



File photo

Tiogue Elementary School students may soon see parents in their Coventry classrooms more often.

Tiogue PTA looking to keep parents involved

'Three for Me' puts parents into kids' schools' classrooms

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COVENTRY— A program that was implemented at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School many years ago to get parents and families involved in their children's education has made its way to Tiogue Elementary School this year.

Parent Teacher Association member at the elementary school Denise Aguiar brought the idea forward during a meeting last spring.

Principal Louise Seitsinger said she loved the idea and wanted it to be part of the school improvement plan.

Aguiar explained that the program was already in effect at the middle school, where her son attended, and she thought it'd be a great thing to start doing at the elementary school, where her other two children go.

"I know getting volunteers is challenging because people's lives are so busy so I thought this would help us build on our volunteer base," she added.

The Three for Me program is a national PTA program designed to involve parents and families in supporting their children and their education.

The purpose of the program, she said, is to increase volunteerism in the school system.

Beginning this year, interested parents and family members signed a promise card to commit three hours of their time throughout the school year.

So far, she said, 79 people have promised to volunteer at Tiogue with 19 people already completing their "I kept the Promise forms."

Many of the parents, she explained, have volunteered at certain events in the

Tiogue parents could get into classes

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classroom, provided snacks or have helped their children with their homework.

"I really supported the idea because I know there are parents who work full-time and they don't have a lot of time so they can help out other ways and this is a way of recogniz-

ing the parents for volunteering," Seitsinger said.

Aguiar explained that any parent who returns the promise form completed, their child will automatically be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a \$100 gift card to Toys R Us.

"We figured this incentive would be appropriate for an elementary school student," she

added. "But I think it's a great program and it seems to be well received by the parents. We'd had parents sign up throughout the year so far and we have seen an increase in people committing to volunteering."

Aguiar said that even though the school year is halfway through, families who haven't

signed up yet for the program can still fill out a form.

She said the PTA and the school is always looking for volunteers, especially for the school store.

Anybody interested in making the pledge can contact Aguiar at ddmaguiar@aol.com.