

Chatham Middle School
SADD Club
Battle of the Belts – April, 2011

Dear Sean's Run Committee Members:

Due to the generosity of the \$500 Sean's Run Grant, Chatham Middle School was able sponsor a CMS Battle of the Belts, April 27, 2011.

Chatham Middle School SADD Club held an informational meeting about the background of Sean's Run and the importance of making healthy choices. CMS Principal, Mr. Fitting spoke to the students interested in competing in the Battle of Belts about the seriousness of their participation. There was a question and answer period about drug and alcohol use and a discussion on the benefits of healthy decision making.

Students were asked to form teams of four for purposes of competing. The teams of four were asked to talk about healthy decision making and come up questions or concerns which were used in the above mentioned discussion. Students then came up with team names and used them to decorate t-shirts afforded by the Sean's Run Grant.

Chatham Police Officers, Deputies and Chief of Police were all on hand to assist in the event. Twenty-eight teams of four participated. Chatham Middle School Physical Education Teacher, John Rivers donated his car and setup the front lawn for the event. Teaching Assistant and Advisor, Camille Freedner organized and coordinated the students and Teaching Assistant, Jaimee Boehme helped record times. Jessica Shufelt from Columbia County STOP DWI donated gifts for winners of the fastest time, best t-shirt design and loudest cheering section. Also, Sean's Run Grant monies paid for local ice cream certificates, local toy store certificates and Bagel Café certificates. Grant money was used to pay for eight students (one 5th & 6th grade team and one 7th & 8th grade team) to participate in Sean's Run and for a pizza celebration afterwards along with discussion about the benefits of participating and making healthy choices. Middle School 7th and 8th graders won at Sean's Run for Loudest Cheering Section. A fun learning experience was had by all.

Photos were taken of both events and are posted on the Chatham Middle School website under Character Events. Photos were sent to the newspapers, however, since the Sean's Run event was already printed, we are still waiting to see if they will print our Middle School story.

Thank you for affording this rewarding and fun experience to the Chatham Middle School Students!

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