



The Dollar War

(Old favorite...once The Penny War
but times are changing)

We've done this fundraiser several times and it has changed over the years. It used to be called the "Penny War." In the past, we would have classrooms challenge each other with pennies. Silver was considered positive which the students brought in and put into their classroom jar and pennies would be used to attack other classroom jars and remove the positive count. More recently we've changed to a "Coin War." So, students put paper money to make a positive in their classroom jar (\$1.00 worth 100, \$5.00 worth 500) and students bomb other classrooms with change. We prefer clear jars so the students can see the coins vs. cash in their classroom. During our last Coin War our California Junior Scholarship Federation raised \$ 1,100.00 in cash and \$782 in coin. We did this war only on Wednesdays and Thursdays for 2 weeks in the last 10 mins. of 5th period. We chose that time as a staff. Below you will find the rules we, as a staff, agreed to. The CJSF Coordinator decided that the class winner would be chosen by grade level. So, she gave a pizza party for the winning 8th, 7th/6th grade Advisory.

TIME REQUIREMENT:

Time unknown: Collect jars, coffee cans, containers.

- 5 – 10 mins. Talk to the school secretary or ASB Coordinator to get a good time for this fundraiser. You do not want it overlapping with other events, field trips or fundraisers on campus. Schedule the event.
- 30 mins+-. – make labels for each teacher for each container and deliver to their boxes with instructions (Date, time, rules).
- 5 mins. - Discuss with your Principal/staff if you will collect the jars and lock them up each day in a designated area or have the teachers responsible for

their jars and lock them up each day. We chose that each teacher be responsible and we didn't have any problems but we all agreed to lock them up in our room before leaving campus.

Have a parent volunteer or aide go to each classroom and collect the jars the last day after the challenge.

Time counting the money. Here's the unknown. It all depends on your bank. We use the Teacher's Credit Union to count the money. Money was transferred to manilla envelopes for easy transport. Our Coordinator had a spread sheet and wrote each cash amount received and then the coin amount down. Counting the cash obviously was easy and for the coins the Credit Union put all the change into a coin machine and gave her the total. She deducted the coins from the cash and either the class was either in the negative or positive. The class with the largest positive amount was the winner. The Coordinator will tell you it was A LOT of cash for the amount effort that was put in. The kids LOVE to leave their classroom and bomb other classrooms. Some teachers challenged each other and it got quite competitive which brings me to the rules:

- Designate a time period. You don't want students wandering around campus pretending to be "bombing" another class. Give them 5 minutes to get to the class and back and designate the first 10 mins. or the last 10 mins of a period or at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday so very little instructional time is interrupted.
- NO CHEATING!!! You would be shocked to see how adults behave! So, have this discussion at the staff meeting for the challenge. No blocking the door or locking the door to refuse students to come in to deposit their change. No taking the change from your container to bomb other teacher's (are you serious...? Yes!), and don't threaten the kids who bring in change. I like to tease them, "I thought you liked me!" and "You know I don't get mad...I get even. What room are you coming from?" Encourage your students to bring in the cash to get you into the positive and bring in coins to negate another's container. I'm not sure how well this would do in a large high school setting but I'm sure in a small or private high school it still would be a huge success.

It's crazy the bags of coins these kids have and will bring in to participate.