

The Lunch Bunch at Samuel Mickle School

Information Sheet

What is the Lunch Bunch?

Lunch Bunch is a student service organization made up of 5th and 6th students, who volunteer their time to contribute ideas for service projects and spirit activities to better their school and surrounding communities.

Purpose of the Lunch Bunch:

The purpose of the Lunch Bunch is to provide students with the opportunity to share their ideas, and to be involved in leadership and service opportunities with the school, local, and national communities. We want our students to have a sense of pride and ownership in the projects that we decide to focus on throughout the year.

Role of the Lunch Bunch Representative:

LB representatives act as role models in our school community. Being a member of Lunch Bunch is a privilege. Responsibilities include attending monthly meetings, sharing ideas for new service projects, fundraisers, and spirit activities, sharing information discussed at meetings with their homeroom, and participating in LB and school sponsored activities.

When Do We Meet:

Representatives and advisors meet twice a month, sometimes more, depending on the project, during lunch/recess. Fifth and sixth grade students must pick up their lunches from the cafeteria first and then report to room 405 (Miss Kuhen's room) by 12:25pm for our meetings. The meeting lasts for the duration of the lunch/recess period, and students report back to HR before going to their 7th pd. class.

How are Lunch Bunch representatives chosen?

Information is provided to homeroom teachers about the roles and responsibilities of a LB representative. Homeroom teachers are responsible for sharing this information with their students and for determining which students will be Lunch Bunch representatives. A total of 6 students should be elected as representatives. One representative for each marking period and 2 alternates for the year. The responsibility of the alternate is to attend the monthly meetings if the representative is absent. Representatives and alternates must be submitted to LB advisors by the end of September.

Once HR representatives are chosen, a meeting is held for all representatives and alternates in the LGI to discuss the roles, responsibilities, and our meeting schedule. All reps will be given an informational letter to be signed by their parents and returned to advisors.

How will representatives be informed of a meeting?

In addition to receiving a schedule at the beginning of the year, there will be a morning announcement on the day of the meeting to remind students. Cafeteria staff and aides will be informed the day before a meeting is scheduled so they can plan accordingly.

How do we decide on service projects, fundraisers, and activities?

Many of our past projects have been presented by students within Lunch Bunch discussions or by staff members that have a cause that they are passionate about. Our goal is to have the whole school involved. We are open to ideas and suggestions from all students and staff. Last year there was a suggestion box in the cafeteria for students to place their ideas in. Teachers have also been able to email the advisors their ideas.

All ideas are discussed between the advisors and presented to the LB representatives. Once discussed, ideas are shared with the principal for approval. It seems that each year, we receive more and more great ideas and there doesn't seem to be enough time in the school year to get to all of them. We have had several activities that have become annual events over the past few years, but we always try to squeeze in more.

Current Advisors:

Jennifer Daubert, 5th grade Special Education Teacher
Stacy Kuhen, 6th grade Special Education Teacher
Kristen Lombardo, Guidance Counselor
Maggie Penk, 5th grade Literacy Teacher
Dina Wilson, 5th grade Special Education Teacher

Our advisors have all volunteered their time to be a part of this amazing service opportunity in our school. New additions are always welcome to our team.

Past Service Projects and Activities Have Included:

Red Ribbon Spirit Week: Support a Drug-Free School: During Red Ribbon Week (October), all students and staff take a pledge to be drug-free by tying a red ribbon on the trees surrounding the school grounds. LB has also sponsored a spirit week in which days are themed to support a drug-free school. (Backwards shirt day: Turn your back on drugs, Boot Day: Give drugs the boot, Crazy Sock Day: Drugs are Crazy, etc.)

Hoops for Haiti Basketball Game: In 2010, we held an assembly to inform students of the Haiti Relief Effort and partnered up with the PE teachers to hold a foul-shooting contest. The top shooters at each grade level then teamed up with their teachers for a basketball game. Over 250 people attended the game, cheerleaders from the community performed, and donations were collected, and a check was written to the American Red Cross for the relief effort. This event was a lot of fun and a great success, so we are hoping to hold a similar event for another cause this year.

Hoops for Soup Basketball Game: In 2011 and 2012, we continued our Hoops for a Cause tradition through "Hoops for Soup" and collected canned good items for the Feed My Sheep Soup Kitchen and the Blessing Store Food Pantry.

Jeans for a Cause: Our staff participates in Jeans for Cause days once a month to raise money and awareness for various causes and organizations. Last year, we raised over \$3,500.

Souper Bowl Food Drive: Homerooms collected various canned goods and food items during a 2-week period to donate to the Paulsboro soup kitchen during the winter season.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: Homerooms collected various canned goods and food items during a 2-week period to donate to various shelters/soup kitchens for Thanksgiving.

Holiday Care Package Drive for the Troops: Students collected items for the troops during a 2-week period. Boxes were donated and Lunch Bunch reps packaged items that were mailed by the Philadelphia Veterans Association. Holiday cards were also included.

Pennies for Play: Every homeroom collected coins over a 2-week period to help rebuild playgrounds in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Pennies for Patients: We participated in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's effort to raise money for children in our area who are living with Leukemia and Lymphoma. In 2012, we raised over \$6,000 to support this wonderful program.

School Walk for Diabetes: The project was a joint effort between our nurse, Mrs. Gorman, our PE teachers, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. O'Malley, the Lunch Bunch, 2 of our 6th grade students who had diabetes, a volunteer committee made up of students, parents, teachers, and a representative from the American Diabetes Association. A letter was sent home, an informative assembly was held, teachers taught diabetes lessons during health, and donations were collected. The whole school participated in a mile and a half walk around the school grounds to culminate the fundraiser and to celebrate Diabetes awareness.

School Walk for MS: This project was organized several years ago to support one of our 6th grade students who had Multiple Sclerosis. A committee gathered to organize the event and we were able to raise over \$1,600 for the MS Society.

Animal Shelter Collection Drive: Homerooms collected items for the Gloucester County Animal Shelter during a one-week time period in the spring season.

Alex's Lemonade Stand: Students participated in a lemonade stand during June's national lemonade days. We set up on the blacktop during recess and sell lemonade, pretzels, raffle tickets for prizes (Alex's lemonade stickers, water bottles, pencils, bracelets, krimpets, etc.)

Teachers' Appreciation Coupon Book: LB reps helped to create a coupon book with teacher appreciation quotes and sayings for all of the teachers.

Educational Support Staff Day: LB reps created poems and cards for the educational support staff.

Secretaries' Day, Administrators' Day, Librarians' Day and Nurses' Day: LB reps created poems and cards for various staff members.

Holiday Banners and Cards for: Pitman Manor, Gloucester Manor, several other nursing homes, letters/cards for Veterans during the Holiday season.

New Ideas for this School Year:

Go Green Recycling Program

Socks for Soldiers

Ronald McDonald House Fundraisers

Soles for Students: collect money to purchase shoes for students in the Camden School District or Soles4Souls, an international program, in which we collect old shoes in good condition to be distributed in various countries.