Dear Parents/ Guardians,

My name is Nikita Joshi. I am a junior at Verona High School who is organizing a 14 hour dance marathon to raise money for children who have autism. This is the first of its kind not only in Verona, but the state of New Jersey. In fact, it is the first time being done at a high school level.

Participants in this event will dance for blocks of time that they will individually sign up for. They will dance for two blocks; one of choice, and the last being mandatory. Each block, excluding the last, is three hours long.

All donations received will be given to Autism Speaks, a well-known and excellent organization devoted to spreading autism awareness and researching the cause.

Researchers from Autism Speaks say studies show that autism is four to five times more common among boys than girls. An estimated 1 out of 54 boys and 1 in 252 girls are diagnosed with autism in the United States.

By way of comparison, more children are diagnosed with autism each year than with juvenile diabetes, AIDS or cancer, combined.* ASD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, affects over 2 million individuals in the U.S. and tens of millions worldwide.
Moreover, government autism statistics suggest that prevalence rates have increased 10 to 17 percent annually in recent years. There is no established explanation for this continuing increase, although improved diagnosis and environmental influences are two reasons often considered. As you can see, this cause is more relevant now than ever before. Please find it in your hearts and your schedules to attend this event or just donate to the cause.

*From Autism Speaks

Date: April 6, 2013
Time: 9 a.m-11 p.m
First Session- 9 am- 12 pm
Second Session- 12-3 pm
Third Session- 3-6 pm
Fourth Session- 6-9 pm
Fifth (Last)- 9-11 pm
Location: Verona High School Gym
Price per session: $20
Last Session: $10
Entry fee is $30 for a session and the final two hours, but it is suggested to ask friends and family members to donate to this great cause; no amount is too little or too small!

Please try to RAISE as much money as possible. Safely, and with a parent, ask neighbors, family, and friends for donations for this dance marathon.

Your child is expected to sign up for at least one session, as well as the final session. Signing up for multiple sessions or for the full day is encouraged.
There will be breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided as well as healthy snacks throughout the day. We will also have on service medical staff, to provide assistance to students during the dance.
On April 6, any friends and family members are encouraged to come watch or participate.

NOTE: If your son or daughter realizes on April 6 he/she wants to take part in a session, the price of each session will increase to $50 for a session and the final two hours. Come join us for this fun event and great cause!

Thank you,

Nikita Joshi

Principal Glenn Cesa