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**Elementary school teacher takes on San Francisco challenge**

**(SAND SPRINGS, Okla., September 8 thru Oct. 16)--**Local elementary school teacher, Julie Ward, has committed to running a marathon in San Francisco, Calif. on October 16, 2011 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. “I am trying to motivate our students to get out and get running,” says Ward. Students have been challenged to run/walk 1,757 miles or more on the playground during recess September 8 thru October 16. Each student that passes 2 or more miles will get the opportunity to take a shot at Mrs. Ward in the Dunk Tank!!

“I have also taken on the challenge of raising $3,500 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society. I thought it would be fun for the students to take part in this community project,” adds Ward. Starting Monday, September 26, the students will be asked to bring change from home to donate, starting with pennies and working their way up to dollars. The class that collects the most money will be rewarded with a Happy Meal from McDonald’s.

The students will be keeping track of their progress throughout the run/walk on a map in the gym. “I am excited about having Garfield Mustangs participate in this challenge with me,” says Ward. All the money raised will directly benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

For more information contact Garfield Elementary School and Julie Ward. Julie.ward@sandites.org.

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