



44th Annual Mum Bowl

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PARENTS
INVITED TO K-8
COMMON CORE
INFORMATION NIGHT

The Saugerties School District will host a Common Core Parent Information Night for parents of students in Grades K-8 on Monday, November 17 from 6 to 8:30 PM at Saugerties High School.

The program will begin with an overview at 6 PM in the high school auditorium. From 6:30 to 7:30 PM, there will be four breakout sessions running concurrently, covering ELA K-5, ELA 6-8, Math K-5, and Math 6-8. The same sessions will be repeated from 7:30 to 8:30 PM for the convenience of parents with students in both elementary school and junior high school. The breakout sessions will include a PowerPoint presentation and discussion and presenters will provide parents with tips for helping their children, questions they can ask their child’s teacher, content-specific information, and other resources.

Light refreshments will be served and the Saugerties High School Key Club will provide babysitting and homework help.

The program is being presented through a partnership with Ulster BOCES Instructional Services.

Parents are encouraged to attend this informative evening.

Mt. Marion Hosts First
Obstacle Color Fun Run

The autumn leaves weren’t the only things sporting vivid colors in Saugerties this fall. Students at Mt. Marion Elementary School were also decked out in bright hues following the school’s first Obstacle Color Fun Run in late September.

The event put the fun in fund-raising by inviting all 300-plus Mt. Marion students to collect pledges and then run, jump, and climb their way through an obstacle course. Students who collected \$20 or more in pledges received a white T-shirt to wear while running the course. Completing each station earned them a different colored spritz of fabric spray paint and the money they raised went to the PTA to help fund everything from assemblies and field trips to the school’s annual pumpkin-carving night.

The run was suggested by PTA member Kelly Utter and organized by physical education teacher Sean Collins.

“Coach Collins had a vision for this,” said Principal Carole Kelder. “He just took it and ran with it.”

Collins took his inspiration from the popular sport of mud running, which challenges participants to complete a race filled with obstacles and muddy terrain.

Mt. Marion’s event was minus the mud, but the students didn’t seem to miss it a bit as they made their way through eight stations that included hurdles, a balance beam, an Army crawl, a maze, and a cargo net climb.

“The kids are having a great time,” Kelder said.

After completing all the stations, the students ran



Mt. Marion Elementary School students take on one of the obstacles in the school’s first Obstacle Color Fun Run on September 24.

one lap around the playing fields, making the entire course a distance of about half a mile. Runners were met at the finish line with water and a healthy snack.

The run received strong support from the entire school community, Collins said. He thanked Kingston Block, Sawyer Motors, and Lowe’s for donations of materials and services and praised the entire faculty and staff at Mt. Marion for going the extra mile to make sure the race went off without a hitch.

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Former SHS Guidance Counselor Returns as Cahill Elementary School Principal

After six years away from Saugerties, Dawn Scannapieco has come home.

Scannapieco, who formerly worked as a guidance counselor at Saugerties High School in the late 1990s and early 2000s, has returned to the District as principal of Lawrence M. Cahill Elementary School. She began her duties September 2, replacing Susan Gies, who became the District's new Director of Elementary Education.

"It's been wonderful," Scannapieco said of her first few weeks as principal. "It's almost like I never left. It's been a smooth transition. Everybody's been wonderful and the kids have been kind and respectful."

Scannapieco came to her present position through a career that began in social work. After earning her bachelor's degree in social work from SUNY Albany and working in the field in a school setting in Greene County, she returned to college to earn her master's degree in counseling from the Sage Graduate Schools. In the late 1990s, she was hired as a guidance counselor at Saugerties High School, a position she held for 10 years.

Eventually, feeling that she could give even more to students and teachers as a principal, she earned her administrative certificate and began working as principal of Catskill Elementary School in 2008.

When the opportunity arose to return to Saugerties, Scannapieco jumped at the chance.

"I know the community, I know the town," she said, explaining that she and her family often visited Saugerties while she worked in Catskill,

enjoying restaurants and antique shopping. "It's just a comfortable place to be."

Being a principal means being versatile and a multi-tasker. Scannapieco's many responsibilities include everything from maintaining safety and discipline to staying in touch with parents to ordering state tests and making sure that Common Core Learning Standards are being implemented, all amid an educational landscape that's constantly changing with new requirements from the state. The biggest difference she's encountered so far between Catskill and Cahill is that the latter is considerably smaller. It's home to about 360 students, compared to Catskill's 840, and has only about one-third of the teachers.

"It's like a close family," Scannapieco said of Cahill. "It's nice to be able to spend time visiting classrooms."

To further encourage that sense of family and community, Scannapieco posts a Morning Message on an easel in the lobby every day. As students enter each morning, they might find themselves reading a reminder about good behavior or learning a fun and interesting fact from history.

Scannapieco called the faculty at Cahill "wonderful" and "definitely child-centered." What's



Cahill Elementary School Principal Dawn Scannapieco shares her morning message with Kindergarten students Dylan Burton, left, Daniel Armstrong, and Olivia Paulding.

more, she said, they all are all lifelong learners, a positive trait that they model daily for students.

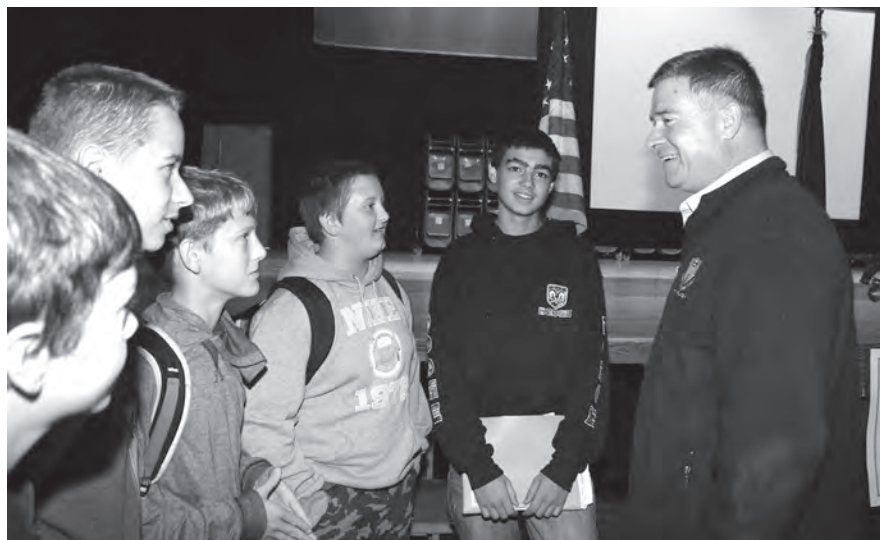
Scannapieco herself loves to explore, try new things, learn, and grow. An avid traveler, she and her husband visited four cities in Rome last year in honor of their 25th anniversary. She also loves to cook and enjoys watching cooking shows, particularly Food Network personalities Rachel Ray, Guy Fieri, and Giada De Laurentiis.

Scannapieco and her husband have two grown sons and were foster parents to many more children over the years.

In fact, supporting and helping children is something Scannapieco's been doing long before she worked in schools, ever since she was old enough to babysit.

"That's my job, to help teachers and children," she said, adding that she believes the elementary school years are the most important in any child's education. "It all starts here and I want to make it the best experience possible for every child. I'm really here for what's best for children."

Congressman Chris Gibson Visits Saugerties Junior High School



U.S. Representative Chris Gibson (R, Kinderhook) met with Saugerties Junior High School students during a visit to the school on Friday, September 26. The Congressman, a former Army paratrooper, met with Grade 8 students for an hour, sharing some of his experiences in the military and discussing legislation that he has proposed. He also fielded questions about timely topics that included the Common Core Learning Standards, gun control, ISIS, homelessness, and the border crisis. Gibson's visit supports the Grade 8 social studies curriculum, which is in an in-depth study of United States history and government. The Congressman praised the students, saying their insightful questions reflect well on their hard work and the quality of the education they're receiving in Saugerties. Pictured with Congressman Gibson are, from left: Grade 8 students Maxwell Verspyck, Jared Rompella, Giona Kleinberg, Andrew Cashara, and Caleb Beaulieu.

Saugerties School Lunch Keeps Kids Fueled for Learning

Imagine sitting down to lunch with friends and enjoying grilled chicken in a South American marinade with a side of fresh tomato, basil, and mozzarella salad tossed in a sweet and tangy balsamic dressing, followed by a dessert of fresh fruit. Or maybe you're in the mood for a hearty deli sandwich and a crisp green salad, both with lots of tasty, healthy toppings, and some cold low-fat milk.

If all this sounds good, feel free to envy your teenager because both of those meals, and plenty more like them, are available at the Saugerties Junior-Senior High School cafeteria.

"Saugerties has a wonderful cafeteria," said Sheila Melville, the District's new School Lunch Director. Melville replaces longtime director Amy Gulnick, who worked for the District for 20 years and served more than seven million lunches in that time.

Because of state and federal regulations, changing tastes, and more health-conscious families, school lunch isn't what it used to be 50 years ago, in more ways than one.

For instance, the start of the 2014-15 school year marked the implementation of the "Smart Snacks" standard, the final requirement of the federal Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The Smart Snacks rule requires that all foods sold a la carte, in vending machines, and in the school store meet USDA nutrition guidelines, which place limits on calories, fat, sugar, and sodium and require a certain percentage of whole grains. In Saugerties, that means that Melville has to put every snack, from flavored water to pretzels, through an online nutrition calculator to make sure it's healthy enough to be served. As a result, some beverages and snacks have



Saugerties High School senior Satnam Mulgani prepares to eat some salad, an extremely popular menu item in the Junior-Senior High School cafeteria.

disappeared from the snack bar and the school store this year.

But even with the stricter requirements, students still have an abundance of choices on the six cafeteria lines at the junior-senior high school. At every lunch period there's a main entrée, ranging from chicken Caesar wraps and ravioli to that longtime Sawyer favorite, turkey cubes and gravy, and an alternate choice. Students who opt for the alternate choice can have any one of a dozen types of salads and cold cuts and three varieties of cheese on whole wheat bread, marble rye, a hard roll or a wrap or they can go to the salad bar, which features several varieties of greens, along with a wide array of vegetables. Any salad can be

topped with grilled, crispy or Chinese chicken, all of which are student favorites (even if the breading on the crispy chicken is whole grain). Each meal is well-rounded, providing grains, dairy, protein, fruits, and vegetables and all those components are clearly listed on signs for students to see at all the schools.

Melville, who carefully tracks how well each item sells on a daily basis, said that hamburgers, hot dogs, and pizza are declining in popularity, while salad sales are growing.

"I was really impressed by the number of salads that are sold daily," Melville said, noting that about 35 percent of junior and senior high school lunch sales are salads. The cafeteria also prepares sandwiches and salads on request for students and staff in the elementary schools.

Melville said, "School lunch has always had strict guidelines for calories, nutrients, components, serving sizes, and age groups. The USDA's new guidelines have been changed due to the increase in childhood obesity. I don't believe that anyone has become obese by eating a school lunch every day. Children today are less active than a generation or two ago." But that doesn't mean she's giving up on constantly trying to make the District's great lunches better. In September, she attended a "Creating Smarter Lunchrooms" workshop sponsored by Healthy Schools NY – Ulster BOCES for some inspiration and came back with big plans.

"I have several ideas I'm looking to start," she said, declining to hint at what tasty goodies might be found on the serving line this fall and next spring, at both lunch and breakfast. Students will simply have to wait and see.

"I'm really excited to see what changes my department, with input from the students and staff, can make," Melville said.

Wet Weather Doesn't Dampen Spirits at Riccardi FundRun

The weather may have been damp and overcast on October 2, but smiles were bright and spirits were soaring at Charles M. Riccardi Elementary School as students took part in the annual FundRun.

A Riccardi tradition for the last three years, the FundRun provides a healthy alternative to traditional PTA fundraising. Rather than selling sugary snacks, students collect pledges and then take part in healthy physical activities.

Although the wet weather moved the day's events to the bus circle instead of the field, students were no less enthusiastic as they got their muscles moving and their hearts pumping by running, leaping over hurdles, jumping through hoops, and completing a cone slalom. Students also showed their skill with the latest dance moves in the gymnasium and everyone got a turn on a bouncy slide. Students who collected \$30 in pledges received a FundRun tee shirt to remember the event.

This year's FundRun raised approximately \$7,000. The money will be used by the PTA for school activities throughout the year.



Riccardi Elementary School students Sierra Edwards, Adriana Argueta, Alexander Cameron, and Alexander Carter enjoy the annual FundRun.

44th Annual Mum Bowl Held at Saugerties High School



Saugerties High School celebrated its 44th annual Mum Bowl on October 18 with the traditional football game and presentation of the Mum Queen and her court.

Despite overcast skies, spirits were high as the Sawyers varsity football team took the field against the Port Jervis Red Raiders. The Sawyer cheerleading squad inspired players and fans alike with cheers and acrobatics.

Although Saugerties fought back hard, Port Jervis ultimately carried the day 42 to 6, scoring most of their points in the first half. The Sawyers' one touchdown was scored by senior Gene Haun. After taking a low hit from a Port Jervis player at about the one yard line, Haun sailed through the air with the ball tight in his grasp, landing in the end zone to put Saugerties on the scoreboard.

At half-time, last year's Mum Queen, Olivia Bronson, passed the torch to 2014 Mum Queen Ishmeet Sekhon, crowning Sekhon with the traditional chrysanthemum wreath.

Sekhon, who hopes to attend medical school and become a pediatrician, said she was "kind of shocked" at being selected Mum Queen by her classmates.

"I had no idea enough people had voted for me to be among the top finalists," she said.

Sekhon's escort for the day was boys' varsity basketball captain Paton Gibbs. The rest of the Mum Court comprised: Carly Voerg, who was escorted by Nick Kopycinski; Maggie Pedersen, who was escorted by Kenan Irvin; Olivia Bronson, who was escorted by Biko Skalla; and Eric Dunham and John Senko.

On hand for the festivities were Superintendent Seth Turner, Saugerties Village Mayor Bill Murphy, and Town of Saugerties Deputy Supervisor Fred Costello. Members of the Lion's Club and Saugerties Mum Festival Committee also presented gifts to the Mum Queen and her court.



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Mt. Marion Hosts First Obstacle Color Fun Run

"Everyone in the school helped out and worked together," Collins said.

Cahill Elementary School also pitched in, lending its cargo net for the day.

The Mt. Marion event is the newest healthy tradition in Saugerties elementary schools, joining the Cahill 1K/5K, the Morse Mustang Bowl, and the Riccardi FundRun.

Kelder said the event raised a good portion of the PTA's budget for the year and was enjoyed by everyone involved.

"We are just absolutely ecstatic about how successful it turned out to be," Kelder said. "The whole day exceeded our expectations."

Jada Mooers (top) and Rhylan Crist (bottom) climb the cargo net while Devlin Brooks prepares to clear a hurdle at the Obstacle Color Fun Run.



Mustang player Jaden Whittaker delivers the official Mustang Bowl football from the sidecar of a 1967 Harley Davidson Electra Glide motorcycle.



Mustang player Devin Dickson, right, bears down on Patriot ball-carrier Dominic Gonzalez during action at the 11th Annual Mustang Bowl.



Ball-carrier Tristan Mawyin sprints away from Mustang tackle Madilin Green to gain yardage for the Patriots.

Patriots Win Exciting Mustang Bowl XI

Sportsmanship, fun, and plenty of great football were on display when the Mustangs and Patriots faced off in the 11th annual Grant D. Morse Elementary School Mustang Bowl on October 15.

Organized by Morse Special Education teacher Joe Defino, the touch football game played by students in Grades 5 and 6 is a fall classic and a highlight of the season for players, younger students, and families alike.

As the tradition began its second decade, the Mustangs and Patriots each came to the field having won the coveted Green Apples trophy five times, making the 2014 contest something of a rubber match. When the final whistle blew, the Patriots had edged past the Mustangs 25-24 in an action-packed game full of great play on both sides.

The teams faced off over a brand new game ball, which arrived in true Mustang Bowl style. Morse alumni Steve Barber of The 74 Shop rode onto the field on a blue 1967 Harley Davidson Electra Glide motorcycle with Mustang player Jaden Whittaker in the sidecar carrying the ball.

The teams' five weeks of practice paid off from the opening play of the game. Setting the tone for an exciting afternoon, Ginger Defino of the Patriots took the ball for a 17-yard run in the opening seconds of play. Her teammate Tristan Mawyin promptly followed with a touchdown, and the Patriots earned the extra point, too.

"It was great," Tristan said of his run to the end zone. "I've always wanted to do that."

The Mustangs countered the Patriots' early scoring with a touchdown of their own by Jaden Incalcaterra. A 70-yard reception by Patriot Alex Mooers and a touchdown by Ginger Defino helped bring the score to 13-6 in favor of the Patriots at the end of the first quarter.

A light rain at the start of the second quarter didn't seem to hamper Jaden Incalcaterra at all as he scored his second touchdown for the Mustangs. Teammate Dan MacIsaac followed with his own trip to the end zone, putting the Mustangs in the lead 18-13. Scoring by the Patriots' Oliver Menon turned the tide and gave the girls and boys in red a slim one-point lead going into half-time.

Jaden Incalcaterra came back for TD number three in the third quarter, giving the Mustangs a 24-19 lead that lasted throughout the quarter.

"I just kept on running," Jaden said in an on-field interview with Principal Don Dieckmann, who replied, "Good advice in life and in football."

With three quarterback sacks in a row, Ethan Naccarato of the Patriots stymied the Mustangs from gaining any further yardage as the third quarter ended.

A touchdown in the fourth quarter put the Patriots on top once again and they remained there despite a tough fight by the Mustangs near the end zone in the final moments of the game.

In a show of outstanding sportsmanship, the jubilant Patriots consoled their Mustang friends with hugs and high-fives to acknowledge a game well played.

"You are all winners in our book," said Superintendent Seth Turner, who filled his traditional role as master of ceremonies for the game.

In addition to the Green Apples cup going to the Patriots, individual students from both teams were honored. Olivia Staby of the Patriots received the Seth Turner Award for Outstanding Line Play. Most Valuable Player went to Jaden Incalcaterra for offense and Oliver Menon for defense. Tristan Mawyin received the Patrick Buonfiglio Sportsmanship Award. Lily Polcovar-Horn, a member of the Mustang Bowl cheer team, received the Mary Cosentino Spirt Award.

Superintendent Turner also gave a shout-out to the Mustang Bowl staff, a group of students who supported the players by toting water, carrying team flags, and performing countless other jobs that kept the game running smoothly.

According to Mustang Bowl tradition, each team is led by an honorary captain. This year's captains were Jim Gage, standing in for Gladys Hutton as leader of the Patriots, and Greg Chorvas leading the Mustangs. Also among the honored guests was New York State Assemblyman Peter Lopez, who stopped by at the end of the first quarter to watch the action.

Elementary School Students Learn Fire Safety Lessons

Students in Mrs. Detweiler's Grade 1 class at Morse Elementary School are used to getting homework assignments from their teacher, but last week they got one from another very important person, Centerville Fire District Assistant Chief Scott Tucker.

Tucker asked the students to go home that evening and talk with their parents about setting up a meeting place where family members can gather if there's an emergency at their homes.

That advice, and plenty more, was part of Fire Prevention Day, which is held each October at all four Saugerties elementary schools.

Tucker and nearly 20 other members of Centerville and Cedar Grove fire companies visited Morse on October 6. On October 8, members of the Washington Hook & Ladder, C.A. Lynch, and R.A. Snyder fire companies of Saugerties visited Cahill Elementary. Mt. Marion Elementary hosted the Mt. Marion Fire Department, police, and other emergency personnel on October 9 and Riccardi Elementary students got safety instruction from the Glasco Fire Department on October 17.

At all the schools, students got the chance to see fire trucks up-close, learn important safety information, and ask questions. Firefighters also dressed in full turnout gear and demonstrated what their breathing apparatus looks and sounds like, so the children won't fear it if they ever encounter a firefighter during an emergency.

At Riccardi, Matt Koch of the City of Kingston Fire Department invited students inside the department's mobile smokehouse, where he reviewed the basics of fire safety. He likened preparation for an emergency to getting ready for a sports contest.

"In sports, you practice so you know what to do on game day," Koch said. "If there's a real fire, that's game day."

Koch urged students to work with their parents on creating an escape plan and assigned them homework of checking when the batteries in their home smoke detectors were last changed.

After Koch's talk, the students got the chance to take part in a mock escape. As the smokehouse filled with harmless smoke (which

smelled like pancakes, the students said), the children crawled on the floor to the back of house, where Glasco firefighters Ernie Quick and Bob Martin assisted them in climbing down a ladder to the ground.

Firefighters who visited Riccardi also demonstrated a water cannon mounted on the top of their fire truck, to the delight of students who ran to get sprinkled and enjoy the rainbow created by the water and sunshine.

Saugerties firefighters have been visiting the District's elementary schools every October for many years and the opportunity to meet with kids and share fire safety information is important, said Richard Jackson, a 42-year veteran firefighter and former chief of the Saugerties Fire Department.

"If one child remembers what we taught them when there's a fire, then we did our job," Jackson said.



Cahill students Allysson Cora, Ty Monroe, and Stella Marricco pay close attention to Saugerties firefighter Richard Jackson.



Left, Riccardi student Liam Boek gets an assist from Glasco firefighter Bob Martin while climbing out of the smokehouse. Right, a Centerville firefighter sprays foam as Morse students look on.



Susan Gies is New Director of Elementary Education

When Saugerties elementary school students pick up a book to enjoy, learn a new vocabulary word, or polish their creative writing, they're building skills that will serve them far beyond the classroom and throughout their lives.

To make sure that students have the best English Language Arts (ELA) foundation possible by the time they leave Grade 6, the District created a new administrative position this year and staffed it with a veteran educator.

Susan Gies, former principal of Cahill Elementary School, has been working as the new Director of Elementary Education since early September. The focus of her job is English Language Arts, and her many responsibilities include: overseeing the writing of an updated ELA curriculum; overhauling the District's Response to Intervention (RTI) program, which is aimed at identifying learning difficulties early in a child's school career; integrating new English as a Second Language (ESL) regulations; re-vamping library and music curricula; and performing observations of teachers as part of the Annual

Professional Performance Review (APPR) requirements.

Before coming to Saugerties, Gies worked in the publishing industry, as an elementary school teacher in the Bronx, and as a reading teacher and later Director of Humanities in the Kingston City School District.

"My whole life has been about the printed word," Gies said.

Gies will also use her extensive experience in staff development to get teachers engaged with changes to the curriculum. She has been working with teachers on leveling, a system that organizes books into varying levels of difficulty so students can pick one that's challenging enough to help them learn but not so hard that they will give up. Working as a reading teacher, she said, taught her the value of having children read at just the right level.



Susan Gies, the new Director of Elementary Education

"I lived it," she said. "I saw it through the work I did."

Gies noted that reading levels play a critical role in terms of the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). Part of making students college and career ready is helping them develop the ability to read and understand challenging, complex literature and information.

To help get a sense of what Saugerties English Language Arts teachers need, Gies has spent part of her first months on the job meeting with and listening to staff about their goals. "I really enjoy spending time in all the schools," she said.

Gies described her new job as one that fills a vital need for the District while utilizing her own innate skills at the same time.

"It's kind of a win-win," she said.

Riccardi, Mt. Marion Principals Get Creative to Reward Students' Hard Work



Above left, Mt. Marion student Keen Kinney grins up at Principal Carole Kelder as he adds one of the first pieces of Duct tape that will secure her to the gymnasium wall. Center, Payten Abrehamsen and Evan Fasano continue the taping. Right, Mason Bach and Justin Berndt add the finishing touches. Below, Riccardi Elementary School Principal Sue Osterhoudt takes the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

Everyone knows that reading makes you a better student and that physical activity keeps you healthy. But this fall, students in two Saugerties elementary schools learned that there are other rewards to reading and running around. Like Duct-taping your principal to the wall, for instance. Or seeing her doused with a bucket of ice water.

Proving that there's little that principals won't do to inspire and reward their students, Riccardi Elementary School Principal Sue Osterhoudt and Mt. Marion Elementary School Principal Carole Kelder made good on promises to treat their students for hard work in a reading challenge and a fundraiser, respectively.

On September 26, Riccardi students enjoyed the culmination of their Summer Reading Challenge, an annual activity that continues to grow under the leadership of Grade 2 teacher Frances Murphy. This year, students were given 50 reading-related challenges, ranging from reading under a tree to visiting a library in another town, and asked to complete as many as they could. The students stepped up and beat last year's total of challenges, with half a dozen students fulfilling all 50 and scores of students doing at least half the challenges.

To reward the students, and help a good cause at the same time, Osterhoudt offered to take the popular ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in front of the whole school.

Dressed in a rain slicker and carrying a large umbrella, Osterhoudt sat on a folding chair set up inside a child's pool on the cafeteria stage. Teachers soon took away her protective gear and doused her with a cooler full of cold water and ice cubes, to the delight of students.

On hand for the event were Grade 2 student



Grace Madelone and her parents, Jeff and Megan. Jeff Madelone has had ALS, commonly called Lou Gehrig's Disease, for 13 years. Megan Madelone said that seeing Osterhoudt take the challenge in front of the entire student body was "overwhelming" because of the connection it creates between the students and people with ALS.

Part of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge is, of course, to challenge someone else to do it. Osterhoudt, who planned to donate money on top of getting doused, challenged all the adults in the room to take the challenge. Grace Madelone picked a more well known figure to challenge: Saugerties native and late-night TV host Jimmy Fallon.

Over at Mt. Marion, Principal Carole Kelder and two teachers got themselves into a sticky situation to reward students for being healthy and raising money for school activities.

On September 24, the school held its first-ever Obstacle Color Fun Run (see story on page 1) and raised more than \$8,700. As a thank-you, Kelder pledged that she would allow the students to Duct-tape her to the gymnasium wall. For added fun, physical education teachers Sean Collins and Melinda Glover joined her.

Mrs. Collins' Grade 2 class raised the most money, \$834, so they, along with Mrs. Hopf and Mrs. Whelan's classes, who tied for second place, got the chance to apply the Duct-tape while the rest of the school cheered them on.

Dressed in Tyvek coveralls, Kelder seemed undaunted by the many feet of sticky tape that would secure her to the wall, or even the pie plates of mashed potatoes that the three top fundraising students were allowed to push into her face – and Glover's and Collins', too – once they were securely pinned to the wall.

Getting to School the Old-Fashioned Way at Mt. Marion

Mt. Marion Elementary School students, staff, and parents joined more than 4,600 communities around the country October 8 when they laced up their walking shoes and traveled to school on their own two feet to celebrate National Walk to School Day.

Approximately 60 people – everyone from Mt. Marion Principal Carole Kelder and many of the school's teachers to moms, dads, students, and younger siblings – participated in the walk. The 1.3-mile trek through the Mt. Marion Park neighborhood near the school took about 45 minutes, with families joining in all along the route.

The walk was one of many ways Mt. Marion staff encourage students to stay healthy and physically active throughout the school year.



Mt. Marion Elementary School students wait for their friends and teachers to pick them as part of the school's celebration of National Walk to School Day. Pictured are Grade 1 student Landon Hughes, left, Grade 3 student David Morris, and Grade 1 twins Mallory and Makenna Bottom.

"Whatever it takes to raise some money and make the kids happy, I'll do," Kelder said.

The students definitely appreciated their principal and teachers' willingness to play along.

"It was great! It was awesome!" said student Katie Nowitzki.