

News Release

Tenaflly Public Schools
Contact: Christine Corliss
Publicity Coordinator
E-Mail: ccorliss@tenafly.k12.nj.us
Phone: 201-816-4554

For Immediate Release

Tenaflly Middle School Vice Principal Shaves for Smiles

Student volunteers use creative fundraiser to raise funds for SmileTrain.

Tenaflly, N.J. – March 9, 2022 – When Tenaflly Middle School guidance counselor Ellie Zerling challenged her sixth and seventh Grade Ambassadors, a club of student volunteers, to find creative ways to fundraise for charity, she expected the traditional hot cocoa sale. What she got was much much more!



The student volunteers, with a few hints from Principal John Fabbo and agreement from Vice Principal Patrick Comey, came up with Shaving for Smiles. Comey agreed to have Principal Fabbo shave his beard live on camera if the students could raise at least \$1000 for SmileTrain, the organization known for providing 100%-free cleft surgery and other forms of essential cleft care to more than 70 countries worldwide.

“We decided on a goal of \$1000, which covers the cost of four surgeries,” said Principal Fabbo. “Students donated what they could during their lunch periods, and we invited parents and the entire community to contribute online.”

“We have donated to SmileTrain over the past several years,” said school guidance counselor and group advisor Ellie Zerling. “The Grade Ambassadors fundraise for them, making signs and publicizing hot cocoa sales or similar fundraisers. This year, Shaving for Smiles got them excited to reach a new goal and to get creative with how to raise the funds.”

The event was a success, raising nearly \$1500. Comey stayed true to his word, allowing principal Fabbo to shave his beard live on camera for the entire school to see.

“Honestly, I was planning to shave my beard already,” said Comey. “However, having principal Fabbo shave it live on camera added quite a bit of excitement, not to mention nervousness. I am proud of the students for working hard to



reach the goal and even happier that we raised enough to give six children their smiles through the surgery. I think the students have really learned that doing good makes you feel good.”

To view the on-camera shave, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cGhzwKjOvk>.

For more information on SmileTrain, visit www.smiletrain.org.

For additional information on Tenafly Middle School, visit <https://www.tenaflyschools.org/tms> or contact Christine Corliss, Communications Manager, at 201-816-4554 or ccorliss@tenafly.k12.nj.us.

###

