



To: Principals Hillsborough County Elementary School

From: The Vietnamese American Community

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Based on the Lunar Calendar, this year the full moon of the harvest season will be on September 11th, 2022.

Twenty years ago, Americans cried and mourned our loss when the terrorists attacked our World Trade Center and the Pentagon and hijacked and crashed a plane in Pennsylvania.

Forty-seven years ago, the Republic of Vietnam was invaded by the communists and ceased its existence on that fateful April of 1975. Many Vietnamese also cried and mourned leaving their motherland without knowing their future. The United States had opened her heart and embraced us.

The Vietnamese Americans, victims of the ideology wars, had lost their loved ones, possession, and hope. But with courage, we restarted and built back our life.

This year, on 9/11, we will teach our children about history, compassion, and bravery: to pay respects to the victims and their families, to love our country, and to move forward re-building our nation from the debris of hatred and differences.

In that thought, we, the Vietnamese Americans, once again, organize this event to share our culture, to strengthen our bond within diverse communities, the local governments, and all citizens. We wish to promote our project "Education First" – to appreciate our children's talents, hard work, and skills.

**Last year we gave away 150 meals, 350 lanterns + 350 battery-operated candle lights, \$200 candies, 100 pieces of Mochi Moon cakes, materials to teach the children to make lanterns from recycled water bottles, and color paper. We also hired a lion dance group and a magician to entertain our children.**

**This year we would like to establish two projects:**

- 1. Talent Contest: for all students in elementary school. Prizes are from owners of businesses in Hillsborough County**
- 2. Education First: for all Vietnamese American students from elementary to high school with perfect grade GPA = 4 and up.**

We ask for your cooperation to please kindly advertise this on your bulletin board and all classrooms and also provide us the information of the Vietnamese Americans students who have 4.00 GPA and up.

Your support is very appreciated. Your participation will help building bright future for our children.

Sincerely,

Anh Nguyen – Secretary of VACA