

Wall residents invited to pep rally and bonfire on Sept. 6

BY SANNE YOUNG
THE COAST STAR

WALL TOWNSHIP — All Wall residents are invited to a free, town-wide bonfire and pep rally at the Wall Township High School stadium at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6.

For the first time, prior to the pep rally, teams from each of the four elementary schools — Central, West Belmar, Allenwood and Old Mill — will compete for the shiny new Crimson Cup, which resembles the Stanley Cup.

"It's an opportunity to bring every one of our seven schools together as one Wall," said Roseann Tsandiotis, president of the Crimson Knights Foundation, which is sponsoring the event. "We're looking to boost community pride."

Michael Parnell, a co-chair of the event, said, "We thought that a better way to tie the mission of bringing pride and community spirit to Wall is to get more elementary school kids involved."

Each school draws the names of five students for each grade out of a hat, and those teams will compete on

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ROSEANN TSANDIOTIS Crimson Knights Foundation President

behalf of their school, in events such as a relay race, sack race and tug-of-war, he said.

The team that racks up the most points will win the Crimson Cup, and will have the honor of displaying it in their school's front lobby for a year, until next year's competition, Mr. Parnell said.

The evening also will include musical performances by the high school and intermediate school bands, and carnival games.

The high school sports teams will be introduced, and the night will be topped off with a pep rally and bonfire adjacent to the football field.

The Crimson Knight Foundation will have a donation jar, and will be selling tickets for a 50/50 raffle.

The Crimson Knights Foundation also raises funds by sponsoring business signage on the football field, and it is planning a gala for November.

"Our goal is to support excellence in our children and the key to that is getting community support," Ms. Tsandiotis said.

The district is facing funding challenges, she said, and the foundation helps it to "bridge the gap," especially in the areas of sports, music and the arts.

Last year, the foundation donated \$12,000 to the district to help offset the cost of the new sound system at the high school stadium, she said, and this year, the foundation hopes to make a donation to offset the cost of new lighting in the auditorium.

The rain date for the pep rally and bonfire is Wednesday, Sept. 19.

The stadium is located at Wall Township High School, 1630 18th Ave.

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COURTESY OF ROSEANN TSANDIOTIS

The Crimson Knights Foundation held its first town-wide bonfire and pep rally last year. This year's event will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6.