

Students out in force to support ALS Ride for Life

Forest Brook Elementary School students and staff gave a rock-star-style greeting to the ALS participants in the 2015 ALS Ride for Life. Cheers and chants of "You can do it!" and "Don't give up the fight!" resounded as the entire Forest Brook student body and staff assembled on the school's front walkways to welcome and support the riders.

Ride for Life founder Chris Pendergast was diagnosed with ALS in 1993. In 1998, he started the Ride for Life to help raise ALS awareness and money for a cure. A resident of Long Island, he worked for almost 20 years as a teacher in the Northport School District before retiring. Since being diagnosed, Mr. Pendergast has become an ardent and well known advocate for ALS.

Forest Brook was chosen as a designated stop along this year's Ride for Life journey, which runs from April 27-May 9. Ride for Life is an annual event in which those with ALS ride their electric wheelchairs down the highways and local streets from Greenport to Washington Square Park in New York City. Their mission is to raise public awareness of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), assist research in finding a cure, support ALS patients and their families and provide the ALS community with the latest ALS related news, information and inspiration.

INSPIRATIONAL: Ride for Life founder and participant Chris Pendergast is welcomed by Forest Brook students earlier this week. Mr. Pendergast also visited the school back in the fall to support the staff's participation in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and then again in March for an inspirational assembly.

