



Hannah Piecuch • Daily Times

Capt. Bill Hall shows Washington Oak student Zach (last name withheld) how to control a fire hose during a demonstration at the school Friday.

# Washington Oak students learn about fire prevention

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COVENTRY — A musical movie about a fire hydrant, matches and firemen, was part of the fire-prevention program that pre-kindergarten students participated in on Friday.

Firemen from Central Coventry Fire District came to the school with a truck, a video, a full fire-man suit and taught the students about fire safety—as well as let them spray their giant fireman hose.

Special Guests Captain Bill Hall and new recruit Ray Gervais will come to the school and work with all the students this month, according to Washington Oak Principal Dr. Donna Raptakis.

On Friday morning, pre-k classrooms of Joy Marshall and assistant Sue Leveillee and Ellen Murray and assistants Carrie Fontaine and Lori Mann, put on paper fireman hats, lined up in the hall and marched to the cafeteria to learn about fire prevention.

See PREVENTION, Page A-2



Washington Oak students high-five Firefighter Ray Gervais.

# Prevention

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**Continued from Page A-1**

The program is part of the health and wellness school improvement plan, said Raptakis.

The hope is that students will take the lessons from the fire

fighters to heart and practice fire prevention at home, Raptakis said.

After the students watched the video, Fire Fighter Gervais put on his full uniform, including his mask and goggles, and

demonstrated how he would look if he ever came to rescue a child in a burning building.

The mask makes his voice change, Hall told the kids, but they don't need to be afraid if a fireman comes to rescue

them. They should stay low to avoid the smoke and say, "I'm over here."

To practice, Gervais, crawled across the cafeteria to locate every one of the students and give them a high five.

The fire prevention demonstration was finished off with every student getting to spray the hose outside of Washington Oak.

The program isn't the only thing that the school does towards fire prevention, she

added. "The teachers will follow up on what the kids learn today and the nurse has given each teacher resources to do that."

After they meet with the firefighters, the kids work in their classrooms to make evacuation routes for their own homes and the teachers review what they have learned, Raptakis says.

"So there is a carry-over between this program and the classroom teacher."

# Caruolo

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**Continued from Page A-1**

"But also, one of the interesting facts that no one can dispute is that an appropriation was never made to the schools," he continued. "As far as the maintenance of effort

schools never received them as a credit to debit them against the accounts."

The appeal will go before the Rhode Island Board of Regents, Williamson said, and if they side with the

action as count two of the 2008 Caruolo Action, Williamson said, it is still separate and distinct from what is going on in the Superior Court on Thursday.

The conference is scheduled

VZ° 1