

Lexington residents run Kids Triathlon

On the morning of July 15, thousands of young kids and their parents descended on the MIT campus for the seventh annual New England Kids Triathlon.

Among them, more than 65 kid athletes and 10 parent volunteers represented Lexington under the banner "Minuteman@Lex." This marks the fifth time that the

team has participated in the event.

The community effort was introduced five years ago by Jessie Zhan Chen and a group of her friends, who wanted to encourage their kids to participate in sports while giving back to the community of Lexington. The Kids Triathlon organization donates \$10 per participant to the largest

three teams in the form of a charity donation.

Minuteman@Lex has been consistently among the top three teams sending the largest number of young athletes to the event; each year, the team has chosen to donate this fund to the Lexington Education Foundation. Over the past five years, the combined 302 "Minuteman@Lex" athletes

and their parents have helped raise more than \$3,100 for the LEF, which uses the money to issue grants to sponsor teacher training and school improvement projects.

For the junior age group of children 6 to 10 years old, the race kicked off with a 100 yard swim, followed by a three-mile bike ride, and then concluded with a half-mile

run. For the seniors, ages 11 to 15, the race began with 200 yards of swimming, followed by six miles of biking, and concluded with a mile long run.

While the kids were out racing, the parents volunteered, drank coffee or took pictures. Having done the event at MIT ever year, the organizers are very efficient.

For the Minuteman@Lex

families, the triathlon day's activities continued at the post race party at the Bridge Elementary School playground. This year, the Kids Triathlon event organizer Shelda Moll, event MC Mr. Almon Gunter and LEF co-president Kim McComick attended the party to thank the kids and parents for their active involvement in the event.

