



## ROMONA'S 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ROCKIN' ROMONA MAKES HEADLINES!

# THE WILMETTE BEACON

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## Off and running

Romona Elementary celebrates the start of another school year with Rockin' Romona, Page 5

Romona students chase the school's mascot, a Mustang played by Ayden Jerutis, during Rockin' Romona, the school's back-to-school

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News COVER STORY

## Back-to-school bash rocks Romona

Rockin' Romona another success in Year 2

JOE COUGHLIN, Editor

Going back to school never felt so good. While summer's end can be a bummer, schools in Wilmette District 39 welcome their students back in style.

Romona Elementary School was the first to celebrate the start of the school year with Rockin' Romona, an outdoor event in its second year, on Saturday, Sept. 10.

The bash brought the Romona community together on the back lawn of the school, where a stage was set up for local acts. Children were free to play on the playground or on the athletic fields.

"It's a good community-builder," Romona PTA President Robinn Jerutis said. "It's a lot of family fun."

There were about 65 families pre-registered for the event, and Jerutis expected close to 100 when all was said and done.

Wilmette families brought blankets, coolers, lawn chairs and more to settle in for an evening of live music and fun.

Kicking off the music were several young Wilmette musicians, most of whom were

former Romona Mustangs and students of Wilmette's Rock House.

The headliner was Jealous Mistress, a band made up of District 39 dads.

All the action wasn't outdoors, however. Inside, booths were set up to show of after-school programs of the Wilmette grade school. In the gym, there were gymnastics, taekwondo and fencing demonstrations. And in the hallways, there were booths for chess, theater and environmental programs, just to name a few.

The crowd also loved the appearance of Romona's mascot, played by Jerutis' son Ayden, who was dressed as a Mustang.

This year Rockin' Romona raised money for the school's auditorium project. Last year, it raised funds to purchase musical instruments students could rent.

Not to be outdone, Wilmette schools Central Middle (Fall Carnival) and Harper Elementary (Harper Hoedown) will welcome back students with events on Saturday, Sept. 17, and Sunday, Sept. 18, respectively.



LEFT: Emily Connerty, 6, twirls a ribbon during a gymnastics lesson in the Romona Elementary gym during the school's party Saturday.



RIGHT: Markie Hrvojevic, 8, breaks a board with his fist at the taekwondo booth at Rockin' Romona Saturday.

For more photos of Rockin' Romona, visit [WilmetteBeacon.com](http://WilmetteBeacon.com)