



From left, Connor Hampton, Sarah Grimmer, Kevin Sawtell, Lauren Ellis and Erin Dombrowski, all of Hillsborough, are all smiles as they celebrate a \$5,000 the St. Ann School community worked to gain.

## \$5,000 is nothing to sneeze at

St. Ann School in Raritan is one of two schools in New Jersey that will receive \$5,000 from the Kleenex brand for collecting the most Facebook votes.

The company ran a contest to award a total of \$500,000 to the top 100 schools logging onto the company challenge.

A team of parents, including Rob Sause and Patti Ellis of Hillsborough, drove the school's efforts.

One parent recalled, "Although we are a small school — that some refer to as 'the best-kept secret in Raritan' — we thought it was worth taking a chance. We've had a Facebook community for three years now and decided to challenge our 'friends' to help us make this grant a real-

ity."

Students, parents and alumni reached out to relatives, friends and neighbors and moved the school into the Top 100. After climbing into the mid-40s, it started to fall in the rankings — to 55, 64, 70, 76 — and it looked like it might be knocked out of contention.

Hours before the contest deadline, parents attending Back-to-School night were sent them home with the assignment to "secure another vote." Over the next few hours, St. Ann's moved from 76th to 38th nationwide, a position it held until the contest deadline.

Last year St. Ann School launched its Distance Learning program, which uses inter-

active videoconferencing technology to enable virtual field trips or to allow students to learn from a remote instructor. Sister Gloria Caglioti, the principal, said the grant will be used to fund additional Distance Learning programs and support an outdoor classroom that is currently under development.

St. Ann School will hold an open house events as part of the nationwide celebration of Catholic Schools week. Dates include: Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 7:30-9 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 29, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 1, from 9-10:30 a.m.

For information or to schedule an alternate date or time, call the school at 908-725-7787.