WCSD students make presentation at MidHudson Regional Hospital

Even though it is summer, students in the Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) are learning and making a difference in the community. Recently, students from the WCSD gave a presentation to administration of the MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie. Also in attendance were children who are under the care of the hospital’s Maria Fareri Children’s Healthcare inpatient services, according to a representative of the hospital.

According to the hospital’s department of public relations, kindergarten students from Fishkill Plains Elementary, Grade 4 students from Oak Grove Elementary, and high school students from Roy C. Ketcham’s Manufacturing class collaborated to create a Rube Goldberg machine that was donated to MidHudson Regional Hospital. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math (STEAM) professionals Tara Koehler and John Sammon coordinated the project.

“Our students and staff have done a phenomenal job,” Dr. Dwight Bonk, WCSD Superintendent, said in a release. “I look forward to continuing this great partnership with MidHudson Regional Hospital!”

According to hospital staff, “a Rube Goldberg machine creates a chain reaction, where one action triggers another to move an object (think of the old game “Mouse Trap”). Kindergarten students learned how pushes, pulls and collisions affect the motion of an object. Fourth grade students learned about energy transfer and how it affects the motion of objects. “High schoolers reviewed the design, it was stated.

The construction of a new Maria Fareri Children’s Healthcare Services inpatient pediatrics unit at the MidHudson Regional Hospital continues. According to information from Andrew LaGuardia, spokesperson for the hospital, “The new inpatient pediatrics unit or “neighborhood” at MidHudson Regional Hospital will have 10 private rooms – double the amount of the hospital’s current inpatient pediatrics neighborhood - with sleeping accommodations for a caregiver. The inpatient neighborhood will have also feature a new infusion center and open spaces for music therapy, art therapy and other activities that promote healing.”

“The community’s response to our Maria Fareri Children’s Healthcare Services at MidHudson Regional Hospital has been tremendous, and we thank local families for entrusting us with the care of their children,” said Michael Gewitz, MD, Executive Director and William Russell McCurdy Physician-in-Chief at WMCHealth’s Maria Fareri Children’s Healthcare Services at MidHudson Regional Hospital, in the release.

According to information from the hospital, WMCHealth launched Maria Fareri Children’s Healthcare Services at MidHudson Regional Hospital less than two years ago. Since that time, more than 700 inpatient discharges and 5,000 patient visits overall, according to hospital staff. It was noted that WMCHealth recruited additional hospital-based pediatricians to the 24/7 MidHudson Regional Hospital staff; added a pediatric emergency medicine specialist; launched pediatric subspecialist consultative services; and debuted a pediatric surgery program.