



DANIELLA HEMINGHAUS THE COAST STAR

A team of fifth-graders from Old Mill Elementary School muscled its way to a win in the tug-of-war competition.

Old Mill wins inaugural Crimson Cup competition

BY SANNE YOUNG
THE COAST STAR

WALL TOWNSHIP — Old Mill Elementary School prevailed in the first-ever Crimson Cup competition held during a pep rally at Wall High School stadium Thursday, Sept. 6.

Students had to wait until this week, however, for the presentation of the cup because school officials ordered everyone off the field around 7:45 p.m. Thursday as ominous rain clouds rolled in and lightning was spotted. A bonfire scheduled for later in the evening was canceled.

The competition pitted the four elementary schools — Old Mill, Central, West Belmar and Allenwood — against one another in relay races and tugs of war.

“It was amazing. It was really fun to be out there,” said Thomas Plisky, a fifth-grader who anchored Old Mill Elementary School’s tug-of-war team.

The teams from each school wore school-color T-shirts: brown for the West Belmar Bears, red for the



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Kristen Campbell and Jack Moran encourage children from West Belmar Elementary School during the Crimson Cup competition on Sept. 6.

Central School Roadrunners, blue for the Old Mill Bulldogs and green for the Allenwood Dragons.

The first grade had a tennis ball relay race; the second grade, a football relay; and the third grade, a volleyball relay.

For their relay race, fourth-graders had to pull an oversized T-shirt over their clothes, and then take



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The Crimson Cup will be displayed at Old Mill Elementary School for a year until next fall’s competition and pep rally, sponsored by the Crimson Knights Foundation.

it off and hand it to the next player to put on.

Fifth-graders had tug-of-war competitions.

Lynn Scott, whose son, Brody, competed in the fourth-grade’s relay race, was watching from the bleachers.

“I’m all about the school and all about the kids. I loved it. It gets all the schools together — great interaction,” said Ms. Scott, who is co-president of the West Belmar Parents Teachers Association.

Sophia Patruno, whose daughter is in the marching band, described the competition as “Awesome, despite the weather.”

The event was sponsored by the Crimson Knight Foundation, which raises money for programs and purchases — especially in music, the arts and sports — over and above what the school district provides.

“The kids seemed to have a blast. Everyone was into cheering,” said Michael Parnell, a member of the foundation board of trustees. “I’m sure we’ll get a good participation next year.”

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