

Dakota principals pledge rewards for Walk-A-Thon goals

- By Nicole Tuttle For Digital First Media – The Macomb Daily

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Dakota High School held a Walk-A-Thon on Oct. 31 as a fundraising event for the school. School administrators found several ways to encourage donations by promising to perform various safe yet fun stunts. Pictured is Dakota Ninth Grade Center Assistant Principal Jon Jones in the dunk tank during the walk.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL

In an effort to top his school rooftop camping trip, Dakota High School Principal Paul Sibley plans to have other administrators join him in a polar plunge as a result of funds raised through Dakota's recent Walk-A-Thon.

Dakota High School in Macomb Township has hosted an annual Walk-A-Thon event for the past three years, with the fourth Oct. 31 at the school with students permitted to wear costumes in keeping with school guidelines.

"This year, they thought it would be fun to connect it to Halloween, so that they could include costume contests or something costume related," Sibley said. "They ran it by me and I loved it."

Students were released for about an hour of their school day to participate in the walk, which was organized and promoted by marketing and leadership students. Games and inflatables were part of the fun. Student leadership teacher Kyle Young said over 1,600 students participated.

Funds raised through the Walk-A-Thon go into a staff and student development fund account, Sibley said. The fund finances classroom and curriculum initiatives, student scholarships and conferences, and a variety of other programs to support students and staff.

On Sept. 7, Sibley camped out on the roof of Dakota to fulfil the 2017 Walk-A-Thon pledge he made if students reached the \$20,000 goal. Students raised \$26,000.



Dakota High School students participated in a Walk-A-Thon fundraiser for the school on Oct. 31. Over 1,600 students participated in the walk.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL

Sibley said that he met with leadership and marketing students on Sept. 17 and had drop-in presentations with smaller groups of students and teachers as well to assist in planning the event and establishing administrator stunt pledges. Students set a \$30,000 goal, which if met, Dakota administrators pledged to do the following:

- Dakota High School Assistant Principal Ebony Carter and Dakota Ninth Grade Center Principal Kevin Koskos agreed to be duct taped to a wall;
- Dakota Ninth Grade Center Assistant Principal Jon Jones, Dakota High School Assistant Principal Tom Downham and Sibley agreed to participate in a local polar plunge, with the exact plunge event to be determined.

Approximately \$37,800 was raised by students, Young said.

“For \$50,000, several admin had committed to getting tattoos, but we did not hit that goal,” Young said.

Several administrators also participated in a dunk tank on walk day or attended the walk, according to Young.

Students also earned incentives of various increments with their walk pledges, starting with \$5 for participating in the walk or \$10 for the walk, game tickets during the walk, cider and a donut. At the \$100 level, students that drive could earn walk participation, 10 game tickets, cider and a donut, a LED tumbler cup, a lunch line fast pass and a personalized parking spot of their choice for the school year. Students not yet able to drive could earn the other prizes at the \$100 level and a half day pass for two including a pizza lunch and movie with popcorn in the auditorium instead of the parking spot.

“This year we offered teacher prizes for teachers that gave up their prep hour or who had 100 percent class participation and came to the walk to help out,” Young said. “One prize included a premium parking spot or free lunch in our school restaurant. Additionally, all of our admin have offered to give up an hour of their time to sub for a teacher who might win that prize.”

Students could also participate in class competitions for the most donations and be entered in a drawing if the entire class participated.



On Oct. 31, Dakota High School held a Walk-A-Thon event as a school fundraiser. To encourage donations, school administrators offered to get in on the fun with safe stunts. Pictured is Dakota Ninth Grade Center Principal Kevin Koskos in the dunk tank at the walk.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL

“This is a wonderful fundraiser, but it is also marketed as a great way to come together, enjoy one another, and have some fun at school,” Sibley said. “Our teachers often donate for students who don’t so that all can participate. We have an amazingly caring group of teachers at DHS. We don’t want anyone excluded.”

