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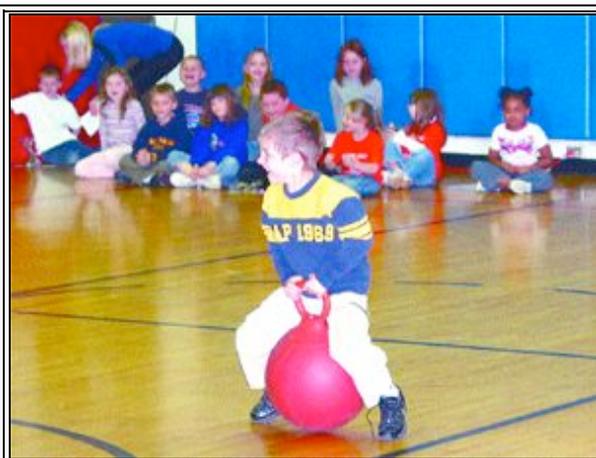
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Jamestown Schools Receives Two Grants

By S. ALEXANDER GEROULD

5/22/2007 - After looking at nationwide trends indicating child activity was declining and obesity was on the rise, Sunny Linden, Jamestown Public Schools family consumer science, physical education and health coordinator, knew the district had to grab the money offered to it.



Elementary Schools in the Jamestown Public Schools district recently received two grants to help with keeping pupils active and preventing child abductions. Pupils may have more opportunities to be active during the school day. See additional photos at cu.post-journal.com.

P-J photo by S. Alexander Gerould

The district was recently awarded two grants for its elementary schools, one from Chautauqua County Steps for a Healthier New York, totaling \$2,773, for physical activity kits, and a Child Abduction Prevention Grant totaling \$9,995.

"We're always very excited to get any type of monetary help," Ms. Linden said, "and to have an amount of money which will help us with child abduction prevention, that's a wonderful thing. I think children need this kind of opportunity to be safe."

The district received a federal child abduction prevention grant, which will provide guidance counselors with resources to conduct prevention classes with pupils and parents. Called Yello Dyno Child Protection, Ms. Linden said the program will help students recognize deceptive behavior from strangers and others. It will also include a parent training night, and each school library will have a package of information, such as parenting guides, available to

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caregivers.

“The money will allow for training for the guidance counselors and also the workshop in the evening for the parents and will cover supplies and equipment for the curriculum,” Ms. Linden said.

This is the first time the grant from Chautauqua County Steps for a Healthier New York was offered, Ms. Linden said, and it will be used to implement wellness policies for elementary pupils, teachers and staff.

“It is to provide one recess kit for each elementary school,” she said. “Essentially what we’re looking for is to put together a supplies kit for classroom teachers so they can grab and go and keep their kids active during the day. We’ll be encouraging building wellness teams and try to try and improve the physical activity for students in each building.”

Ms. Linden said building principals will discuss with their wellness teams how they will spend the money. She also said school officials will look into the possibility of posting nutritional information for all food purchases and the purchase of a game for children about the food pyramid.

“We’re just kind of getting the ball rolling,” she said.



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