

WEDNESDAY, **SEPTEMBER 24, 2014**

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St. Pat's students raise money to support classmate with blood disorder



Students at St. Patrick School raised over \$7,000 to support their classmate, Nick Karavite, who was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder in July. He received a bone marrow transplant from his 6-year-old sister Mandy, who is pictured with him here.

(Photos courtesy of St. Patrick School.)

**BY ALI ARMSTRONG
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The temperature outside early last Monday morning was a cool 50 degrees when St. Patrick School Assistant Principal Jeremy Clark was dumped with 15 gallons of ice water.

The second year assistant principal had accepted the viral ALS "Ice Bucket Challenge", but with a

twist.

At the beginning of the school year Clark had challenged his students, preschool through eighth grade, to raise money to support the Great Lakes Bone Marrow Transplant Fund through HelpH-OPELive in honor of St. Pat's eighth grader Nick Karavite.

Karavite was diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia, a

ST. PAT'S STUDENTS
Continues on page A4



The school's assistant principal Jeremy Clark challenged his students to raise money to support Karavite's medical expenses. The three classrooms that raised the most got to dump the assistant principal with buckets of ice water.

ST. PAT'S STUDENTS , Continued from page A1

rare blood disorder, in July. After a round of chemotherapy, he received a bone marrow transplant from his 6-year-old sister, Mandy, a first grader at St. Pat's. However, he still continues to travel to U of M in Ann Arbor several times a week for treatment.

"Once I learned about Nick's condition, I thought this would be a wonderful idea to use the ice bucket challenge that everyone has heard of and it be a way to bring in more than I would have been able to donate myself," Clark said. "I've always seen my students as my own children and if I could use the marketing campaign for ALS to help one of my own kids, I would do it. That was the whole point behind it."

As part of the challenge, the top three classrooms that raised the most money would get to dump the ice water on their assistant principal. It was modeled after the recently popular ALS "Ice Bucket Challenge", which many around the nation have done to raise money for research on

amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

In just under a week the students raised over \$7,000 to be donated to the Great Lakes Bone Marrow Transplant Fund, which will help cover Karavite's uninsured medical expenses. A total of \$7,761 had been raised with money still coming in.

Clark also challenged two other catholic schools in the area to do the same and "send some of the love to another charity that deserves it."

"I knew we had a wonderful school community, but I had no idea of the generosity. We had students donating hundreds of their own dollars," Clark said. "I can't even describe what I was feeling to know that this one small idea I had could make as big of an impact."

Those who would like to donate to the HelpHOPELive fund in Karavite's name can visit <https://m.helphopelive.org/campaign/5171?3.7.748>. To date, \$9,558 of the fund's \$25,000 goal has been raised.