

Special

Cranberry Country PMC Kids Ride founder visits local schools

Posted May 11, 2019 at 10:20 AM

During the past few weeks, Middleborough resident Bill Goldsmith had the chance to talk to students of the George R. Austin Intermediate School in Lakeville, the George R. Mitchell Elementary School in Bridgewater, the Mary K. Goode and Henry B. Burkland Elementary Schools in Middleborough and the Rochester Memorial School in Rochester. In the upcoming weeks, he will be speaking to the students of the Lillie B. Merrill and LaLiberte Elementary Schools in Raynham, the Williams Intermediate School in Bridgewater, the Assawompset Elementary School in Lakeville, the Freetown Elementary School in Freetown and the Memorial Early Childhood Center in Middleborough.

The purpose of his presentation is to share the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) mission with the kids and to hopefully inspire them to participate in the Cranberry Country PMC Kids Ride. At the beginning of the presentation, he asks the kids three questions in this order: Does anyone here know someone who has or has had cancer?; Who here owns a bike?; If I told you that you could change the world or save someone's life just by riding your bike, how many of you would be interested?

"Unfortunately, too many hands go up for the first question. Thankfully, almost all of their hands go up for the next two questions," Goldsmith said. "Aside from the day of the ride, speaking to the kids brings me the most joy. Each time I speak to them, I am amazed and touched by the stories they share with me. Sometimes children will become emotional because of a family member who has died or is battling cancer. I try to speak with all of them to hear their stories. Many of the kids will come up to me and tell me how much they want to ride. Sometimes, I will just get hugs and lots of smiles.

"It constantly surprises me how much more I get out of this experience compared to what I put into it. While every school visit is special, having the opportunity to speak at my own kids' schools is a true blessing. I get to embarrass them by telling them how much I love them in front of all of their friends and how much they inspire me. But this year, my visit to the Rochester Memorial School (RMS) was especially important to me."

This year's ride is being dedicated to Chloe Harding. Chloe was a three-time rider in the PMC Kids Ride and second grade student at RMS. She passed away on February 17 from acute lymphatic leukemia.

The fifth annual Cranberry Country PMC Kids Ride will take place on June 2 at Oak Point in Middleborough. For more information on the Cranberry Country PMC Kids Ride or to register to ride or volunteer, please visit our website at <https://kids.pmc.org/cranberrycountry>.