

# Hopkins Hill kids help Haiti

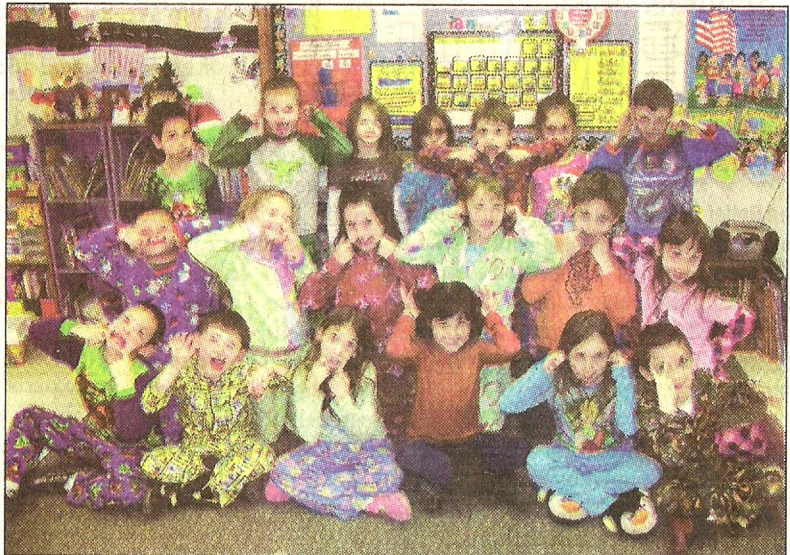
## Students raise more than \$1,200 through 'Pajama Day'

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COVENTRY — Students and teachers at Hopkins Hill School got out of bed on Friday and didn't even bother to get properly dressed. It wasn't out of carelessness or laziness that they wore their pajamas to school — they were doing it to raise money for the people of Haiti.

The teachers, administrators and students in the school decided that they would organize a school-wide fundraiser to help the Rhode Island chapter of the American Red Cross through the fundraiser, Kim O'Connell, a fourth grade teacher at the school said.

O'Connell said they tossed around a few ideas, but eventually decided to hold a "Pajama Day" at their school and on Friday many of the students and teachers wore their bedclothes to school



Jessica Selby • Daily Times

Holly Riecke's first grade class participated in the Hopkins Hill School "Pajama Day" fundraiser on Friday. The class raised \$114 and the school raised more than \$1,200 which will be sent to the American Red Cross for the Haiti relief effort.

for a donation. According to O'Connell, everyone was told they could wear their pajamas if they donated a \$1 or whatever they

were capable of donating. O'Connell said many students participated and gave the suggested \$1 donation, but just as many others gave much more than that. She said one student in her classroom came in with her pajamas on and handed over a check from her parents for \$30.

"Everyone from this school is very generous," she said proudly.

According to O'Connell, the school holds a "Hats On" fundraising event every month at the school to support various causes. In the past they have used the funds raised from those events for improvements to their school library, but this month, she said, the school decided that they would forgo the "Hats On" fundraiser for the "Pajama Day" event to support the Haiti relief efforts.

# Kids raise money for earthquake victims

*Continued from Page A-1*

"I would say that we do pretty well with 'Hats On,' but it has gotten a little stale because we do it so often," O'Connell said. "The kids were really excited about this though. They thought it was cool that many of the adults were wearing their pajamas too, so we definitely raised more than we typically do for our monthly fundraiser."

Students in Holly Riecke's first grade classroom alone contributed \$114 to the

cause. Riecke's students said they were "so happy" to be able to help with the Haiti relief efforts.

"I hope that the money we raised will help the people in Haiti rebuild their homes," Arianna Ritchotte, a student in Riecke's classroom said. "But I know they need more, maybe I will open a chocolate stand to help raise more money."

Lisa Tomasso, a member of the school's PTA, said the school as a whole raised \$1,203.70. She said she knows how gener-

ous the school community can be, but was still quite surprised when she took a final count of the money brought in from the event.

"I think it's wonderful and it just goes to show you that people do support their community regardless of the economy, because when people see the need to give, they still do," Tomasso said.

Tomasso said the school will be sending a check for the total amount raised to the American Red Cross this week.