**PURPLE PINKIE DAY PROJECT TO END POLIO NOW! INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM – OCTOBER 24**

Our club initiated an exciting and educational program in Lancaster and NRHS in 2012 and rolled it out to the entire Nashoba Regional School District in 2013.

* We approached the Mary Rowlandson School principal and asked to combine the donation with health instruction on polio and giving out dictionaries to the third grade. We collected donations for 3 days and asked the kids to wear purple. We discussed polio with the third graders while giving out dictionaries.
* The teachers collected the money and we picked it up from the secretary daily, who was very helpful and kind. On Oct. 24, we collected the money from the third grade directly from the teachers. We came the next 2 days to the office and collected the remaining money, which was considerable.
* We worked with Workers Credit Union in Clinton to sponsor a matching fund event and provide envelopes. They also agreed to deposit the donations and provide a check free of charge.
* In the Luther Burbank School, we also approached the principal and asked the health teacher to be involved. We wrote an announcement to be read in the morning. On Oct. 24, we arrived at 7:15 am and set up a table at the cafeteria with our student helpers. Kids filed in the cafeteria and the students painted the pinky while we collected the money. They had the option of getting their pinky painted purple with the gentian purple, with a purple marker or purple nail polish. We had a TV monitor that played the PolioPlus movie.
* We worked with the high school Community Service Club. We did morning announcements, put up posters, bought purple shirts for the kids to wear and collected money during 3 days at lunch. (The first year was not a huge success, but we collected about $135 from teachers and students). We put a stuffed animal in the glass case in the entrance and a notice about Purple Pinkie Day. In 2013, the students did all of the work.
* We want to repeat this approach in all three school districts. October 24, 2014 is a Friday this year.

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**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS IN NEWSLETTERS, EMAILS**

**Polio Eradication Campaign:** In 1985, Rotary International began raising funds in an effort to eliminate Polio worldwide. Polio has not been a problem in the United States for many years, but still is in many developing countries. By partnering with the World Health Organization and other government and private groups, **Rotary International** has achieved a **99** percent reduction of Polio worldwide. It has been eradicated except for 3 countries: India, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The local **Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley** will be organizing the 2nd Annual Purple Pinky Day at our school so Nashoba Regional School District, and your family can be part of the solution.

On October 24, members of the **Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley** will visit your child’s school.

Because $1.00 is the approximate cost to immunize one child from polio, students are encouraged to bring **$1, and if possible, $1 per family member** to help with this cause. Have your child wear purple on Oct. 24, and talk to your child about polio. It will also be taught in health class. It is a fun day for a good cause!!!

If your child is in the third grade, when your child brings an envelope and brings it to school, we will paint his or her pinkie with Gentian Violet or purple marker or purple nail polish as a symbol of one child immunized from Polio. Of course, more than one finger may be painted if more than $1 is donated and they will receive a dictionary from the Dictionary project! Other teachers may opt to paint pinkies as they wish.

Gentian Violet is a topical dye used by **Rotary International** to mark children after they have been immunized from Polio. This prevents double dosage. It is widely used by nursing mothers and in the mouths of infants, and it is very safe. Its safety has been confirmed by our Health Department and local pharmacists.

However, Gentian Violet is a bright purple and will leave your child’s finger colored for a day or two. To prevent staining on things other than fingers, we will dip and immediately dry the finger with paper towels.

If **you don't wish** for your child to participate in this purple marking, please sign below.

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Parent or Guardian Print Student’s Name

**Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley – Bolton, Lancaster, Stow**

**EIGHT IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PURPLE PINKIE DAY on** **October 24**

Here are some important reminders for each Rotarian team on Purple Pinkie Day. Send this list with each Rotarian team as they go to their designated school.

1. Permission slips have already been sent out through the school district office. Please collect permission slips for each student. Turn in money collected to Rotary leader for the town.

2. Remember to turn money over to the project chairperson.

3. Remember, Gentian Violet is very messy. Make every effort to keep it off clothing. Very little Gentian Violet is needed for each pinkie. One drop will spread quite efficiently with a Q - Tip. Wipe the pinkie COMPLETELY DRY with a paper towel. More than one finger may be painted. $1 per finger.

4. Remember to tell our story. Many students and parent may not know about Rotary or our mission to eradicate polio. Feel free to tell our story many times. Ask questions like, “Can you tell me what this purple pinkie means?”

5. If Gentian Violet is used wisely, we estimate your supply of 1 oz. bottles is sufficient for each school. An emergency re - supply will be delivered immediately to your school upon request

6. Lastly, HAVE FUN!

**Be ready to talk about the campaign and Rotary!**

**Polio Eradication Campaign:** In 1985, Rotary International began raising funds in an effort to eliminate Polio worldwide. Polio has not been a problem in the United States for many years, but this is not the case in many developing countries. By partnering with the World Health Organization and other government and private groups, **Rotary International** has achieved a **99** percent reduction of Polio worldwide. Our local **Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley** will be organizing the third Annual Purple Pinky Day at our schools so Nashoba Regional School District and your family can be part of the solution.

### About Rotary: With 1.2 million members in more than 34,000 clubs worldwide, Rotary International is dedicated to volunteerism, high ethical standards, and goodwill.