



Joey Reineman, a kindergarten teacher at Andrew Buchanan, is undergoing treatment for breast cancer and her colleagues are doing everything they can to let her know that they are “on her team”!

Joey was diagnosed last summer and, initially, did not expect to be still undergoing treatment. She recently had her last chemotherapy treatment, but is not expected to return to her teaching duties for some time yet.

“She is an amazing person. Joey has handled this diagnosis and treatment in an amazing way. She is super positive and, at times, just plain goofy, which helps keep all of our spirits positive. We have all rallied to support her by conducting monthly activities that show her that we are thinking of her,” said Caitlin Allen, her kindergarten colleague at Buchanan.

“We began by getting Team Reineman shirts. Then, we surprised her by putting flamingos in her yard, we also collected money to have her house cleaned, arranged for Meals on Wheels, went caroling at her house, and many other things,” Allen shared.

Both Reineman and Allen are devoted followers of Jack Hartmann, a nationally recognized singer, songwriter, and children’s educator. Hartmann has written and recorded over 1000 songs for children on 42 albums. His highly regarded educational songs are used by teachers and sung by children in schools all across the United States and around the world (website).

“Joey and I use Jack’s songs and music often in our teaching. I recently reached out to Jack via his website to share Joey’s story, and his wife, Lisa, who also is a kindergarten teacher and had a colleague develop breast cancer, returned my email within two hours. Jack then prepared a message for Joey and we all took it to her on her birthday and surprised her. Joey was stunned and thrilled,” Allen said.

“Joey is resilient and strong. She has a unique way of looking at things. Her positive attitude and of humorous attitude lifts everyone’s spirits,” noted Dr. Angela Pollock, Buchanan principal.

The latest event that Team Reineman organized at Buchanan was a flash mob assembly that took place at Buchanan on January 20th. It was called The Mannequin Challenge.

“Everyone in the entire school struck a different pose, and the camera person (that was me) panned around the entire crowd. It basically looks like someone hit the ‘pause’ button, and there is special music playing in the background. After we were ‘frozen’ for a while, we dropped the pose and yelled, ‘Happy Birthday Mrs. Reineman!’ and the whole school started to dance. I sent the video to Joey and she loved it!” said Allen.

You can view the video that Hartmann prepared for Joey at this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixZRMtGcPVg&feature=youtu.be>

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