

Do Something Funny for Money Day

Our learning team is interested in starting a service project that you might want to get involved in. In conjunction with our studies of developing nations, we will be raising money to make microloans to individuals in countries like Peru, Bolivia, Nigeria, and Columbia who are hoping to improve their lives by starting small businesses. Our microloans will be made through a company called Kiva, which pairs interested lenders in the developed world with individuals and organizations in the developing world that need help. You can learn more about Kiva by visiting www.kiva.org.

To raise money, our classroom teachers are giving students the opportunity to purchase “fun periods,” including such things as time for extra reading or recess, time to do independent research on topics of deep personal interest, time for extra art or music, time to watch a movie or play games with friends, and so on. Students can purchase these things from their teachers by meeting team fundraiser targets on or before _____, which we have named Do Something Funny for Money day.

We are encouraging all our students to find ways to either save money from their current spending or to earn money by doing chores around the house to contribute to our classroom’s efforts. What we don’t want is parent contributions to our project! We are trying to make this a kid-only experience. Encourage your child and offer chances to earn a bit of extra money for donations, but don’t hand anything over on your own!

Once we have raised funds, students will work in groups to select individuals to fund through Kiva. We will study the project that each small businessman or businesswoman has proposed to determine whether it is likely to benefit the community. We will study the countries that we are making loans to and will explore the kinds of challenges people face when trying to improve the quality of life for their families.

We will study the organizations supporting the loan recipient to decide how safe our loaned funds will be. We will discuss microloans and the financial literacy concepts behind loan agreements and terms. We will track the loans we make by location and nation. We will study the Kiva partners we have in each loan project and track the countries they come from.

And best of all, when our original loans are paid back, we will work through this process again and again to make more loans! As one of our students mentioned in class, “Kiva is like a forever loan because you get your money back and can donate it like a thousand times!”

This project has the potential to be just plain cool; not only will we be studying a part of the world that is already in our curriculum and learning about how loans work, but we will also be helping to change lives. We hope you will encourage your children to get involved!

The Nitty-Gritty Details

Question	Answer
When can money be donated?	From today until: _____
How much is needed to purchase a fun period?	Fun periods cost \$1.00 per student. (If you want three fun periods, it’s \$3.00 per student.)

<p>What do students need to do to participate in the fun periods they have purchased?</p>	<p>Students need to be well behaved and follow all of our classroom rules.</p>
<p>When will loans through Kiva be made?</p>	<p>Loans will be distributed after students have studied the available loan opportunities and made a decision as a group on the individuals they would like to support.</p>
<p>What will happen with our Kiva fund when loans are repaid?</p>	<p>Our Kiva fund will be loaned right back out! If money is repaid before the end of this school year, students in this year's classes will choose new loans. If the money is paid back next year, students in our school's Kiva Club will make new decisions on behalf of our teams.</p> <p>Students will be able to join the Kiva Club if they are interested. Just keep an eye out for announcements at the start of next school year.</p>
<p>How will we keep track of where our money has gone?</p>	<p>We will start posting regular announcements about our loans on our classroom blog. We will also post explanations of why we selected each individual to receive a loan from our funds.</p> <p>We will keep a binder with our loan records and track our loans on a giant world map hanging in our classroom as well. It will be fun to see where all of our money goes, won't it?</p>
<p>Can parents donate too?</p>	<p>Nope. This is about kid power. Students need to raise a few bucks doing chores. Have them mow a lawn, clean the car, or figure out how to vacuum. They can change the world!</p>