

FAQS ABOUT FUNDRAISING AT MFS

Why have fundraising events and campaigns at MFS?

Tuition at MFS covers roughly 85% of the school's annual expenses. The gap between tuition and expenses is commonplace among independent schools in the Bay Area and provides the opportunity for families to make tax-deductible contributions toward those expenses as opposed to payment of additional tuition payments and fees, which are not tax-deductible.

Why do we have different fundraising campaigns/events? Why not let parents make a single donation?

The various fundraising events and campaigns benefit different needs of the school and provide you with options for how to donate your resources.

In addition, Campaigns differ from Events in that **Campaigns** provide an opportunity for families to make a tax deductible donation. Fundraising **Events** give parents a chance to contribute to the overall fundraising success through the donation of time, personal skills and/or auction items. Perhaps best of all, Fundraising Events also allow us to come together and socialize as a community.

The Board has noted that 40% of parents in the Parent Survey indicated that they would prefer a single, annual donation for fundraising and it is considering how to address this input.

What are the different fundraising events at MFS and how does the money help the school?

MFS has the following Fundraising Events:

- 1. The Capital Campaign** (2007-2009), a School Sponsored Campaign for the Permanent Elementary School Site. The school requests a significant, one-time, tax-deductible financial gift based on each family's ability to give what is for them a substantial gift.
- 2. Annual Giving Campaign** (Annually), a School Sponsored Campaign for teacher benefits, classroom and resource programs. The school requests a tax-deductible financial donation from each family and strives to achieve 100% participation.
- 3. Spring Soiree** (Annually/Spring), a Parents' Association Sponsored Event

that includes a party, auction and raffle to support the Scholarship Fund. The Parents' Association requests each family to either donate or solicit from retailers/family/friends items or services to be auctioned off to raise money for scholarships.

4. Spaghetti Carnival (Annually/Fall), a Parents' Association Sponsored Event that emphasizes community-building. The Parents' Association mainly requests volunteer time to support the production of this event and strives for 100% participation. Additionally, funds are raised through admission fees and sponsorship opportunities.

5. Miscellaneous Fundraising: There are other various campaigns/events designed to raise funds in a manner that provides a benefit to families and/or requires little or no direct financial contribution by families. These opportunities include eScrip/SchoolPop, the annual Read-a-thon and more.

Why does it feel like Fundraising has changed at MFS in the past few years?

Over the past three years, fundraising *has* changed at MFS. The purchase of the new elementary site was the biggest change and led to the creation of the Capital Campaign to help fund its purchase and the site renovation. All of the other fundraising events have been a part of MFS for years. The only significant change is that the Board and PA are doing whatever they can to make these events as successful as possible through increased attention and focus.

Who Conducts Fundraising at MFS?

Fundraising is conducted entirely by MFS parent volunteers with the exception of the Capital Campaign which is directed by a fundraising consultant, Lauren Adams, retained by the school to coordinate the Capital Campaign for the volunteer committee members.

Who can I contact with my questions/comments or to get involved in MFS fundraising?

Laura Cooper is the Fundraising Committee Chair of the MFS Board. She can be reached at coops4@sbcglobal.net