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School Notebook: Students wear pajamas as part of a fundraiser

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By Star-Ledger Staff

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UNION — On Nov. 23, it didn't take Washington Elementary School students long to get ready for school; they got to wear their pajamas.

They were taking part in a "Monkey in My Chair" fundraiser for children too sick with cancer to attend school.

In exchange for \$1, students are allowed to wear their pajamas to school for the day. The money raised is used to purchase stuffed monkey kits for the families of sick children. The kits contain a stuffed monkey, a book that explains the illness to the class and a teacher's guide. The monkey sits in the child's chair at school as a reminder of the student who is missing and to encourage students to write to their absent classmate.



Washington Elementary School teacher Suzanne Diaz, students Joseph Riccio, Deep Patel, Robert Beneteau, Aryan Patel, teacher Sandra Santora and student Kailey McDonough wear pajamas to school for the "Monkey in My Chair" fundraiser.

The students learned of the fundraiser after a Washington Elementary School employee had a young family member diagnosed with brain cancer.

The Washington Elementary students raised \$1,026 for "Monkey in My Chair."

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