

Community Outreach Project

Clean Your Neighborhood

Introduction

Notes of kindness can brighten people's day. Using the "Letters of Love" TedTalk as my anchor, I present the idea of spreading kindness to students around the building, while also presenting a school-wide challenge of finding the "Magic Egg" for a grand prize. (My students have been excluded from the prize, but they help plan the egg hunt).

This project will require purchasing items (most likely out of your own pocket):

- [Plastic Eggs](#)
- [Mini Candy \(to fit in eggs\)](#)
- Cardstock/colored construction paper

Pre-Trip

The first step is to evaluate how a surprise note of kindness can impact our day. We simply have no idea what each of our classmates are experiencing each day, and I use [this article](#) to elaborate on the impact that this small act of kindness can have on others.

The first task is to have students write a list of notes they would like to put in their plastic eggs. While time-consuming, I required each student to get my approval of *each* note before allowing them to put them into an egg. Then they are tasked with adding one piece of candy, and put them in a large bucket.

I have the entire group put all of the eggs in a larger basket so that students are not likely to get all of the ones they wrote themselves. This is to prevent any sort of strategy to be involved to select certain students to receive a note as that would be less of a *random* act of kindness.

Once the eggs are good to go, I have each class plan and organize a "Magic Egg Hunt" where each day, a clue will be distributed to the entire school. Once a student finds the Magic Egg, they can turn it into my classroom where they will receive a grand prize. I allow my class to decide what the prize is each year.

For more clarity on how to organize the "Magic Egg Hunt", please read this [short story](#) about where I got the idea from.

Materials & Resources

During Trip

Once notes and a piece of candy is placed in eggs, I allow small groups of students to distribute them around campus. If another teacher is available, putting them outside is acceptable as well. I then send an email to the rest of the staff & students indicating that there is an “Egg Hunt” to find the “Magic Egg” for a grand prize. This encourages students to look for eggs, but to also trust that the eggs around school are safe to open.

Anonymity is important with this project. Other students cannot know the source of the eggs, or the Magic Egg Hunt is likely to be compromised. Students bear a great responsibility with this, and if it’s done right, our students will experience the positive impact it has on others. It’s a rare opportunity to be “on the outside looking in.”

Post- Trip (Outreach)

Once finished, I have students reflect on their experience in watching their classmates be impacted by finding one (or more) eggs. *Event the smallest acts of kindness can have a great impact on someone.*

Materials & Resources

Field Trip Reflection

Use the eleven sentence paragraph framework to complete your field trip reflection.

Title of Field Trip

Date of trip

Lead:

Topic Sentence (1 sentence)

Include:

- Who went on the trip?
- Where did we go?
- When did we go?
- What did we do?
- Why did we go on the field trip?

Fact/Concrete Detail: (What is one thing you learned? (1 sentence)

Support/Information Sentence: (1 sentence)

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Concluding Sentence:

Restate the field trip and justify your rating of the field trip on a 5 point scale.

(5 being the best) (1 sentence)