



Elementary Level Project Ideas

Make-A-Wish Money Week- On Monday, students donate pennies, on Tuesday students donate nickels, on Wednesday students donate dimes, on Thursday students donate quarters, and on Friday students donate one dollar. May want to locate a local bank that is willing to count your change or find a local grocery store that has a self/automatic change counter (Winn Dixie, Albertsons).

Dance Marathon- You'll need to reserve your school gym or cafeteria and ask a local dj to donate his/her services. Have students obtain pledges from friends and family members, ask local businesses to make cash donations or donate food or gifts to use as door prizes for dancers. Think of fun activities to keep dancers busy(i.e. hokey pokey, limbo, freeze dance, etc.) Determine a time frame for the marathon; we suggest 6 hours.

Sell "Wish Upon a Star" Cut-outs - You can make your own MAW cutouts (a sample is included) or you can order them through the foundation. Cutouts can be sold to students for \$1. Students can write their names and decorate cutouts. Cutouts are then displayed on a wall in your school to show support for MAW. Schools can also give cutouts to local businesses to sell to their customers.

Teacher Dress Down Day- First get permission from your principal, next put flyers in teachers boxes to let them know about designated "dress down day." For donations of a dollar or more teachers can dress down to support MAW. Another idea maybe to host a dress down day every Friday for the entire year to raise more money.

Paper Chain Link Contest- Paper links are sold to students for 50 cents. Each grade is represented by a different color. Grade levels compete against each other to see who makes the longest chain.

Hat Day- Children give \$1 donation to wear their favorite hat to school for the day. You may even want to give a prize to the student with the funniest hat.

Pie-in-the-Face Contest- Sell raffle tickets for \$1 to students for a chance to throw a whip cream pie in the face of their favorite teacher or principal at the next assembly/field day etc.

“A” A-Thon- Students collect pledges from friends and family based on the number of “A’s” they think they will get on their next report card. Ex. Mom pledges \$1 for every “A” you receive 5 “A’s,” you collect \$5 for MAW.

Fill the Boot- Borrow firemans boots from your local fire department. Have competition between grade levels to see who can raise the most money. Winning grade could be rewarded with pizza party (courtesy of their PTA).

Host a Movie Night- Rent a current movie and invite students and their families for a fun filled night. Sell tickets and popcorn. Try to have a door prize donated and call the winning ticket number during intermission.

Pig Out for Pennies- Host contest between homerooms to bring in pennies. The homeroom with the most pennies in pounds wins. Get your PTA to sponsor a “Pig Out Party.” Party consists of foods that start with “p” i.e. pizza, potato chips, popcorn, pepsi, etc.

Spaghetti Dinner or Pancake Breakfast- Work with local restaurant or ask parents to help with cooking. Invite students and community residents. Charge an admission fee to raise money.

Sell T-Shirts- Develop a cool t-shirt and sell to students and parents. For example create a shirt with a sports theme and sell at all the sporting events.

Penny War- Each grade level competes against one another to collect the most pennies. Students are encouraged to put other coins in other grades containers to get corresponding amount of pennies subtracted.

Bake Sale- Students bring in bake goods from home. Bake sale can be held in cafeteria or at local shopping center.

Dress Down Day- For students with enforced dress code. Students make small donation to wear casual clothes for the entire school day.

Bakeless Bake Sale- (Great for teachers or PTA to participate in) Send a letter to your group stating: You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookie, or brownies. You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients. You do NOT have to mix. You do NOT have to cook. You do NOT have to cut. You do NOT have to wrap. You do NOT have to do the dishes. You do NOT have to clean up the kitchen. You do NOT have to deliver the baked product. You do NOT have to stand in the heat/rain/cold to sell the baked product. YOU can write a check for \$ x.xx (we suggest \$5 or \$10) to the "Make-A-Wish Foundation" and stay home and enjoy doing something for yourself or with your family!

Breakfast with... - This can be fun and can change throughout the year depending on the holiday (breakfast with the Easter Bunny, St. Patrick, the GrT Pumpkin, Uncle Sam, the Pilgrims, you name it – be creative.) Hold a breakfast with Santa during December. Sell tickets. Serve pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice, coffee, etc. Have guests be able to take photos with Santa for extra or you can include in ticket price. Have servers and help dress as elves. You can choose to have other activities or sing Christmas carols.

Cake Walk- Have cakes donated (store bought or homemade). Choose designated area. Place numbers on tops of tables (number is usually taped close to the edge of the table, but far enough apart for people to stand by their numbers). Charge .50 - \$1.00 for each number. They can buy as many numbers as they want. There are 2nd and third copies of each number made. One to be placed in bag to be drawn and one to be placed on a cake. Once all numbers have been sold, start drawing. The person who bought the number drawn gets the cake that has that number on it. The number of cakes you have, is the number of rounds you will play. People will buy more numbers after each round.

Design and Sell Calendars- Create a calendar. You might want to start by selling sponsorship to local merchants or school clubs. You may want to limit ads to 3 or 4 per calendar page (Sell ads for \$25 or \$30 depending on size). You can also sell individual calendar dates (squares) to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events for \$3-\$5 each. Collect artwork from students to feature in the calendar. Work with local printer to produce calendars (they may do this at a reduced rate in return for an ad!) Once printed sell calendars for \$10-\$15 at sporting events, school functions, and other activities.

Care Packages – Student care packages are especially popular during the first week of classes or during exams/FCAT. Packages may include, candy, chips, hot chocolate, fruit, cookies, joke, pencils, scantrons, etc.

A great way to alleviate stressful times. Send order forms home to parents, who can order packages as a surprise. You can also choose to do holiday themes i.e. halloween or even spring break.

Children's Cookbook – Involve the whole school in writing a book of children's favorite recipes. Ask each child to tell you: 1) What they are going to cook; 2) what ingredients they will need; 3) How they make/prepare their recipe; 4) How long it will take; 5) and to draw a picture of what they will make. Write the children's responses down exactly as they tell you. Compile into a book and sell to parents, friends, and staff.

Donation containers- Have teachers set donation containers on their desks for students to drop spare change in after lunch. Maybe even ask mom or dad to put one on their desk. Make sure to state on the container that all proceeds will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Guessing Games- This is simple and works just about everywhere for any theme. Fill a large jar or container for candy (i.e. hersey kisses, jelly beans, robin eggs, sour patch kids, mini candy bars, red hots, candy corns etc.). Charge participants to guess how many of the item are in the container. Winner takes the container and its contents.