

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Weekly words of wisdom to keep your bucket filled

Week of February 28, 2010 • Volume 4, Issue 5

Making a Difference

Sometimes...

Dawn Allen, a preschool/kindergarten teacher with Northwest Montessori in Oklahoma City, emailed the following story:



"We are a small Montessori school that has used the book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*, for the past two years. We provide a small bucket for each child to

decorate and keep in their bin as a reminder to be a bucket filler.

Overheard yesterday between two four-year-old girls, 'I'm a bucket filler and sometimes a bucket dipper.' 'Me too, but I'm trying really hard to be a bucket filler most of the time!' Even the youngest children (three years old) understand the concept and share it with their classmates and families. Thank you for this most valuable resource!"

BUCKET CHUCKLES

No escape



When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects.

Still, a few fireflies followed us inside.

Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

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Bucket Nuggets

By Kathy Martin, Education Director

Shout it out!

You can always tell when you've walked into a bucketfilling school. There are buckets, hearts, and stars all over the place. Friendly reminders are posted and tell visitors that they have just entered a special school, one that is using the bucketfilling message to create a healthier and more positive learning environment.

Last week's bucketfilling workshop (*Step 4, Making a school-wide statement*) featured a photograph of the ceiling-to-floor mural which graces the entryway of Mosaic Preparatory Academy in East Harlem, New York. The hand-painted face of the larger-than-life smiling bucket assures students, staff, and visitors that they have entered a bucketfilling school. What a great way to start the day!

When bucketfilling permeates a school, it is visual, verbal and best of all, fun for everyone. You'll see staff and students wearing smiles, t-shirts, and wrist bands that identify them as bucket fillers. You will see buckets, hearts, and stars, hanging from ceilings as you walk the halls and peek into classrooms.

You'll hear the bucket fillers pledge recited over the public address system each morning: "*I promise to do my best to be a bucket filler at school, at home, and everywhere I go*".*

Listen, and you will hear conversations about bucket filling during staff meetings and in the staff lounge. You will hear bucketfilling language in the classroom: "Ethan, are you filling my bucket or dipping?"

Kindness does not stop when the final bell rings. Students are given assignments to fill the bucket of someone in their family. Teachers send home bucketfilling messages to parents of students who have made progress during the week.

Bucketfilling schools are outstanding schools because they provide a wonderful sense of pride and fun for everyone involved.

So shout it out, **"WE ARE A BUCKETFILLING SCHOOL!"**

*Author's suggestion: Post the Bucket Fillers Pledge and have everyone in your school sign it.



This week's winners

Congratulations!



Nikki Lutzke Grade 4 teacher, Abraham Lincoln Accelerated Learning Academy, Monroe, Wisconsin, is our Bucket Filler of the Week. Congratulations, Nikki! You have a book coming your way. Every bucket filler is a winner! Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled every week by signing on for our newsletter at www.bucketfillers101.com.

Quote of the Week

"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar."— *Bradley Millar*