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Wednesday, January 13, 2021

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## Christ the King students celebrate Bills playoff through festive pep rally

by SAMANTHA FLAVELL  
Editor

Students and teachers from Christ the King School in Snyder gathered on the Main Street sidewalk between Kings Highway and Lamarck Drive on Friday, Jan. 8 decked out in Bills gear, masks and handmade signs, to brighten the day of those who pass by and celebrate the Bills making it to the playoffs.

The approximately 20-minute-long event was dubbed a unique pep rally by Christ the King School Principal Maria Wangler.

“We decided that we needed to show people that you know we can still have fun, enjoy the Bills and bring some excitement to the kids,” Wangler said. “We can still be outside and have our masks on and support our local team.”

This is not the first show of support for the hometown football favorite team. Christ the King has been relishing the Bills success all while also given back to those in need.

“This [football] season we’ve been having dress down days

for the Buffalo Bills and a dollar donation which we’ve donated to the Buffalo City Mission while still supporting our Buffalo Bills and kind of making it exciting that way,” Wangler said. “We did that during Thanksgiving and during Christmas. We wanted to do the charity things that we have done and still try to give back to people who need it.”

According to Jeanne Ernst, director of development at Christ the King, the students raised \$400 for the City Mission during the two “dollar dress down day” fundraising events. Along with the monetary donation, the students also made numerous cards and crafts which were delivered to the City Mission just before Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday season.

Like many from our local communities, the students and staff at Christ the King have been enthusiastically following the Bills season and wanted to take the time

to celebrate their success together and bring some happiness and cheer to what is still an uncertain and challenging time due to the pandemic.

“It really stemmed from talking about supporting the Bills either way like we’ve been doing since November,” Wangler said. “Either way, win or lose we’ve been having our Bills days.”

In addition to the dollar dress down days, the Christ the King staff wanted to brainstorm a fun and safe idea for students to get a change of scenery, cheer on the

Bills and maybe even bring a smile to the faces of some members of their community.

“The kids are very excited,” Wangler said the Wednesday before the pep rally. “Even on the announcements in the morning, I usually do it on Mondays in the morning after a game and now I’ll do it Friday morning also. We play on the loudspeakers ‘The Bills make me wanna shout’ in the school and that gets them excited too.”

The pep rally was planned in about a week. Teachers worked with their individual classes to decide what they wanted to make to carry and display while lined on the sidewalk.

“Each teacher will be responsible for their class,” Wangler said. “And each teacher started planning what they’re going to actually be holding up when we’re standing on Main Street. ... Some [classes] will be doing signs, some are actually making their own pom-



Christ the King students and staff wore masks during the pep rally. Each student had their own sidewalk square to stand in to keep them organized and spaced apart during the event.

Photo by Don Daly

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poms. Some are making an actual Buffalo Bill [logo] and we’ll all be dressed down in our Bills clothing.”

All students and staff wore masks during the pep rally.

“Each student will be standing in a sidewalk block. So this way they have their own spaces. If we need to have a row behind we will do the same thing. So, we’ll have a line literally more than a block down [Main Street] it’s a pretty big area,” Wangler said. “I don’t know exactly how long

it will take. It will be cold but I think everyone will be jumping around anyway because they’re so excited.”

Christ the King School, 2 Lamarck Drive, Snyder, is a private Catholic school that instructs 185 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

“It’s a team effort,” Wangler said. “The teachers work together and once we have an idea we all work together to figure out how we’re actually going to follow through with it and carry it out.”



Students at Christ the King school in Snyder raised \$400 for the Buffalo City Mission and made numerous cards and crafts for the people at the Mission which were delivered by Suzanne Cervi, the school’s manager of volunteers. Pictured are Jeanne Ernst, left, Maria Wangler and Suzanne Cervi dropping off the first batch of crafts and money at the mission.

Photo provided by Jeanne Ernst



Christ the King students excitedly jumped up and down with their signs, waving at passing cars and pedestrians while dressed in their Bills gear to celebrate the Bills season so far.

Photo by Don Daly

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