

Roseville

California

Fund Run cooks up donations for schools

Culinary class prepares meal to feed hungry runners

By Eileen Wilson Press Tribune Correspondent



Anne Stokes/The Press Tribune

And they're off! Some runners are off to an early lead in the kid's one mile race.

A sea of white and green T-shirts descended on Granite Bay High School Sunday for Eureka Schools Foundation's third annual Fund Run.

Runners and walkers of all ages joyfully huffed and puffed up East Roseville Parkway, breathing hard for a good cause — a cause that supports important school programs like music, libraries, athletics and technology.

While everyone loves supporting a good cause, many runners appreciated the health and social benefits of the run as well.

"We have about 200 of our school's kids out here today — it's a fundraiser, but we also want to expose our students to different kinds of fitness," said Nicole Taylor, physical education teacher at

Olympus Junior High School. "A lot of them haven't been exposed to this kind of event before."

According to Liz Campo, secretary at Cavitt Junior High School, there was a large contingent of Cavitt students on hand as well.

From little kids in strollers to big kids with iPods, the day was about family fun, and school collaboration. Though Eureka Union schools will benefit from the fundraiser, Granite Bay High School's Culinary Arts students benefited as well.

"My advanced culinary students at Granite Bay and my ROP students from all over Placer County partnered to prepare 650 pancake breakfasts for the event," said Angela Ash, Granite Bay High's culinary arts instructor. "We prepared and served using our training and resources here in our classroom kitchen. ESF gathered donations from businesses in the community for ingredients, coffee, sausage, etc, and ESF generously split the proceeds from the \$5 meal, which we use toward improving the students' experiences through guest chef visits, trips, and special ingredients. The biggest bonus is students' experience with large group catering — the math, the costing, planning and execution of an outdoor event, in particular, is challenging."

Granite Bay High senior, Alex Bensen, agreed.

"It's a really big job trying to plan for such a large crowd — being able to anticipate all the problems that could possibly happen, plus factors that we can't control such as weather," Bensen said. "But we've learned to always be prepared, and we have found that having extra food on hand and ready is the best way to prepare for such an event."

Bensen, who will attend the Hospitality Management Program at Cal Poly Pomona in the fall, loves seeing the event come together each year and especially likes seeing people enjoy their delicious breakfasts.

"It's very rewarding, knowing you did a good job," she said.

A dedicated dining area was filled with families enjoying the culinary class' labor of love. Del Oro High School ROP student Conner Luker collected breakfast tickets from the hungry hoards. "I'm partnering in this event to increase my knowledge and increase my involvement in the program," he said.

Short stacks of hotcakes, sausage patties, and the sugary-good scent of syrup wafted around those wandering in from the finish line.

Though some walked, crossing the finish line with a time of 50 minutes or more, the overall first-place finisher was Paul Zeiss, a Cavitt Junior High student, with a time of 17 minutes. The first female to cross the finish line was Sydney Ladrech, an Olympus Junior High student, with a time of 20:36.