

FAIRVIEW PARK

Gilles-Sweet event looking to help community again

By **BRIAN LOVE**

Have you ever wondered why you never have seen students – and more likely the parents – of Gilles-Sweet Elementary School selling cookie dough, magazine subscriptions or any of the usual fundraisers?

That's because almost 10 years ago, the decision was made to have a road race as the major fundraiser.

The annual Gilles-Sweet Elementary Derby Dash is set for May 20.

Fundraisers are an essential part of educators. While funds are available for most things in running a school, extras to enhance the educational experience for students are needed.

"They put money aside to build a new playground," race spokesperson Allison Klodnick said. "It goes to everything in the building, to run the building: Scholastic News for the kids, field trips, any type of technology. We got a 3D printer that the kids can use. So all of it basically goes back to the kids. A lot of schools do magazine sales, cookie dough sales, stuff like that. This is our school's fundraiser in place of doing any type of sales."

Klodnick is a teacher at the school, and



Photo by Brian Love

The start and finish lines are at the school located at West 220th Street school.

cited other teachers and volunteers that help organize the even that began eight years ago. Matt Krivak, Shanna Kovi, Trish Moran, Dana Reuter, Courtney Rushnok, Abby Wilson, Monica Owen, Maggie Urban, Kathy Tidmore, Keith Jochum, Lisa Zseszotek, Jen Sanow, Maureen McDonald, Jeff LeFevre, Graham Codney, Erin Klear, Clair Schiffman, Nathan Kull, Jess Simmons, Diana Hill and Kelly Ederly are among the people who have come to meetings, gotten sponsors and donations, work the event and gave their time to make the event a success, said Klodnick

The event features four different types of races. At 8:30 a.m., there is a 1-mile run, followed by a 5K run 30 minutes later. There is also a virtual 1-mile run and virtual 5K.

"Those started during COVID," Klodnick said. "People went out and ran, then submitted their times."

Hermes has planned the logistics of the race itself for the past six years. The company plans the route, takes care of pre-registration and takes care of all needs for a quality road race.

But it's more than a road race. The school's PTA will bring in a bounce house, yoga classes will be given, as well as other activities.

"It's a nice community event," Klodnick said. "We've embraced this. It's a lot of fun. We work on this all year."

Cost to pre-register is \$25 for adults and \$15 for 13 and under. Day of the race registration is \$30 for adults and \$20 for 13 and under. For registration or more information, the race's website is found at https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/FairviewPark/GillesSweetElementaryDerbyDash?aft_token=vkmwDmw eQ4iCYn8otSOOnKQ3vCO8buOw

Contact sports at sports@westlifeneews.com or 440-871-5797.