

# PCIS raises money for classroom activities

By Kathryn Koch

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PLYMOUTH —



**A caricature artist works at his art during the Thank-A-Teacher-Thon at Plymouth Community Intermediate School Friday.**  
Wicked Local photo/Kathryn Koch

A full schedule of activities entertained students, teachers and parents during Friday's Thank-A-Teacher-Thon at Plymouth Community Intermediate School. Students from the school's community service groups planned the various activities.

Seventh-graders Liz Tosi and Jessica Whiting teamed up to organize the bean bag toss. They set up barrels, devised a points system and gave out prizes.

Tosi said the fundraiser, designed to help teachers buy supplies for their classrooms looks to be a success. A lot

of work went into planning the event, she said, and it felt good to hear the teachers' thanks. And everyone seemed to be having a good time, Whiting said.

"I think it's really fun, and I think it's awesome we're helping our school out," she said. "I think the teachers feel it's awesome, too, that we're helping out."

Both girls are members of the student group HOWL (Helping Others While Learning). The other PCIS community service groups responsible for the event are Falcon Pride (an eighth-grade group), School Council, National Junior Honor Society, Student Ambassadors (a group of sixth-graders) and Project Teamwork with students from seventh-grade.

Teacher Warren Phillips, who is in charge of the HOWL program comprised of Advanced Readiness Learning students, said it was a bit of a leap of faith to place the students in charge of the event, but he doesn't question their support for their teachers.



**Plymouth Community Intermediate School seventh graders Liz Tosi, right side of table, and Jessica Whiting, far right, set up the bean bag toss.**  
Wicked Local photo/Kathryn Koch

During the Walk-a-Thon, students walked to support teachers who have inspired them. With the help of sponsors, the money raised will go into a STEP (Science Technology Education Partnership) Foundation to provide grants for classroom activities. Only sponsored teachers or teacher volunteers can apply for grants.

“The teachers are going to use the money for activities for their classrooms,” he said.

Phillips said teachers wouldn’t normally be able to plan these activities due to the lack of funding. The support from the students reflects on the teachers at PCIS.

Former PCIS student David Long, of Festive Events, offered his DJ services. Long was a student at PCIS in the mid 1970s, and his son, Bryan, is now in the eighth-grade. His older son, Jeffrey, graduated from high school in 2007 and also attended PCIS.

“Teachers are very under appreciated and underpaid, and it is appreciate a teacher day,” Long said.



**DJ Dave Long of Festive Events, whose son, Bryan, is a eighth grader at Plymouth Community Intermediate School, offered his services during Friday's Thank-A-Teacher-Thon.**

Wicked Local photo/Kathryn Koch



**Eighth grade science teacher Cassidy Conway and many other teachers volunteered for the dunk tank at Friday's Thank-A-Teacher-Thon at Plymouth Community Intermediate School.**

Wicked Local photo/Kathryn Koch

Phillips said there was no shortage of teachers willing to sign up for the dunk tank, including Principal Brian Palladino and eighth-grade science teacher Cassidy Conway.

Conway said she enjoyed the opportunity to interact with students in a more social setting. “It’s nice to see them having fun,” she added.

While the dip in what she described as “very chilly” water made good memories, the way she was asked to participate was memorable, too. “I got

asked in front of my class, and the kids said I had to do it,” she explained.