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Smart News

Fundraiser for Afterschool Activities at MLK Elementary

The Mentor/Tutor Institute of University of Rhode Island, in conjunction with the Summit Neighborhood Association Education Committee, is holding a fundraiser on Tuesday, June 7 from 5-9pm at Flatbread Pizza Company on Cushing Street. The goal of the evening is to raise funds in order to provide free access to afterschool activities for all students who attend Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. For more information, contact Professor Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz at ShannaPearson@URI.edu.

Kids Count Factbook Released

The 2016 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook was released on April 11 at the annual Kids Count breakfast. The Factbook presents information on 71 indicators of child and family well being across five areas: Family and Community, Economic Well-Being, Health, Safety and Education. Elected officials and community leaders including Governor Gina Raimondo and Congressman David Cicilline attended the breakfast and offered remarks on Rhode Island's progress in many areas, as well as the work that still needs to

be done for children in our state. Several lauded our state's progress in children's health insurance: with only 3.3% of Rhode Island children still uninsured, we rank seventh in the nation. To view the Factbook, visit www.RIKidsCount.org.

Local Students Win Top Honors in International French Competition

Two classes at the French American School were awarded prizes in the 2016 *Plumes en herbe* contest, a French language writing competition sponsored by the educational publishing house, Nathan. The first and second grade class wrote a book based on pictures by illustrator Rémi Saillard; students in Grade 3 worked with their teacher to write two chapters for the story *Lettres en Fuite* by Roland Fuentès. Both winning entries are posted on the Nathan publishing house website. Audrey Talarico, Director of the Lower School notes, "This competition is very well known among French educators, and we were recognized among French schools abroad and from the international territories of France. Having two classes from the same school win first place for their grade level is unprecedented." To read more about the competition and the entries, visit www.TheFrenchAmericanSchool.org/News.