

# Glen Ridge

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## Glen Ridge's Forest Avenue School celebrates water

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Glen Ridge Voice

On Friday, May 17, the students of Forest Avenue School participated in their final action for the "2013 Celebration of Water" by walking to school wearing blue and donating over \$1,300, to Ryan's Well Foundation, most of which was comprised of quarters.



**PHOTO COURTESY OF ILIANA MARTINEZ**

*Forest Avenue School students from left JD Pine, Maude Hero and Will Benson participate in '2013 Celebration of Water.'*

During May, students participated in classroom activities and an assembly visit by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission to raise money for the Ghana School Challenge through Ryan's Well Foundation. Over a period of a week, the school had a "Water Celebration" and the Community Service Committee visited each of the pre-K through second-grade classrooms to teach students the importance of water conservation, the need for clean water in various areas of the world, and most importantly, how each of them can make a difference in the world. Ryan's

story was discussed and the children were truly inspired. They also took a pledge to conserve water and held a "Quest for Quarters" fund drive to raise funds for the Ghana Project. The fund drive consisted of each student counting the number of times they used water in one day and donating a quarter for each time. The last big event was walking to school, wearing blue, to represent the color of water and be reminded that so many are required to do this daily for water.

Deborah Fitzpatrick, Forest Avenue School principal, was thrilled with the children's desire to raise money to help children around the globe get clean water.

"We had a goal of collecting \$1,000, which would allow 1,960 children to have clean, safe drinking water. But, because of the children's enthusiasm, we surpassed our goal." Jennifer Pine, Community Service Committee, co-chair in charge of the project, explained the committee's desire to execute this project was to "Teach the students that they can make a difference even at their age and instill the necessity to protect the resource of water. It's that easy. Quarters are fun for the children to count, were earned from the children, and sound wonderful when dropped into a bucket for a good cause!"

Forest Avenue School's "Water Day" wraps up the Community Service Committee's activities for the year. In addition to Water Day, the committee also executed a Thanksgiving Food Drive where families donated food items to St. Peter Claver Church in Montclair. –