

Fourth graders enjoy fun, competition at jamboree

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COLLINSVILLE - Postponed on May 1 due to rain, the Collinsville School District’s Fourth Grade Jamboree was rescheduled for May 6, at Kahok Stadium.

The annual jamboree is an Olympic-styled, fun and friendly, outdoor athletic competition held at Kahok Stadium, according to CUSD 10 Public Relations Liaison, Kimberly Collins. “It’s a day when every fourth grader in our community comes together to celebrate the end of the school year and enjoy athletic activities.”

The district hosts the event and it is strictly for all fourth-grade students in the district’s public and private schools. Each year, there are approximately 600 students who participate.

During the competition, participating students earn ribbons and special recognition for placing in the top spots of each event.

Events included: 50-meter and 100-meter dashes, a half-mile run, 50-meter Relay and a shuttle run. Field events included a softball throw, soccer punt, bean bag toss, long jump and pyramid building.

The day ended with a tug-of-war competition between the schools. The winning class/school earns bragging rights for the upcoming school year and takes home a wres-

ting-style golden championship belt to display for the next year, according to Collins.

“Although some of the events get pretty competitive, the goal is for everyone to have a good time,” Collins said. “It’s quite a sight to see all the schools parading into Kahok Stadium walking behind their school banners.”

According to Collins, the Fourth Grade Jamboree grew from the tradition of the Junior Olympics that was held for Collinsville elementary students. She reminisced about memories of older adults who attended Collinsville public schools parading through town to the football stadium across from the old Collinsville High School on Vandalia.

“The decision to focus on fourth graders is a reflection of our elementary schools’ highest grade-level following the creation of Dorris Intermediate School as a fifth- and sixth-grade center in the early 2000s,” Collins said. “In recent years, we began inviting non-public schools to participate, making it a community-wide event, not just a school district event.”

Each year, the Jamboree is produced by a well-coordinated team led by Collinsville Middle School physical education (PE) teacher, Ryan Sidwell. Other district PE teachers jumped in to help make the event a success as well as a group of volunteers who also



Fourth-grade girls take off at the start of the 800m run during Collinsville Schools’ Fourth Grade Jamboree on May 7. The original date was cancelled due to rain. (Dee Ursery photo)

came out to help, according to Collins.

Collinsville High School Athletic Director Clay Smith makes sure Kahok Stadium is set-up and ready to go for the big day and the district’s food service provider, Sodexo, prepared and served a healthy lunch onsite for all of the competitors, volunteers and adult chaperones. Bus transportation to bring all participating

students to Kahok Stadium was coordinated by Assistant Superintendent Brad Hyre in partnership with First Student.

“CUSD 10 student resource officers provided security and even our school nurses got involved by staffing a first-aid tent at the event,” Collins said. “This big group of CUSD 10 staff works hard to make sure the Jamboree is a seamless operation so the students can en-

joy the day.”

Each child who participates in the Jamboree receives a complimentary T-shirt that is color coded by school. This would not be possible without the generous sponsors who provide funding for the shirts and other event costs. Their organizations are listed on the back of the shirts.

The district showed their gratitude by thanking the fol-

lowing for their support of the 2025 Fourth Grade Jamboree: Abstracts and Titles, Inc., Agavero Grill and Cantina, Busey Banks, Collinsville Area Community Foundation. The Collinsville Township, CMC Rotary, FCB Banks, First Student, Holland Construction Services, Inc. and Millennium Construction, LLC.

Keep the party going: avoid releasing Mylar balloons outdoors

ST. LOUIS - Spring is a popular time of year for families and friends to gather and celebrate special occasions such as graduation and other milestones. But to keep the celebrations safe, Ameren is urging customers to be careful when using Mylar balloons.

Mylar balloons, while festive, can cause power outages and safety issues when they come into contact with electric power lines or equipment. These metallic balloons conduct electricity, leading to surges and shorts that can disrupt power, start fires and damage the electric grid.

Last year alone, there were hundreds of balloon-related outages nationwide. Ameren has responded to more than

170 balloon-related outages since 2021, with an average duration of 111 minutes, impacting over 14,000 customers.

“We’re not trying to be the balloon police. We understand that this is a time for celebrating graduations, weddings, birthdays and spring holidays,” said Patrick Smith, senior vice president of operations and technical services for Ameren Illinois. “We want to remind everyone to keep balloons tethered and weighted during use, and properly puncture and dispose of them afterward to prevent them from escaping and causing issues with our power lines and substations.”

Mylar balloons also pose a safety hazard for line workers who must safely remove them

from high voltage lines.

“Mylar balloons may look fun and innocent, but when released near power lines, they cause major issues. They pose significant safety risks and can result in complex cleanup tasks before service can be restored,” said Ben Lynch, director of distribution operations for Ameren Missouri. “A little extra precaution can truly help us keep the lights on.”

If you see a Mylar balloon entangled in electric infrastructure, always assume the line is live and do not attempt to remove it yourself. Instead, call Ameren Illinois at 1-800-755-5000 or Ameren Missouri at 1-800-552-7583, and a crew will be dispatched to safely handle the situation.

What’s Happening at Tri-Township Park Library District

June Open Registration!
Event registration for June is now open! Please visit us at www.troylibrary.org/calendar to sign up for all your favorite programs.

Weekly Play Group
Thursdays (10 a.m.). Bring your little ones (ages 0-5) for a delightful morning of fun and friendship! We’ll kick things off with 20 minutes of engaging music and playful rhymes, followed by 40 minutes of age-appropriate exploration at our interactive centers. It’s the perfect opportunity for children to learn through play and for caregivers to connect and build new friendships. We can’t wait to see you there!

Mrs. Barbour’s Book Buddies
May 15 (6 p.m.). Join Mrs. Barbour on the third Thursday of each month as you read a few books and participate in a craft. **Registration Required.

Weekly Movin’ & Groovin’
Mondays (5:30 p.m.) in-person and on Zoom. Saturdays (9:30 a.m.) on Zoom. Join us for an energizing low-impact aerobic dance class that’s perfect for all fitness levels and music tastes! Whether you love grooving to oldies or are simply looking for a fun way to boost your fitness, this class has something for you. Contact the library for the Zoom link (info@troylibrary.org).

Weekly Story Time
Mondays at 10 a.m. Bring your little ones for a fun-filled start to the day! Our story time features 30 minutes of engaging songs and an exciting story, followed by playtime at our interactive activity centers. It’s a great way for children to develop a love of reading, music and social interaction.

Weekly Virtual Simple Tai Chi
Wednesdays (9:30 a.m.) on Zoom. A mind and body class utilizing Tai Chi movements to help increase strength, balance and mindfulness. Contact the library to join.

LEGO Club
May 21 (3:30 p.m.). Do you love building with LEGO bricks? Each month, we’ll introduce a different theme, turn you loose on the library’s LEGO collection to build something awesome, and let you show off your creation in our display case!

Anime Club
May 21 (5:30 p.m.). Grades 6-12. Join us while we watch anime or read and draw Japanese artwork with snacks!

Spinning Yarns
May 21 (6 p.m.). Spinning Yarns is a social gathering for our knit and crochet community. Join us to exchange ideas in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Adult Book Club
May 23 (10 a.m.) and May 27 (6:30 p.m.). At our May meeting, we will be discussing Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.

Color Our World Summer Reading Kick-Off
May 24 (9 - 11 a.m.) at Tri-Township Park District. Join us for a thrilling Sum-

mer Reading Kick-Off at the Tri-Township Park and Color Our World with us! Experience a morning of excitement with: A bounce house and inflatable obstacle course, face painting and balloon creations, FREE ice cream when you register for Summer Reading, FREE books, local vendor booths and the bubble bus! Everyone is welcome!

The Scrappy Junk Journal Club
May 24 (1 p.m.). Come make a junk journal with us! A Junk Journal is a handmade book of recycled and found materials. The pages can be used to write, draw, paint, or record memories, thoughts and ideas. Patrons must bring their own supplies.

Kindermusik
May 27 (10 a.m.). Kindermusik is a music-based education program that uses music to help children learn. Kindermusik classes provide a playful, nurturing environment where children can learn by singing, moving, playing instruments and listening to stories.

Messy Hands
May 28 (3:30 p.m.). Come explore different sensory stations with us! The best part is that the mess stays with us! Sometimes clothes can get messy, so we recommend wearing comfortable clothes you wouldn’t mind getting a little dirty.

Family Story Time
May 31 (9:30 a.m.). Join us for a story time at the library with our friends from the Central Institute for the Deaf. We will share a story, sing, dance and play!



Mrs. Whitener’s class of Kreitner Elementary claimed the tug of war championship belt. (Dee Ursery photo)



Maryville Elementary girls were first place in the relay race. (Dee Ursery photo)



SS Peter & Paul fourth-graders march toward Kahok Stadium. (Dee Ursery photo)



Caseville Elementary fourth-graders begin their march into Kahok Stadium. (Dee Ursery photo)



Fourth-grade boys line up for the 800-meter run. (Dee Ursery photo)



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