



Photos by Kendra Lolio

Students in Mrs. Flynn's fifth grade class participate in Fun Run activities at Tiogue Elementary School on Friday. The event is organized by the school PTA every year to raise funds for school programs.

Tiogue Elementary has fun, raises funds

PTA organizes 'Fun Run' day of activities for school causes

BY: KENDRA LOLIO
Special to the Daily Times

COVENTRY – Students at Tiogue Elementary School raced through an indoor obstacle course and enjoyed pizza with the local fire and police departments in the PTA's annual "Fun-Run" yesterday afternoon. The event is part of the PTA's fundraising campaign, the funds of which will be used to make improvements to the school.

Various grade levels took turns completing the course throughout the day, and particularly enjoyed the massive inflatable slide and pizza donated by Twisted Pizza for the event.

Created in the gym due to rain, the course included several different sections with obstacles to get students jumping, running, and crawling. There were tunnels to crawl through, walls to climb, and scooters to maneuver around cones before ending with an inflatable slide.

Tiogue PTA co-president Jennifer Carlson, who helped in planning or orchestrating the big day, said that the goal of the event was to help the students feel more connected to their local community.

"We want the school to be more involved in the community, especially for the kids to feel like they're a part of it," Carlson said. "They look up to the police and fire chiefs so much, so it's nice to get them involved. I think it's a good way to introduce them and make them really feel part of Coventry."

After the obstacle course students were treated to a tour of a firetruck and several police cruisers, taking turns using the sirens, horns, and intercom systems. Some students also enjoyed climbing into the spacious backseats of the cruisers.



Above: Even though the weather didn't cooperate, the organizers still created a daunting obstacle course in the gym using furniture, hay bales and other items. Below: Police officers demonstrate their gear, including handcuffs, to students.



See FUN, page A6



Photo by Kendra Lolio

Coventry Police officers supervise Fun Run activities on Friday at Tiogue Elementary School.

Fun

Continued from page A1

Officers answered questions and demonstrated to students how all of the equipment worked.

After the festivities the class that raised the most money was treated to a pizza party also alongside Coventry's police and fire, where Col. John MacDonald answered questions and gave each student a "badge" sticker. Police also brought complimentary "goodie" bags with packets on Halloween safety.

"It seemed to go really well," Carl-

son said of the event. "We have gotten lot of good feedback. The little kids were just happy with the slide, but even the fifth graders were saying they wish they were going to be there next year to do it again."

She also praised the parent volunteers, some who showed up at 7:30 a.m. to help set-up the course, as well as the fire and police departments for taking time to visit the school. As part of the PTA's fundraising efforts, students were also allowed to collect donations in Stop & Shop, and were able to raise over \$300 for the school. Carlson said the PTA plans to use funds to plan more family events as well as to

make improvements to both the inside and outside of the school.

"We just have to get more funds to get through the bigger projects," she explained.

The PTA will be hosting a fundraiser on Nov. 7 at Twisted Pizza, where the teachers will be the restaurant wait staff for a good cause. On Nov. 4 the school will host a parent-student lunch event, where parents will be encouraged to visit the school for lunch with the students. On Oct. 28, the kindergarten students will be welcome to decorate pumpkins at the school. There will also be a "Trunk or Treat" event on Oct. 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.