

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'll 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—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—from each of their teachers by meeting team fundraiser targets on or before [REDACTED]—which we've named “Do Something Funny for Money” day.

We're encouraging all of 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're 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! Make 'em earn it!

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

We'll study the organizations that are supporting the loan recipient to decide how safe our loaned funds will be. We'll discuss microloans and the financial literacy concepts behind loan agreements and terms. We'll track the loans that we make by location and by nation. We'll study the Kiva partners that 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'll work through this process again and again to make more loans! As one student mentioned, “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 help change lives. We hope you'll 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.)

The Nitty-Gritty Details	
Question	Answer
What do students need to do to participate in the fun periods they have purchased?	Students need to be well behaved and follow all of our classroom rules.
When will loans through Kiva be made?	Loans will be distributed after students have studied the available loan opportunities and made a decision as a group on the individuals they'd like to support.
What will happen with our Kiva fund when loans are repaid?	They'll 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. Students will be able to join the Kiva Club if they're interested. Just keep an eye out for announcements at the start of next school year.
How will we keep track of where our money has gone?	We'll start posting regular announcements about our loans on our classroom blog. We'll also post explanations of why we selected each individual to receive a loan from our funds. We'll keep a binder with our loan records and track our loans on a giant world map hanging in our classroom as well. It'll be fun to see where all of our money goes, won't it?
Can parents donate too?	Nope. This is about kid-power. Students need to raise a few bucks doing chores. Have them pick up some dog poop, mow a lawn, clean the car, or figure out how to vacuum. They can change the world!