



Students Log Miles for Dollars in Lafayette Elementary Walk-A-Thon

By Jean Follmer



Lafayette Elementary students participate in their annual walk-a-thon

Photo Jean Follmer

Lafayette Elementary students recently logged many hours and miles to raise money for their school in the annual walk-a-thon. This year's event was co-chaired by Lafayette Elementary parents Melissa Rogan and Jen Stedman and involved 35 additional parent volunteers. Rogan said the event

has been held annually for the past eight years and has historically been a financial success for the school. She said the Lafayette Elementary "made \$14,000 last year and all of the money generated goes to the PTA general fund." Volunteer parent Jenny Berten said "I love the walk-a-thon concept, mostly be-

cause it is a fundraiser that doesn't involve (purchasing) material items and everyone can be a part of the contribution. Most of all, it promotes exercise!"

The students ask for a per lap or lump sum pledge and walk or run as many laps around the school track as they can in 30 minutes.

Rogan said some students are able to run over four miles in that time. Student based incentives are offered and encourage a nearly 100% participation level. Some of the incentives include a gift certificate to the Storyteller, smoothies and bowling and roller skating passes. The Grand Prize this year is a Wii. Rogan said "We try to keep it local and healthy." Each year, Diablo Foods of Lafayette donates juice pops for all the participants.

This is a fun and celebrated activity at Lafayette Elementary and the students take the walk-a-thon seriously. Rogan said "The kids really enjoy it. They ask when the walk-a-thon is every year". Jed Stedman attested to the student commitment level saying "Even the kindergarteners all made it over one mile today." First grader William Berten ran 12 laps for a total of three miles in 30 minutes. He smiled proudly when he told the Lamorinda Weekly, "I raised \$180 dollars for my school."