

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

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Bucket Nuggets

By Carol McCloud, *The Bucket Lady*

Making a Difference

Success story

Jeff Wallowitz, principal of Webster Hill Elementary School in West Hartford, Connecticut sent us some bucketfilling news:

"We started our school year with a whole-school assembly. I read your book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*, to the entire school.

I bought a mini-bucket for each classroom in the building and we have been focusing on the theme in your book all year.

Every classroom teacher, who wanted one, also has a copy of the book. We have cut office discipline referrals by 68% as compared to last year!

Thank you for your book and the message it sends."

Thank you, Jeff, for sending us your message of success. You have filled our buckets.

MINI-POSTER

IF YOU
Can't find the
BRIGHT
SIDE OF LIFE,
POLISH
THE DULL SIDE

BUCKET FILLERS, INC.

PO BOX 255

BRIGHTON, MI 48116

PHONE: 810.229.5468

FAX: 810.588.6782

WWW.BUCKETFILLERS101.COM

Designed & edited by Glenny Merillat

Be a dipper detective

Diary of a Wimpy Kid, is a series of best-selling children's books sold at school book fairs. The first book has also been made into a movie. Teachers have told me that *Wimpy Kid* is a "great book for reluctant readers" and that "kids really relate to the daily trials of Greg Heffley", the "wimpy kid" and central character of the series.

While we work to teach children that name calling or put-downs are not okay, Greg Heffley doesn't seem to mind calling his classmates bucketdipping names. "Idiots," "nerds," and "morons" are some of the words he uses.

Like a virus, bucketdipping words can be contagious. A child will hear them, along with the accepting laughter that follows, and then begin to use them. The acceptance of name-calling is a powerful, and yet subtle, message that indicates there is nothing wrong in it. We need to be aware of these subtle messages; they are sly, superficial, problematic, and unacceptable, however they may be packaged or delivered.

Bucket dipping is all too prevalent. We see it in political campaigns, on television talk shows, and popular sit-coms. As individuals, we can turn off our televisions and radios and more carefully select what we choose to read, hear, or see, but sadly, bucket dipping, continues.

One important thing we can all do is to recognize bucket dipping and see it for what it really is. We can also discuss books like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* with our children and ask questions like those I recently asked during an assembly:

- "Did you notice any bucket dipping in this book?" (Yes!)
- "Who did the most dipping?" (*The older brother, Rodrick*)
- "What about Greg, did he dip?" (Yes, mostly with Rowley and getting even with his brother, Rodrick)
- "Is it okay to call people these names?" (No)
- "When Greg let Rowley take the blame for not doing his job, did he dip? (Yes)
- "Did he apologize? (Not really; he acted like it wasn't his fault when it was.)

You can turn a bucketdipping situation into a positive learning experience with an active discussion. Dipping can be infectious, but if we wash our hands of it, we can do our part to keep it from spreading.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

This week's winners

Congratulations!

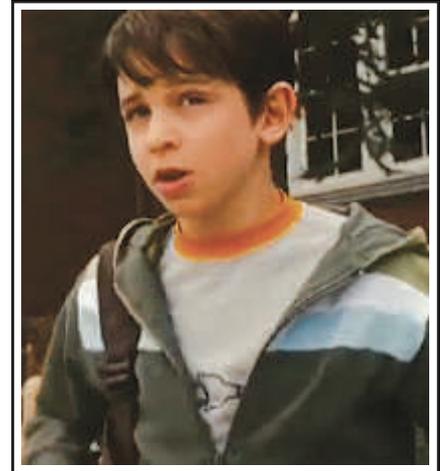


Stacy Kilwein of Dickinson Public Schools' West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center Partners in Parenting Program, Dickinson, ND, is our bucket filler of the week. Congratulations Stacy! You have a book coming your way. Every bucket filler is a winner! Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled every week by signing on for our newsletter at

www.bucketfillers101.com.

Quote of the Week

"All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them."— *Galileo Galilei, 14th Century Astronomer*



Zachary Gordon as Greg Heffley, "The Wimpy Kid"