

Boone fundraising deadline fast approaching

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By Donna Rovins

Just a few days of fundraising remain for the Daniel Boone Public School Initiative.

For the past month, the group has been engaged in a series of events aimed at raising money and awareness, to keep the all day kindergarten program in place.

As the March 27 deadline approaches, the group has been getting the word out to district families; distributing flyers, talking with families and holding weekly meetings.

"We have been getting the word out, and holding events around the district," said Alinda Ferenz, treasurer of the Daniel Boone Public School Initiative.

So far, they have raised about \$50,000, but remain short of the \$425,00, which would allow the district to retain 7 kindergarten teachers and the all day program.

"It has been nice to have everyone come together, said Alinda Ferenz, treasurer. "We were hoping to be farther along. But we'll see this to the end, because it's so important, and you just never know what can happen."

Area businesses have hosted fundraising days for the group, where a percentage of proceeds are being contributed to the effort.

The group also attended kindergarten registration for the school district, talking with parents of incoming kindergartners about the likelihood of half-day kindergarten.

The group is looking for a pledge of \$2,000 from each family with an incoming kindergartner.

"I think people are waiting to see what other families are going to do, before they make a move," Ferenz added.

Ferenz said the group has about 33 core members, but many more families and businesses have become involved.

Chris Gatz, Douglassville, supports the initiative and helped during the kindergarten registration.



A recent fundraising event at Michael's Family Restaurant in Douglassville brought families from across the Daniel Boone School District. Here, a group of incoming kindergartners and a few older siblings come out to support the initiative.

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“Offering and all day kindergarten is important,” she said. “I don’t believe the kids can learn what they need to in a 3 hour timeframe.”

Melissa Aidukas, Douglassville, has hosted Mommy and Me candymaking classes, with proceeds going to the effort. “This is my service, to an important issue,” she said.

For Leslie Rotter, Douglassville, it’s important to fit all the academic needs into the day, “and still have time to play and create,” she said. “We can’t afford to go backward.”

Rotter has a son entering kindergarten in the fall, as well as a daughter currently in third grade.

Madelyn Rotter, 8, said that at first she said she didn’t think it was fair her brother would be in school for half a day when she had to go for the whole day.

“Going to kindergarten all day is fun,” she said. “You have more time to do projects and more time for learning and sitting on the carpets.”