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## Student frenzy benefits foundation

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SPARTA — Alpine School held its annual Fitness Frenzy event on May 20. The proceeds this year go to the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey. About 720 children, 40 teachers, and many class parent volunteers, walked one mile to raise awareness about this medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions.

According to event Co-chairperson Sarah Dau, there are families at Alpine who are affected by epilepsy, which is one of the reasons why it was chosen as this year's recipient of Fitness Frenzy.

Dau coordinated the event along with fellow Alpine parent Kristine Simmons. They received \$3,053.37 in donations by the students, their families, and the Alpine staff.

The foundation sends children with epilepsy to Camp Nova, its summer camp in Branchville. This year it lost some of the funding to do that. The cost is \$1,200 per camper per week. "We have enough to send two children and a little more than a half scholarship for a third," said Dau. "Children helping children — it is a beautiful thing!"

Prior to the walk, people from the foundation visited the school to educate the children on epilepsy awareness, first aid, and how to be a good friend to other children who have epilepsy.

Many children incorrectly believed epilepsy was contagious.

Despite the arrival of spring fever, the students demonstrated their camaraderie during the walk on a sunny afternoon. Some classes sang camp songs or chanted, "We will, we will, rock you!"

Three Alpine students, Cameron Leary, Emily Opresnick, and Faith Stewart, made signs asking for support, along with a donation box. They raised an additional \$21.56.

Upon returning to their classroom the students received chilled oranges and gratitude from teachers and class parents.

For more information about the Epilepsy Foundation or to make a donation go to [www.efnj.com](http://www.efnj.com)

