

Outstanding Activity/ Project Award Application

Shady Grove Middle School

Advisor: Donniel Gamble Poole

15 members of SGA

11 members participated

September 26, 2005- October 7, 2006



- I. The SGMS SGA proposed the fund-raiser, Kiss the Pig, to help support Hurricane Katrina victims. SGA Officers laid out jars with teacher's names on them for loose change. The teacher with the most money in their jar would have to kiss Pita the Pig. We held up the change run for two weeks and ended it with a fundraiser pep rally. We announced the total amount raised and congratulated the school on the awesome results. We had made \$1,215.85. The fundraiser had raised school spirit, money for Katrina victims, and gave the students something to laugh about. Our advisor, Ms. Poole, had given us the Kiss the Pig idea from a previous SGA event in 1999.
- II. The Project's objectives were to help raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims by donating the money we raised to the American Red Cross. We started out just because of the good cause and the fact that we wanted to start off a great school year for the students.
- III. The major project activities were making announcements to advertise the cause and fundraiser, creating jars and counting money and coins, keeping track of points, and creating a wonderful ending ceremony to commence it all. The hardest part was getting the students involved but with the prize of teachers kissing pigs, it wasn't as hard as thought it would be. Every morning we would have an announcement encouraging the students to bring their loose change to school or after lunch to drop

in the jars. We tried to make the object of our principal kissing a pig very appealing. We also had to count up the money and keep track of the points on the hall of the cafeteria but most of the time; the students dropped a lot in one certain bin and knew who was winning (it was obviously our principal Mrs. Dempsey). To create the ending rally, we had to set a date and coordinate it with the administrators and teachers. We also had to create activities to lead up to the unveiling of the pig and the totaled amount. When launching the idea we all had to think of the timeline of when we should start the fundraiser, when we should end it, when we should keep the students updated on the current scores, and when the ceremony should be, it was difficult but working together helped a lot.

- IV. When doing the fundraiser our officers and members of the SGA showed extreme leadership by leading their peers in the cause, advocating the cause and being generally spirited about it. The student leaders came together and helped quiet the students when the pig could come in, watched the money bins during lunch, helped out cleaning and setting up the fundraising sites and were still responsible about not being silly during the whole thing. Our SGA even got the local Gaithersburg gazette to come and report on the whole event. All the student leaders kept the students going until the end with the loose change and even humiliated themselves in different ways to motivate the rest of the students.

- V. The impact of the project on the community was major. The rest of the community saw how we were serious about helping those who were victims of Katrina and many donated checks from parents and other members of the community helped us to our outstanding total. Many donated in the hundreds out of respect for our cause and they realized how we really did want to help the community. We know we made a difference in our community because afterwards, we saw many students participate more in our next fundraisers for different charities and also we know that we raised the spirit and pride of our school. The students were very proud to know that they raised over \$1000 for the cause and cheered loudly and proudly.

Submitted by Vanessa Trinh
Representative to the Shady Grove Middle School
Student Government Association.

Gazette Article

At an elementary school, the site of teachers puckering up with a pig might provoke a childish but essentially innocent glee.

At Shady Grove Middle School Friday morning, a clear note of pubescent mischief colored the raucous cheers of the school's 700-plus students as the wild whoops cascaded down from the bleachers with every kiss planted squarely, if with some played-up hesitation, on Pita the Pig's smacker.

The anticipation had built for two weeks, when Shady Grove's student officers—Caroline Devlin, Jasmine Salas, Paola Tandoc, Chelsea Ortiz, Shakela Williams, Molly Hirrlinger, Romeo Portillo, Michael Arabian, Vanessa Trinh, Pooja Deb and Rae Blanco—first set out a number of jars each with a teacher's name on it.

By the fortnight's end, the loose change had piled up to \$1,215.85.

The winner of this anti-popularity contest gone slightly perverse?

Principal Lance Dempsey—of course.

Dempsey knew she'd have the most money in her jar by the contest's end, she admitted afterward—she just didn't know the pig would, in fact, smell so bad.

“She tried to get out of it,” Shakela Williams cracked of Dempsey's smooch. “But she kissed that pig long and hard.”

Shady Grove has been following the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Katrina on the news, the school's student officers explained afterwards: in their World Studies class, it has seemed like all they ever talk about.

They wanted to help, but how? When guidance counselor Donniel Gamble reached back to an idea from the school's opening year of 1999, the officers jumped at the chance to make their most “popular” teachers lay a fat one on poor unsuspecting Pita, a 4-H Club animal.

So for a little while, they said, the direly serious could be brightened by some good-natured payback.

“It was a fun-raiser,” Devlin beamed afterwards, not without hints of off-hand, pre-teen sarcasm.

And not that the officers escaped the morning unscathed, either.

One by one, they lined up after the teachers for some of their own face time with Pita, the frenzied middle school mob sending up cheers every bit as enthused.

Payback, it would seem this time, was a sow.