

Subject: Fw: Information Regarding a Memorial Fund for Austin Cook

Dear Principals, PTA Presidents, and PTA Council,

There has been an incredible outpouring of support for the family of Austin Cook, the sixth grade student at John Muir Middle School who passed away on November 29. Parents, community members, and District staff members have asked how funds can be collected to assist the family at this difficult time, as well how charitable donations can be made in memory of Austin. Rima Shideler, a parent at Muir, has been working closely with Austin's mother, Heather Howell. Rima has informed us of the following ways that donations can be directed:

1. At Ms. Howell's request, a memorial fund has been established to benefit the pediatric cardiac unit at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Funds donated in memory of Austin will result in an acknowledgment in Austin's name. If \$25,000 is raised in this account, Austin will have a memorial plaque near the hospital entrance. For those who wish to contribute, please send donations to the following address:

Children's Hospital of Los Angeles  
c/o Claudia Looney  
4650 Sunset Boulevard  
Stop 29  
Los Angeles, California 90027

Checks should be made out to: Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Austin Cook's name should be printed on the check. Donations of any amount would be appreciated.

2. Donations to help Austin's family at this time would also be welcome. Checks can be made to Heather Howell, or cash donations would be accepted. We are asking schools to communicate this information to parents through PTA Newsletters, notices that might go home in children's folders, etc. We request that teachers not be responsible for collecting money for Austin's family. Parents who wish to contribute should bring the money directly to the school office,

and it would help if a PTA liaison could be selected to bring the money to Rima Shideler. Rima will take responsibility for bringing the funds directly to Ms. Howell.

Rima's address is 514 Birmingham Road. Her cell phone # is (818) 388-4942, and her e-mail address is [rimashid@earthlink.net](mailto:rimashid@earthlink.net). Please contact Rima in advance before bringing money to her home.

Your assistance in communicating this information to members of your school community is greatly appreciated. Ms. Howell is very grateful for the support that has already been expressed by so many people in Burbank.

Thank you.  
Joel Shapiro  
Deputy Superintendent