



YOUR BUCKETFILLING WORKSHOP



Bucketfilling Ideas to Create Bucketfilling Schools

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These quilts, with squares designed by students, were two of many hung outside the classrooms in Prairie Ridge Elementary, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



STEP EIGHT

Creating a friendly competition

From Your Bucket Fillers Team

There are two ways to hold a competition. The worst possible way is to lead participants in a thoughtless, mean spirited, and bucketdipping way that leaves them with bad memories that can last long into adulthood.

Then, there is the bucketfilling approach that's fun and inspires those involved to do their best, pushes them to try just a little harder for a little longer, and leaves all participants feeling good.

Here are some suggestions for creating a friendly competition:

- **Decorating Contest.** Have each classroom decorate their door or area near their door with a bucketfilling theme. Choose judges who will view each display and award each classroom for the most creative, most colorful, best idea, etc.
- **Chalk It Up.** Weather permitting, use chalk to have your student create bucketfilling sidewalk art. Recognize the drawings with photographs on your school website or newsletter.
- **Vote.** Make a list of the character traits that your school teaches, i.e., Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship, Caring, Fairness, etc. Post these traits on the hall walls. Ask everyone (children, staff, and visitors) to vote for the trait they think is the most important. Use hearts and stars to vote, and watch the hearts and stars circle the hallways. The older students can write a paper on the character trait they chose.
- **Bucketfilling Read-A-Thon.** Use *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* and *Fill a Bucket* as well as other bucketfilling books, such as Shel Silverstein's, *The Giving Tree*, or Max Lucado's, *You are Special*. Read them, write about them, and discuss them. Give a "Full Bucket Award" to the class that reads the most bucketfilling books. Celebrate with a pizza party or a group activity.
- **Bucketfilling Olympics.** Use the bucket to create games.
- **Bucketfilling Toss.** Toss hearts and stars into buckets.
- **Bucketfilling Rope Climb.** Climb to the top of the rope, put in a heart/star
- **Bucketfilling Relay.** instead of a baton, pass off a heart or star.

Two words to remember when planning a competition— keep it **friendly** and **fun!**