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School Supports Kindergartener With Cancer

Caleb Gulizia, 6, Has Rare Form Of Brain Cancer

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OMAHA, Neb. -- Reeder Elementary School is rallying around one of its youngest students. Kindergarten student Caleb Gulizia spent his last day at school this week before leaving to undergo cancer treatment.

Caleb's mother, Donna Gulizia, said her son has been battling a rare form of brain cancer that has no known cure. Although the tumor has been removed from his brain, he has been suffering from a series of strokes.

"He can say words, just not very much," she said. "He lost strength in his hands and legs. Eating, we're having trouble with that."

She said he doesn't usually get a chance to play like most children his age.

"He doesn't run and play and jump or play soccer or kick balls," she said. "He just can't do it."

His latest troubles mean going back to a hospital for rehabilitation, meaning he can't go to school anymore. His kindergarten year ended on Wednesday.

"(It's) just tough that he's not there," said Caleb's friend, Kaben Steenbock.

To send him off in style, his classmates threw a party that helped him raise funds.

"We did 'Caps for the Cure' so we could find a cure for the doctors," Steenbock said.

With hats on their heads and support in their hearts, the students raised hundreds of dollars for pediatric brain tumor research.

"Even though you didn't know them, you knew you were doing the right thing," said organizer Lainey Fleener.

Caleb's mother said it was something good at a time when everything seems wrong.

Caleb will be in rehabilitation for six hours every day for a couple of months. Doctors are optimistic that he will be able to gain some of his verbal skills back.

"It's kind of almost just watch and wait," said Gulizia.

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