

Erie Elementary School celebrates the success of their Cereal Box Domino Challenge

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Celebrating the success of collecting 500 boxes of cereal for Gleaners Community Food Bank and the Cereal Box Domino Challenge are members of Erie Elementary School's Student Lighthouse Team. GINA JOSEPH - THE MACOMB DAILY

They did it.

The students and teachers at Erie Elementary School in Clinton Township led by the Student Lighthouse Team and PTO -- not only collected 500 boxes of cereal for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan -- but had the thrill of watching them fall like dominos.

"I can't wait," said one of the students sitting on the floor waiting for the countdown during Thursday's event.



Erie Elementary School Principal Jerry Evanski gets the students pumped up for the start of the Cereal Box Domino Challenge. GINA JOSEPH - THE MACOMB DAILY

After taking two hours to line up all of the cereal boxes – starting in the gymnasium and then snaking through the halls and into the lobby – the school’s principal Jerry Evanski announced the start of the Cereal Box Domino Challenge.

One, two, three!

And down they went, one box after another moving much faster than everyone expected including the videographer who chased the river of cereal boxes out of the gym and into the hall.

“It’s pretty awesome,” said Francesca Davis, who watched the event with her fifth-grade class. “It’s cool that we get to donate all of them to a local food bank.”

Allyson Dkolodziej, also a fifth-grader said it was cool to be able to do something fun after all of the COVID stuff.

Jennifer Vonitter, a member of the PTO and videographer for the event concurred.

“It’s been amazing,” Vonitter said. “They needed something like this after having such a difficult year.”

It was fun but also hard work said third-grader Luke Palmeri.



Erie Elementary School's fifth-grade teacher and Student Lighthouse Team sponsor Patty Messenger, prepares the students for Thursday's Cereal Box Domino Challenge. GINA JOSEPH – The MACOMB DAILY

Van Williams agreed. "It was a good idea but kind of hectic for a while. I had one person in my class bring in 12 boxes at once but I won't name any names," said Williams, who is a member of the Student Lighthouse Team led Erie's fifth-grade teacher Patty Messenger.

Messenger got the idea for the challenge from another school and when she pitched it to the PTO and the students on her team they were all for it. "We talked about it and said, 'Yes, let's do it. Let's go out with a bang.'"

It's a good fundraiser. The cereal will help the food bank feed kids all summer," Messenger added.

"It was really fun," said Sophia Dibello, a third-grader who had joined her friends in watching the cereal boxes fall.

"It was fun and exciting," added Lacie Thiel.



Erie Elementary School students cheer during Thursday's Cereal Box Domino Challenge. GINA JOSEPH - THE MACOMB DAILY

"It was fun to watch and I'm glad it's all going to a food bank," Annabel Muscott, a fourth-grader at Erie who joined the other students in clapping and cheering at the close of their grand finale event.

"We loved doing the Cereal Box Challenge at Erie. We are a Leader in Me School, and our Student Lighthouse Team planned and organized the entire event, with the helpful guidance of our Student Lighthouse Team sponsor, Ms. Patty Messenger," said Erie Elementary School Principal Jerry Evanski. "Giving back to the community and getting involved in helping others is a big part of what we believe at Erie. We believe that everyone has genius, and everyone can be a leader. That was so evident in our wonderful event this morning"



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