



MK Staff Appreciation? by Donna Ricciardi, HSA

For those Morris Knolls families who are unfamiliar with our yearly **Staff Appreciation** events, we would like to share what this committee of volunteers does for the wonderful, dedicated staff at our school.

The Staff Appreciation committee falls under the Morris Knolls **Home and School Association (HSA** ... ya know ... your PTA type organization here at Knolls!) Each year we organize **4 Appreciation Luncheons** for all staff members (approximately **200** people). Thanks to donations from our MK families, we supply everything from “soup to nuts” including food, drinks, paper products and decorations. This year, the Staff Appreciation Committee plans to host themed luncheons in **November and February** ending with a luncheon during **National Teacher Appreciation Week in May**. The Staff Appreciation Committee also assists the HSA President in hosting a **Welcome Back Luncheon** on the first day the MK staff reports back to school in September.

Most of these events take place in either the MK Faculty Room during the lunch blocks. When you think about feeding 200 people, the MK Faculty Room doesn't seem like it can accommodate that size crowd, but Somehow, we make it happen and it is very much appreciated by our hardworking staff. The Staff Appreciation Committee sets up an enormous buffet table of delicious, homemade foods (along with store bought items) all donated by our amazing MK families. We appreciate **ALL** of our donations -- from store bought or home cooked foods to huge packages of paper plates, cups or cases of water! Our staff is notified ahead of time, so that they can *leave lunch at home* on this particular day and then little by little everyone swings into the faculty room for a great meal! Take it to go or relax at our decorated luncheon tables to enjoy a bite with peers – it's their choice! Our Staff Appreciation committee volunteers who organize it or help set up, serve and clean up at these events enjoy the camaraderie with faculty and each other.

In the past we have hosted luncheons with themes such as “**Autumn Comfort**” serving homemade soups, salads and the all-American, very comforting, grilled cheese sandwiches. “**MK Cucina**” serving all Italian foods (yum!) and wind up the school year with “**Breakfast at the Shore**” or maybe a “**Picnic at the Beach**”. As a special treat for our Staff, we also incorporate a small themed **Gift Basket Raffle** during our luncheon which is also a fun way to get involved!

That about sums it up! Is *your* mouth watering? Ha! If MK parents haven't already “signed up” to help out with these luncheons by donating foods, drinks, paper goods or sending in a homemade pot of soup, tray of lasagna or breakfast casserole (*depending on our theme and menu, we will let you know what we need*), please do not hesitate to contact this year's Staff Appreciation Chair People and we will gladly add you to our list of volunteers.

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