

MILTON COMMUNITY NEWS RELEASE

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Milton Monster Dash Road Race Takes Place October 29

The eighth annual Milton Monster Dash takes off at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 29, 2006 from Cunningham Park as several hundred participants – from the competitive to the costumed – run, jog and walk the course to raise money to benefit the Sam Cichello Memorial Fund, which supports science enrichment in the Milton schools.

The race, held in memory of the Tucker Elementary School student who died following a playground accident in 1999, will help Milton Public Schools science coordinator Barbara Plonski undertake hands-on science lessons, train teachers and partner with the Blue Hills Trailside Museum on a number of educational projects.

“Every year, we truly appreciate the people – our friends, neighbors and total strangers – who come out to have fun and remember Sam and help other kids enjoy the science in school,” said Tony Cichello, Sam’s father. “We’re looking forward to the race and seeing all the familiar faces.”

Staying true to Sam’s penchant for fun, many runners of all ages wear their Halloween costumes for the 5 kilometer race through neighborhood streets. At Cunningham Foundation, onlookers and racers are treated to Java Jo’s coffee, bagels, fruit, snacks and the highly anticipated Konditor Meister cake. A disc jockey provides entertainment and free sports massages are available.

In addition to the 5-K run, there are children’s races on the Cunningham fields for young runners.

“Milton is a real runners’ town and the support for the Monster Dash has been tremendous every year,” said Dr. Steve Windwer, who has coordinated the race since its inception. “This is a road race that’s more about fun and helping out than about split times. What’s better than a nice run on a fall afternoon?”

For serious runners, the course is supervised by Josh Nemzer, a veteran race organizer, and a computerized finish line is provided by Spitler. The course includes water stations and refreshments at the finish. Prizes and trophies are awarded to the top male and female finishers, as well as age-group winners.

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Last year, Patrick Finn, 18, of Milton, won the men's race, covering the course in a time of 18:59, while the women's race winner was Suzanne Walmsley in a time of 19:30.

Proceeds from The Monster Dash, which raised approximately \$10,000 last year, are stewarded by the Milton Foundation for Education, which works closely with the Milton Public Schools and the Cichello family to develop science enrichment programming. After funding science workshops and visits by the Mad Science lecturers, Sam's Fund last year created Project SAM, or Science Across Milton, which supports a science coordinator and reaches across several elementary school grades.

Last year, Milton Public Schools worked with the Blue Hills Trailside Museum to provide earth sciences education that is tied to the state's science curriculum frameworks. Fifth-graders, who are tested at the end of the year for their science knowledge, visited the museum to construct their own science displays. Third graders received demonstrations by the older students.

For more information about the Monster Dash, see www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org.

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