

**HUDSON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
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Robinson School 3rd Graders win Golden Sneaker Award from Hudson TMA

As experts continue to tout the benefits of walking, Bayonne students joined the pedometer craze and for one week, chose to walk rather than ride. A contest was held at Dr. Walter F. Robinson School as part of a pilot program initiated by the Hudson Transportation Management Association (TMA), aimed at promoting the benefits of walking. Children at the Robinson School were the first in the county to participate in this exciting and educational contest. Students in Ms. Maureen Zackowski's third grade class were the winners of the "Golden Sneaker Award," for walking the most steps in one week.

Students in grades 2 and 3 received pedometers to carry with them to record the number of steps walked during one 24-hour period. The students took turns as they received the pedometers in the morning and were asked to return them to their teacher the next day to pass on to their classmates. The teachers recorded the data and Ms. Zackowski's class came out on top, walking an amazing 86.33 miles!

The Hudson TMA rewarded the winners with a pizza party and the "Golden Sneaker" trophy, which will be displayed in the school. All the children who participated received an honorary certificate to acknowledge their good walking efforts. The top three winners in order were:

- 1st- Mrs. Zackowski's class 3rd Grade – 86.33 miles
- 2nd- Ms. Mary Ann Alessi's class 2nd Grade – 84.0 miles
- 3rd- Mrs. Ashley La Parre's class 3rd Grade – 73.66 miles

"I would like to thank all the students and educators who participated in our pilot program. I think it was so well received because it gave families an opportunity to participate with their children," said Jay DiDomenico, TMA Director of Operations. "After the successful event we had at Robinson School, we are now ready to expand the program to other Hudson County schools this fall."

The Golden Sneaker Award program encourages children to walk more often. The Hudson TMA urges parents to walk their children to as many destinations as possible. It's a good way for families to spend more time together and children learn to make smarter decisions that help reduce traffic and pollution within our community. It also allows them to start a healthy habit now, and still have fun!

Ashley LaParre, 3rd grade teacher and staff coordinator for the contest, offered the following perspective, "As a teacher I particularly liked the opportunity to add other educational components to the contest. Teachers were able to incorporate exercises in mathematics (addition, subtraction, and ordering), science (distance calculation and ecology) and health (benefits of exercise)."

"The Hudson TMA continues to bring exciting new programs to our schools," said Superintendent Patricia McGeehan. "In the past, the Hudson TMA has hosted the "Walk Your Child to School" program throughout Bayonne and Hudson County, promoting healthy and environmentally-friendly practices. Our district was happy to be chosen to be part of the pilot program."

Kevin J. Moran, Principal of Robinson School, echoed the Superintendent's sentiments, "The TMA works successfully toward engaging our students by bringing inventive and fun programs to our school. We are thrilled that they help us promote walking and other 'go green' initiatives."

For more information on how you can bring the Golden Sneaker Award program to your school, please call the Hudson TMA at 201-792-2825.

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