

Annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser hits school gym; students raise money for American Heart Assoc.



Jessica Boisclair • Daily Times

Lisa DelSanto's third grade class jumping rope for the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart event. Her students, along with everyone else in the school, helped to raise over \$3,000 this year.

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COVENTRY— Last week, students in grades kindergarten through five at Tiogue Elementary School spent a half hour of their day jump roping for a good cause, ultimately raising thousands of dollars for the American Heart Association. Physical Education Teacher Lisa DelSanto explained that students participated in the Jump Rope for Heart campaign, where they raised 3,429 — surpassing their goal of \$3,000. The event is a national fundraiser sponsored by

the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The campaign was created to “empower them [students] to improve their own health and help other kids with heart health issues.” All the money raised during the campaign goes towards research for new treatments, advocating at federal and state levels for wellness in schools and training courses for middle and high school students in CPR. She said students at Tiogue Elementary have participated in the event since 2010 and “each

year I’m more and more impressed with the students, their families, their friends, our teachers and principal and everyone supporting it.” During last year’s event, the students raised \$3,100, clearly surpassing that amount this year. DelSanto explained that the students had one week to collect donations and bring them in before jumping rope for 30 minutes a day. Each classroom was given the chance to jump rope, she said, and a small competition was held to see who collected the most money and who

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Tiogue Elementary students jump rope on their way to raising over \$3,000 at this year's Jump Rope For Heart.

Jumping rope earns big bucks

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jumped the most.

One fourth grade class brought in \$420; one student raised \$257 alone and received five free tickets to a Celtics game.

"I spoke to the students about what heart disease was and what the American Heart Association does," she added. "They were able to dedicate their jumps to somebody they may know whose ill or has passed."

Between grades K through five, the students jumped a total of 163,029 times last week, with grade five coming out on top with 61,300 jumps.

"I think it's for a great cause because there are a lot of families who have, at one time or another, somebody in their family or a friend who has suffered from some kind of heart disease and I think it's a great thing," she said.