

# Howard County TIMES

EDUCATION



Trinity School students, from left to right, Ian Grove, Poppy Swallow, Shawn Philip, Stella Neighoff, Jack Hampton, and Robby Wisnieski cheer on the "athletes" in the school's annual Turtle Derby on Oct. 6. The event coincides with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

STAFF PHOTO BY SARAH PASTRANA

## Speedy the champion of Trinity School Turtle Derby

School Days

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For more than 20 years, Ellicott City's Trinity School has held an annual Turtle Derby. This year's event kicked off at a ... well ... crawl Oct. 6.

The event was meant to coincide with the Oct. 4 feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the saint known for his love of nature.

Children cheered on the approximately 15 turtles that participated in the event, timing the reptiles as they crawled the roughly four or five feet from the center of a circle to the outside, according to Renee VanSchoor, the school's development director.

Three heats were held before the finals. The winner was No. 22, a turtle named Speedy, who has been racing in the Trinity event for at least five years. Speedy belongs to seventh-grader Michael Tritsch, who received the Trinity Turtle Trophy for the win.

In second place came the turtle Pablo Matisse, owned by sixth-grader Tommy Roback, and in third was Tom, a tur-

Children dress up for Turtle Derby, Ellicott City column, Page 46

tle owned by fifth-grade twins Colleen and Conor O'Donovan. The races took approximately 30 minutes.

"It really is a day everyone looks forward to, and it starts off the school year in a fun way," VanSchoor said.

The event started with a prayer service and talk about respecting the campus and taking care of the environment. It also is an event involving the school's Big Brothers, Big Sisters program, which brings

together older and younger students to spend time together.