins Hockey, Patriots Football, Celtics Basketball, Red Sox Baseball, Revolution Soccer, Boston Children's Museum or Museum of Science
Donate Frequent Flyer Miles	If you have an abundance of FF miles and you know that you won't/can't use all of them, consider donating some miles for a trip for one or two lucky persons!
Share your talents	Gardening, landscaping, handyman, organizing, music lessons for kids, cooking or babysitting
Food of the Month Club	Prepare and deliver a special dessert, soup, pasta or meal to the winning bidder each month
Offer handmade items	Hand-knit scarves, sweaters, costumes, jewelry, paintings, sculptures and greeting cards
Raffle Item	Donate a raffle item from our Raffle Wish List (listed on attached Community Donations Form)

Once you have decided on what to donate, please review the attached Community Donations Form and select a method to make your donation. Forms need to be submitted by **<u>Friday, February 12</u>**. Questions? Contact Beth Chimento at beth.chimento@gmail.com.

Remember, the donation options are limited only by your imagination. Have fun coming up with an idea!

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Community Donations Form - Due Friday, **February 12th**

Name(s):_____

Email(s): _____ Phone:_____

I. PARENT COMMUNITY DONATION - THREE WAYS TO DONATE GOODS AND/OR SERVICES:

1. **Online (*preferred*):** Go to https://www.biddingforgood.com/merriamschool/2016, click on "Donate Item" in left hand column. A new page will open, requiring you to register if you haven't already done so. Click on "Sign In To Donate" at bottom of page and follow directions. Once you have registered or signed in, click the "Continue" button to enter your donation. When finished, click the "Submit" button.

2. **Email:** Please email your donation information to Beth Chimento at beth.chimento@gmail.com. Please be as specific as possible so that we can accurately represent your donation in the catalog. Include details such as available dates, number of guests, colors, sizes, materials, etc. Please also email photos if possible.

3. **Hardcopy:** Fill out this form and return it along with pictures of the donated item(s) to the Merriam school office via your child's backpack.

Raffle Wish List:

____ I am donating an item from the **Raffle Wish List**. **Please mark your donated item below:**

☐ Wii U Game Console	☐ Kindle Paperwhite	☐ Fitbit	☐ GoPro Hero4 Camera
☐ Xbox One	☐ PlayStation 4	☐ Amazon Echo	☐ Bose Soundlink II Speaker
☐ Surface Pro 4	☐ iPad Mini	☐ Apple Watch	☐ Sonos Play:1 Wifi Speaker
☐ $20 scratch ticket for money tree		☐ Beats Solo2 Wireless On-Ear Headphones	

AND/OR

Item or Service Description:

Name of Auction Donation: _____

Describe Donation: *Please be as specific as possible so that we can accurately represent your donation in the catalog. Include details such as available dates, number of guests, colors, sizes, materials, etc. Please also **attach or email photos** if possible so that we may include them on the website*

_____
_____
_____
_____

Estimated Fair Market Value of Donation: $ _____

II. PARENT MONETARY DONATION - THREE WAYS TO MAKE MONETARY DONATIONS *to underwrite some of the Auction expenses:*

1. **Online (*preferred*):** Go to https://www.biddingforgood.com/merriamschool/2016, click on "Cash Donation" in the left hand column. A new page will open, requiring you to register if you haven't already done so. Click on "Sign in to Buy" or put in your user name and password (if already registered) and enter your donation. When finished, click the "Donate Cash" button.

2. **Hardcopy:** Provide name, email, and phone number at the top of this document and return it along with a check made out to "Merriam PTO" to the Merriam school office via your child's backpack.

Donation Drop-off: Please drop off donation items anytime to Beth Chimento at 53 Brucewood in East Acton. For smaller items, drop off in the Auction Basket in the Merriam School office.