



SIMON SAYS, 'GO FOR A RECORD'

By Adam Smith • September 22, 2011

NASHUA — On Friday afternoon, the preschoolers at the Goddard School in Nashua will be taking part in what they hope will be the largest game of Simon Says in history.

The more than 100 students at the preschool, along with parents and teachers, will be limbering up for the popular children's game at 1 p.m. Multiply that number by nearly 400 Goddard Schools across the country, and the school will be taking a shot at the Guinness Book of World Records, according to the Nashua school's owner, Tom Murphy.

For Murphy, the super-sized game is about more than trying to get the school's name in the record books, it's about furthering the everyday principles of the school.

"We really want to get the children, their families, and the teachers to interact," he said. "In essence, we are encouraging a dialogue between the families and ourselves."

By working together with other Goddard Schools throughout the country, Murphy said the record attempt is also encouraging the children to think about the world outside their classroom walls.

"We're trying to convey a community of learning and letting the students know that there is a whole world out there," he said. "We want to make learning fun."

Fun and play is a large part of the school's philosophy. In addition to the Simon Says record attempt, the Goddard Schools are holding their annual block party this week. As part of the block party, students will take part in the Let's Play Program where they will explore cooking and local foods in programs based on their development level.

"We want to promote independence in children and help them learn how to do things on their own," Murphy said. "We want them to see how much fun it is to tie play into education. That is the essence of our school every day."

The preschool's students range in age from 1 to 5.

Murphy admits that some of the students on the younger end of the spectrum may not fully comprehend the finer points of Simon Says.

"Getting the 1-year-olds to follow along might take a little doing," he said.

For the teachers and the older students, training has been under way and expectations are high.

"We will be doing this rain or shine," Murphy said. "We'll all be gathering together outside if the weather is nice, and if not, we will do it inside."

Although the students will form the backbone of the record attempt, teachers will be leading the game. Parents are encouraged to take part as well.