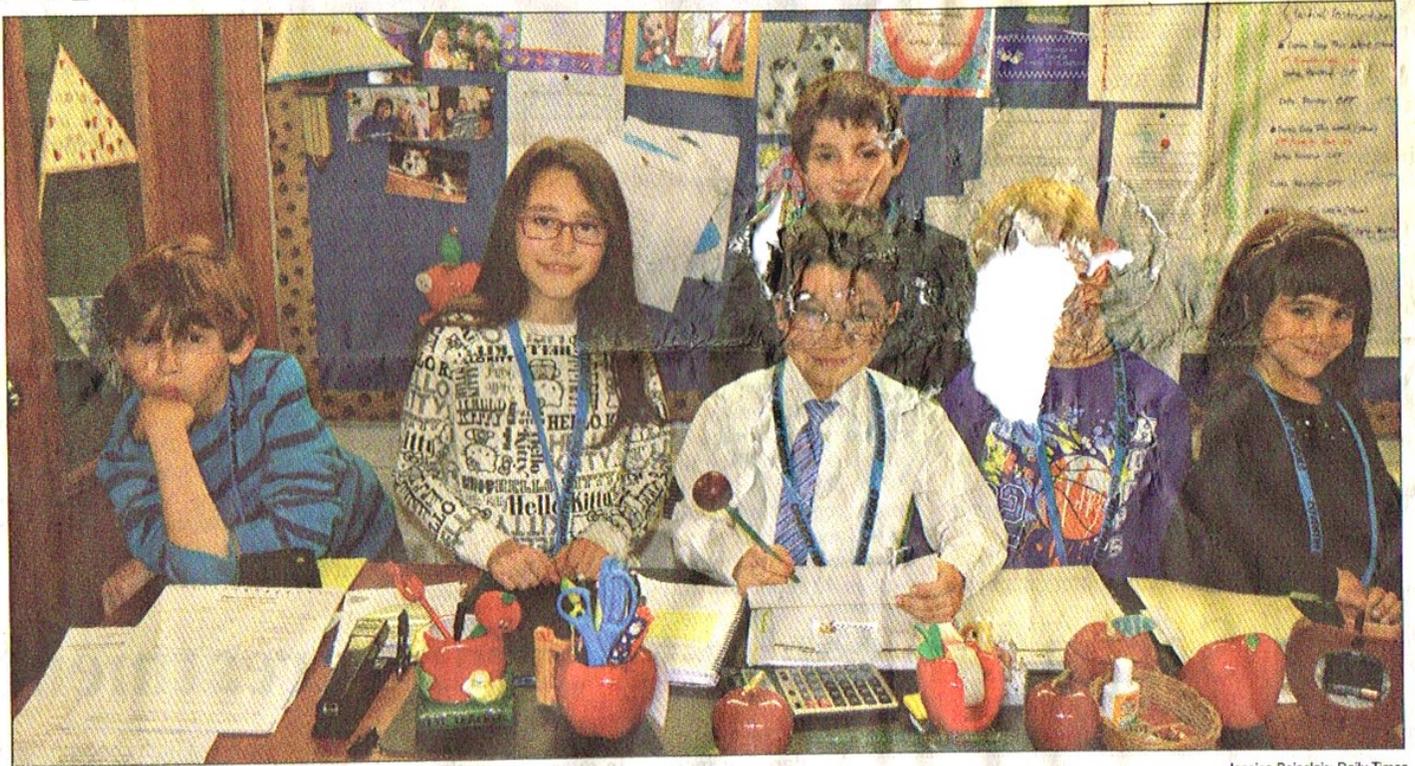


GOING FOR THE GOAT

Hopkins Hill students get a kick before April vacation



Jessica Boisclair • Daily Times

Students (L-R): Peter Fanning (custodian), Diamond Genteie (nurse), Colton Martins (principal), Austin Ferman (behavioral specialist), and Victoria Dichiarà (secretary) all played administrators last Thursday at Hopkins Hill Elementary School in Coventry.

JESSICA BOISCLAIR
jboisclair@ricentral.com

COVENTRY— Students at Hopkins Hill Elementary School laughed and cheered last Thursday morning while their principal and behavioral specialist hugged and kissed two baby goats.

This fun farmyard activity was promised to the students if they rose more than their \$2,000

goal during the Pennies for Patients campaign last month.

Pennies for Patients is run through the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and is a service learning program that gives students the chance to make a difference by collecting money during a three-week period.

Since it was established in 1994, millions of dollars have been donated to the society by more than 10 million elementary, middle and

high school students throughout the country.

Principal Kathy Tancrelle and Mr. Green, who were dressed as a cheerleader and football player, held onto the goats and gave them a kiss on the head every time a new class entered the room.

Along with the goats, six students were given the opportunity to dress up and fill in for

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Goat visits classes Thursday

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various administrators at the elementary school.

Fourth grade teacher and Pennies for Patients coordinator Kim O'Connell said the top three classrooms to raise money chose two students to act as the principal, interim principal, behavioral specialist, nurse, custodian and secretary for the morning.

The top class was a third grade class, who brought in more than \$300, second place was O'Connell's class at \$289 and third place was a first grade class at \$200.

O'Connell explained that Hopkins Hill has participated in the Pennies for Patients campaign for two years. Last year was their first time and they collected more than \$2,700 towards the society.

While they did not raise as much this year — \$2,546 — she said it was “amazing how much the kids dug into their pockets to bring in money for the school.”

The three-week event was held during March and the first day, she said, a speaker from the leukemia society came in to speak with the students about the campaign and his journey battling cancer.

“He was a great motivator and I think knowing that Mr. Green and Mrs. Tancelle were going to kiss a goat was also a motivator,” she laughed.



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Hopkins Hill principal Kathryn Tancelle and behavioral specialist Mr. Green with the baby goat brought into the school last week as a reward for a student fundraiser.

Each week, O'Connell would collect the boxes from the classrooms and add up the total before announcing the winners.

“Every student brought in something and they knew what they were donating the money towards and they were bringing in money to me after Pennies for Pa-

tients was over,” she added. “So they really wanted to contribute and the school's really good when it comes to this. Any time we have a food drive or fundraiser, reaching out to the community is a top priority, so we can count on these kids.”