

McTeacher Night comes to Robert Frost school

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SILVERTON — For one night only, Robert Frost Elementary School teachers and staff members will be able to say they've done it all.

Tomorrow, from 5 to 7 p.m., the McDonald's on First Street will hold McTeacher Night when teachers work at the restaurant in order to earn 20 percent of whatever is sold.

Proceeds go to the school.

While teachers will not cook food, they will greet people, serving food and cashiering at the restaurant.

"We need a new playground structure," said Robert Frost Elementary Principal Beth Davisson of the fundraiser.

According to Allison Newton, parent of a Robert Frost sixth grader, the current play structure gives children slivers and presents safety concerns, as bees tend to build nests within. Providing a sound structure for play will also help children of not only the school, but also the surrounding community, combat obesity.

Davisson pointed out that although their most successful fundraiser — the magazine drive — procured a hefty \$7,000, the school still has quite a way to go in order to reach its goal of a new playground.

"A full playground costs about \$40,000," Davisson said, "and our Parents-Teachers Club has been really great with organizing and raising money."

"We're building the playground in three phases," Newton said. "We have about \$15,000 right now, which is enough to begin building phase one during the summer."

Phase one, Newton said, will include slides and a rock-climbing structure. The implementation of phases two and three depend upon how soon the school can raise the money.

"We have very generous community businesses that get asked for a lot by many nonprofit groups in the community," Newton said. "The community is tapped out, and we're trying to think of new and different ways to raise the money — like McTeacher Night."

And according to McDonald's Guest Relations Manager Rebecca Humphreys, depending upon how many people attend the fundraiser, the school can make more or less money, aiding in their ultimate goal.

“We’ve been told that often schools will get \$500 for those couple of hours,” Davisson said. “We hope to get at least that.”

A few weeks ago, at another fundraiser that Humphreys led, Oregon Trail School and Clackamas Elementary earned \$800 in their allotted two hours, she said.

Last year, Eugene Field School made approximately \$650.

“If the fundraiser earns at least \$400, the McDonald’s Corporation contributes an additional \$100,” Humphreys said.

In addition to the teachers and staff of Robert Frost Elementary, there will be a few more familiar faces at McTeacher Night: Mayor Ken Hector and former NFL player and next year’s football coach for Silverton High School Scott Gragg also will attend.

Newton will also be present at the fundraiser, selling scrip, signing people up for Safeway’s e-scrip program and selling tickets for a drawing for two different gift baskets — one chocolate-themed and one garden-themed — with tickets running for \$1 each or \$5 for six tickets.

Humphreys, who has helped to make other Silverton McTeacher Night fundraisers’ potential “chaotic mess” more of an “organized mess,” expressed her optimism of tomorrow’s event.

“It doesn’t matter what school their child goes to, they come and support McTeacher Nights,” she said. “Everybody shows up. The community is really great that way.”