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St. Charles Elementary wins nationally-acclaimed performance

BY MANDILEE LOOMIS STAFF REPORTER

ST. CHARLES – A show that has been featured on Nickelodeon, Sprout PBS, NPR, and The Washington Post will soon be coming to St. Charles. The nationally-acclaimed rock and roll nutrition show ‘Jump with Jill’ will be performing at St. Charles Elementary School on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The school won the event in a statewide contest sponsored by Michigan dairy farmers and milk processors, and the United Dairy Industry of Michigan (UDIM).

The show focuses on the importance of adapting healthy habits such as eating fruits and vegetables and exercising regularly. A tour of 55 Michigan elementary schools will be held from Oct. 28 to Dec. 20, according to a recent press release.

“I am very excited to have the opportunity to have “Jump with Jill” come to St. Charles Elementary School,” stated Ric Moody, physical education/health teacher.

“I have heard great things about the performance, and how it connects movement and music. In my experience, students really love to move, especially when music is involved. This won’t be your typical assembly, as the kids will be exercising during most of it, and I hope they will learn a few things that they can take home with them and put into practice.”

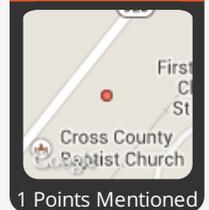
“We reached over 18,000 students on our spring tour,” stated Hailey McDonell, a Detroit-native who stars as “Jill” in the Michigan Jump with Jill cast.

“Our goal for our Michigan dairy farmer partnership this year was to make the show accessible for schools that want to make health a part of their educational agenda,” she explained.

The cast will travel to the school in a bright orange van with a giant picture of Jill’s face and a blinged-out milk jug that goes by the rapper name, Calcium.

Sponsorship from the United Dairy Industry of Michigan will allow winning schools like St. Charles to receive the free performance, as well as Jump with Jill educational materials, CDs of the show’s music, posters, and nutrition education materials.

Jump with Jill was created by registered dietitian and musician Jill Jayne. It has been performed live over 1,000 times, for more than a quarter of a million kids all over the U.S. and Europe.

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