

HFEE's 6th annual "Battle of the Faculties" delivers "thrills and bills" in Holmdel

The Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence (HFEE) hosted their "Battle of the Faculties" on March 21st at Holmdel High School. The event is an athletic and skills competition between teams comprised of faculty members representing their respective schools. It has become one of the HFEE's most popular fundraisers as it delivers excitement and fun for the entire community while raising money that supports initiatives which benefit all of the schools in Holmdel School District.



(The team from Indian Hill School celebrates their victory of the Battle of the Faculties at Holmdel High School)

The event began with members of the Holmdel High School Chorus singing the National Anthem. The night concluded with Indian Hill School victorious, winning the competition for the first time in the event's six year history. Holmdel High School and Village School have two championships to their names with Satz claiming a win as well. A travelling trophy is kept in the office of the winning school until the competition the following year. William Loughran, Principal at Satz School, was emcee for the night.

The contest included 10 different games over the course of the evening. Some matches tested the teams' wits such as "name that tune" and "trivial pursuit". Others were athletic competitions such as hula hoops, the dance-off, 3 point shooting and the 3 legged race. The "battle" also featured games of skill such as "cup stacking" and the "egg relay" with the infamous "shoe mountain" thrown in just for fun.

It's rare that the faculties from all of the district's schools come together for an event at one location. As a result, school spirit is on full display and the competition is fierce. In the end, tremendous fun is had by the competitors as well as the sellout crowd despite only one school securing "bragging rights" for the year.

The other by-product of the event is the financial support that the Battle of the Faculties delivers each year. Through the sale of 800 tickets and the raffle held, this year's event set a new record, raising over \$11,700 for the HFEE. The proceeds will support the foundation's 2019 project, which is the new playground at Village School as well as the min-grant program which benefits all of the schools in the district.



(Pictured left to right: Susan Hammer, HFEE Trustee; Lisa Marino, Principal, Indian Hill School; Michelle Sottile, HFEE Co-Chair; Michael Ferrarese, Assistant Principal, Indian Hill School)

Susan Hammer, a trustee of the HFEE and coordinator of the Battle of the Faculties, was very pleased with the turnout. “I love this event”, she said with pride. “The students of Holmdel schools have the opportunity to cheer on their teachers as they battle for them. The teachers participate to help raise funds to enhance the teaching and learning experience for their students. The energy and spirit by both staff and students is astonishing to me. We are very thankful for all of the participants and our supporters.”

The Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence is a non-profit organization governed by community member volunteers dedicated to enhancing the educational experience of the students of every school in the district. If you have interest in making difference by becoming a trustee, please contact the HFEE to learn more.

If you would like to support the HFEE, please donate by visiting hfee.org/give.