

SET A WORLD RECORD, SIMON SAYS SET A WORLD RECORD

By Gretchen Phillips • September 28, 2011



Staff photo by EMILY BARNES Students and faculty of The Goddard School put their hands in the air Friday during a game of Simon Says in Waldorf.

Simon says break a world record.

Students at The Goddard School in Waldorf along with students at the other 370 Goddard schools across the country participated in the popular children's game Simon Says for 10 minutes Friday in an attempt to break a Guinness record.

Owner of the Waldorf Goddard location, Akhil Govil said he was happy he and 119 of his Goddard children were participating and that the purpose was to take part in first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign.

The Goddard School, Govil said, is a for-profit preschool for children 6 weeks to 6 years old. The focus is learning through play, he said.

Govil said the Waldorf location also has before- and after-school care for children up to the fourth grade.

He said he was happy to be a part of the world record attempt.

"I've never been part of breaking a record ... I'm looking forward to it," Govil said a few minutes before starting the game.

Govil said the game of Simon Says also wrapped up a weeklong Block Party series at the Goddard schools, which encouraged health and nutrition through various activities.

According to information provided in a press release from No Limit Media Consulting, in order to break the Guinness record for the "largest game of Simon Says in multiple venues," Goddard schools around the country collectively would have needed 12,216 participants.

The record is currently held by Utah, which had 12,215 participants play the game in 2007.

On Friday, Govil was the announcer, or Simon, for the students at his school.

Simon announces all of the things participants can do. If Simon doesn't say it, the child is out of the game.

All of the Goddard students at the Waldorf location practiced the game and with the help of teachers, and Simon not tricking them, they all stayed in the game for the entire 10 minutes.

Matthew White, 4, said he liked the “Simon says drive a car” command given by Govil. Matthew and other children took the liberty of driving their pretend cars a little farther than their assigned spots on the gym floor.

Katelyn Lancaster, 3, said she liked the “clapping your hands” portion of the game.

Preschool teacher Victoria Robinson said her Jelly Bean class practiced a lot the morning before the record-breaking game began.

Robinson said her class was sure to win the game and she was really interested to see so many kids play the game all at once.

In coming weeks the Goddard schools will find out if they, along with the other schools, broke the world record.