Montour and Hopewell Area School Districts rallied together May 18 at the Montour High School campus to show support and help raise money for the family of two local educators enduring the unthinkable.

Natalie Rowe is a learning support teacher at Montour High School, and her husband, Doug, is an assistant principal at Hopewell Area High School. In April, their three-year-old son, Charlie, was diagnosed with Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare and aggressive pediatric cancer that had spread to stage four. Charlie is on an extremely intense, year-long chemotherapy treatment plan at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Upon receiving the news, teachers and administrators from both districts initiated Spartans and Vikings Walk for Charlie. The event, centered around a one-mile fun walk around the Montour High School track, drew over 1,000 people. Outside the athletic center, Montour’s campus was transformed into a carnival, as high school clubs and teams organized activities and games for adults and children alike, all raising money for the Rowe family. Football players hosted a car “Char” wash. Other attractions included a dunk tank, face painting, student art sales, manicures, story time, a photo booth, football toss and hockey shot, to name a few.

An auction was held inside the athletic center, where over 200 auction items were sold. Local businesses donated food, water, and other items to help make the day an enormous success.

Natalie says that ever since Charlie’s diagnosis, the Montour community has been reaching out to her, in part by teachers donating sick days.

“I don’t know how I’m going to thank everyone,” she says, “but I’m going to try.”

Three Montour Schools Receive Governor’s Award for Excellence in Academics

David E. Williams Middle School, Burkett Elementary School, and Forest Grove Elementary School all received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Academics. The award is reserved for schools attaining a score of 90 percent or higher on the 2012-13 School Performance Profile. Out of a possible 100, David E. Williams Middle School scored 93.9, Burkett Elementary scored 90.8 and Forest Grove Elementary scored 92.4.

Last year, the Pennsylvania Department of Education adopted the use of School Performance Profiles as its accountability system after opting out of No Child Left Behind. The following lists how scores are comprised:

**40% - Academic achievement indicators, including:**
- The percentage of students who score proficient or advanced on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment and Keystone exams.
- The percentage of students who are competent or advanced on industry standards-based competency assessments for technical schools.
- The percentage of students proficient or advanced on PSSA grade three reading.
- The school’s SAT/ACT college-ready benchmark.

**40% - Indicators of academic growth**
- These measure the school’s impact on the academic progress of groups of students year-over-year.

**10% - Other academic indicators, such as graduation rate, promotion rate**
- Schools also have the opportunity to earn up to seven additional points based on advanced performance on state and industry assessments, as well as students scoring a three or higher on advanced placement exams.

**5% - Closing the achievement gap, indicators for all students, and gap closure among historically underperforming students**
- Historically, underperforming students is defined as a non-duplicated count of students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students and English-language learners enrolled for a full academic year taking the PSSA/Keystone exams. This achievement gap score is used to define how well a school is making progress toward proficiency by comparing the baseline percent of students who are proficient or advanced to the goal of 100 percent proficiency.