

# Carroll County Times

## GODDARD SCHOOL SEEKS TO SET WORLD RECORD FOR MOST PEOPLE PLAYING SIMON SAYS

By Alisha George • Saturday, September 24, 2011



Caleb, Andrew and Grayson hop on one foot during a game of Simon Says at the Goddard School in Eldersburg Friday. (Ken Koons/Staff Photo)

**ELDERSBURG** – Children at The Goddard School® in Eldersburg were eager to follow the directions being read over the loudspeaker, even when they were tricked into doing something Simon didn't tell them to do.

The 104 children and 30 adults at the school for children from 6 weeks old up to 5 years old participated in a Simon Says game, part of an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the largest game of Simon Says at multiple venues by all Goddard schools nationwide.

In order to break the record, more than 12,215 people at the schools will have needed to participate at the same time. The world record for the largest game of Simon Says involved 12,215 participants at the Utah Summer Games Opening Ceremony in Cedar City, Utah, in June 2007, according to the Guinness Records website.

Many of the children quickly were eliminated from the game that was played separately in each classroom. All of the children followed the same directions being read to the entire school.

The pre-kindergarten children in Sheila Gibson's classroom took it seriously, quietly listening to the directions and waiting for the next move. The class named 4-year-old Andrew LaPointe the winner.

Andrew said he was happy to win and his fellow classmates congratulated him on his victory.

Talia Thompson, 4, said she had fun with the game, even though she didn't win.

"My favorite part was when I had to touch my elbows," she said.

Alec Yeo, owner of The Goddard School in Eldersburg, said the activity is part of the process to make sure fitness is integrated into the children's daily activities.

During learning this week, lessons on fitness and nutrition were built into their FLEX learning program, he said. The program is based on the latest research on how children learn, according to the school website.

The Simon Says game gave children a lesson in listening, participating in a collaborative work environment and learning body parts, Yeo said.

---

“They very much enjoy doing that type of thing as a group,” he said.

Though they won’t find out for a couple of weeks if the schools beat the previous world record, Yeo said it was a worthwhile activity.

“We’re excited to be part of it,” he said.