

Students help patients
FUNDRAISER



Clinton Middle School student council members (from left) Hattie Nickles, Emily Frye, Nathan Beeler, Marino Dondego, David Kremer, Elle Davis, Megan Kelly and Becky Selmani collect pennies for leukemia and lymphoma patients on Thursday.

CMS raises funds for Pennies for Patients

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CLINTON - Cancer research and patient support is receiving a boost from Clinton Middle School students this winter.

The school's "Pennies for Patients" campaign is running until March 10, with classes and grade levels competing to donate the most money to the cause. Proceeds will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The campaign is set up in a tiered system, with the students receiving a reward for every \$1,000 raised. After \$1,000, the students will be able to smash a pie in CMS principal Dan Boyd's face; after \$2,000 is raised, the students will be able to witness faculty members kiss a pig; and after \$3,000 is raised, they'll get to see faculty members lip sync to various, predetermined songs and upload the video to YouTube.

It's all for a good cause, even if it means bearing the consequences, Boyd says.

"Not only does this benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, it extends an opportunity for these kids to learn about empathy and helping other people in need," Boyd said. "It's teaching them to work towards a goal and to step up and make an impact." Put into place approximately seven years ago at Lyons Middle School, according to Boyd, Pennies for Patients was something that faculty members felt needed to continue when Lyons and Washington middle schools merged to create CMS in December 2014.

So far, the students this winter have raised well over \$1,000, Boyd said.

Promoting fun and friendly competition among students has put Clinton Middle School on the map as far as cancer research and patient care is concerned. Last year, CMS was one of the top schools in the state when it came to donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"The student council has really embraced the program and ran with it," Boyd said. "It's been an awesome experience, one that's been very positive.

It's shown that our students will step up to help others when they're called to do it."