

JMA Bangladesh Challenge

January – March 07

www.methodistchildren.org.uk

Welcome to FUN from MethodistChildren

Dear Rainbow Users,

Welcome to a New Year with FUN, Rainbow, and JMA! As 2007 starts we have such an exciting year ahead of us! We have new JMA friends to tell you about in India and a wonderful project we will be launching with our colleagues at the United Reformed Church called 'Peacebuilders'. You are sure to hear all about Peacebuilders from us at MethodistChildren over the next few months. If you are not on the e-news list yet then please sign up, or ask someone else in the church to sign up for you. Simply send an e-mail address to children@methodistchurch.org.uk

Inside you can read about all the fabulous new JMA resources that are available. Please remember that all these should be ordered from MPH and not from us at Methodist Church House!

Remember to tell all the 9-13's in your congregation about our wonderful text service!

FUN is produced by the MethodistChildren team for all those working with JMA but also for children's workers in local churches. After you have read it why not pass it on to others in your congregation, or even better, request extra copies for them!

Steve, Penny, Mary & Doug
The MethodistChildren team

India Peacebuilders

Peacebuilders will be launched in India and in Britain at Easter. The first project book and DVD will be published in June.

Watch the website and April's Rainbow and FUN for more details. Sign up to MethodistChildren E-News to make sure you don't miss anything!

Our partners in this unique ground-breaking project are:

Pilots – an organisation for children and young people aged 5-18 hosted by the United Reformed Church, but with groups in several denominations,

Henry Martyn Institute – a historic venture of the Church in India with particular skills in the study of Islam and promoting peace between faiths and within communities.

Church of North India (CNI) – although Christianity is a tiny minority in India, that still means there are millions of Christians. Many of them are members of CNI which was formed in 1978 when six denominations (including the Methodists, Anglicans and Presbyterians) joined together. Their children's work is central to their mission as is their concern for peace and justice.

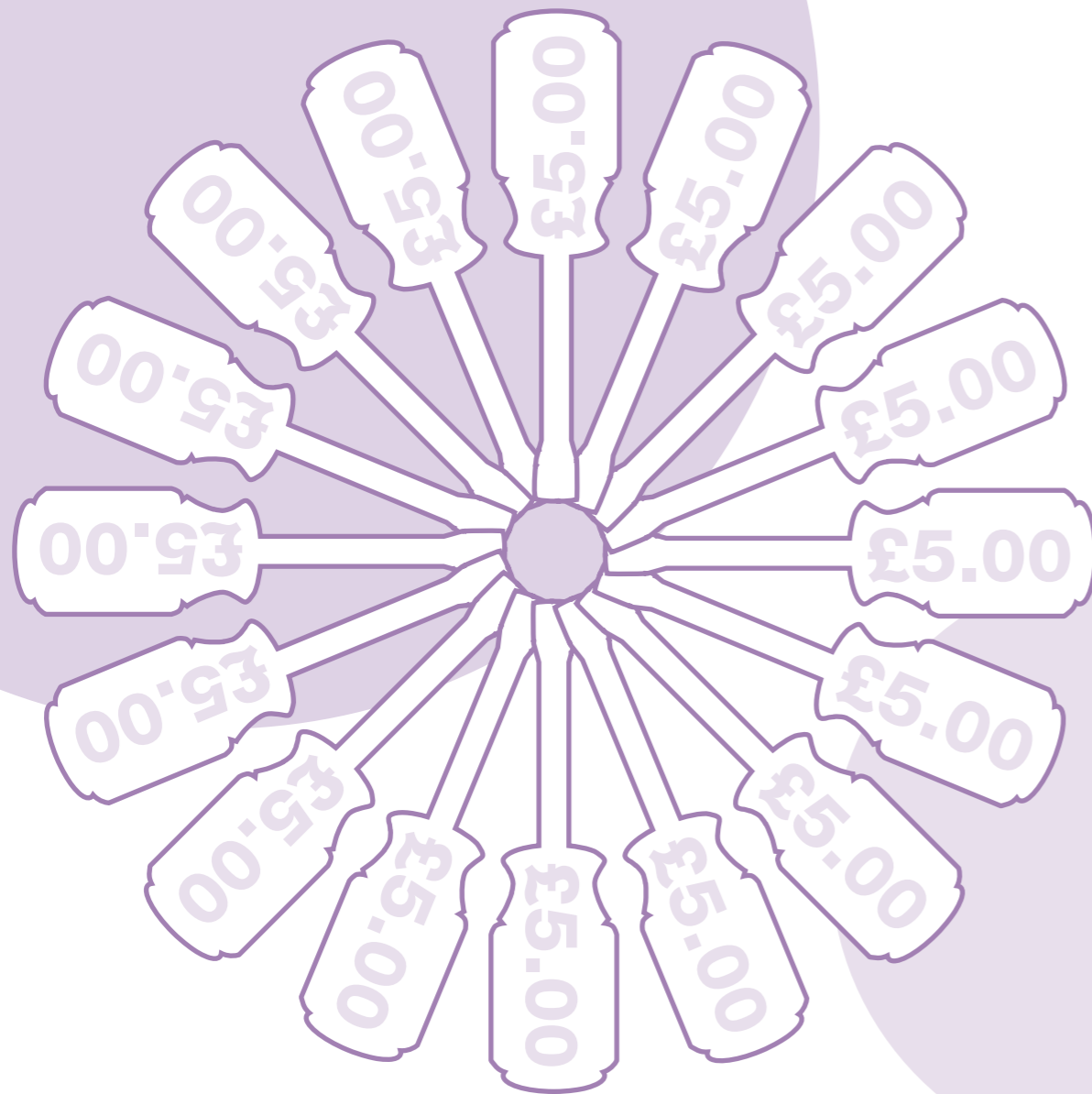
The project will have great ideas for learning and action in the first booklet that will keep your Peacebuilding alive for autumn

and Christmas of 2007, to be followed in January 2008 by ideas to help children develop and lead worship.

Hyderabad – Henry Martyn Institute (HMI) runs a programme called Culture of Peace (CoP) which includes workshops for teachers run by Poonam and Jalaja. We hope to send a group of Peacebuilders from Britain to HMI in August 2007 to experience the work at first-hand.

Delhi – Deenbandha is a name inspired by one of Bangladesh's greatest poets Rabindranath Tagore and means 'friend of the poor'. The school is a big investment by the Delhi Brotherhood, a religious order within CNI. The school will feature on the DVD which is to accompany Peacebuilders and will benefit from a Peacebuilders fundraising initiative.

Mumbai – The parents of these children often work at the docks from 4 o'clock in the morning till lunch time, leaving them to look after the house and the smaller children. They could come to the project and try to learn enough to get a job or go to college.



JMA Bangladesh Challenge January 07 until 31st March 07

Name of Church or group | **JMA Secretary's Name** | **Amount Raised**

Share your fundraising activities. What did your group do? E-mail digital photos of your events for inclusion in Rainbow.



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www.methodistchildren.org.uk

January 2007



FOLLOW UP NOTES



www.methodistchildren.org.uk

Peacebuilders

Holiday Clubs

JMA Makeover

Lent & Easter

Resources & Reviews

Working Together

JMA A New Challenge

Bangladesh Target Chart

Holiday Clubs – What, Why and How

What is a Holiday Club?

It is a chance to show children and young people that the church operates in many different ways. The main objectives are to educate, build relationships and to have fun. A Holiday Club is mission, not only to children and young people, but to the community.

Ask the question – Why are we doing this?

The overall aim of a Holiday Club is to share God's love with the children and young people and give them space to respond. It is important to set aims. A long term aim might be to build a new club which allows young people to meet God, while a short term aim could be to meet young people, get to know their names and invite them to a follow up event.

Who are we working with?

While the desire to work with as many children and young people as possible should be encouraged, it is practical to limit the group size. You may choose to focus on an age group or area. Do not be afraid to limit your event to what you feel is safe and manageable. If you are blessed with a large number look at how best to form smaller groups; these smaller groups for teaching, games, craft and so on will allow for relationship building.

Tried and Tested

Three existing models for Holiday Clubs

Box Model – After the welcome, opening songs or activities, the children or young people move around various 'boxes' for different activities. The boxes will vary according to the gifts of your team or the focus of the Club.

Benefits: This system allows leaders to concentrate on what they are good at, whether crafts, games, story telling, or leading a small group. It also enables activities to be more focused on different ages.

Linear Model – This model enables the children and young people to know what is coming up and to anticipate the parts of the programme they most enjoy. With the spread of activity and teaching methods, it means that the message is repeated in a number of different styles.

Mixed Model This model allows group leaders to have a break. It spreads the responsibility for the event over a number of people and should prove less stressful. The timetable could include group work with several leaders, worship and teaching led by one leader with the help of others and activity sessions, including craft and games.

Creative Tips

Creativity is a big part of a Holiday Club, and finding ideas is not always easy. Here are some simple ideas to get the creative juices flowing:

- Prayer, spend some time praying about the event.
- Have a planning session where you can brainstorm ideas - creativity needs time and space to grow.
- Visit a craft shop, describe what you are planning and ask for their ideas. Research on the internet - there are many pages where people share ideas.
- Run a craft for more than one day and build something amazing.
- Invite experts in dance, music and drama to help explore the theme.
- Build one day of your club around a trip and explore your theme off site.
- Think multi-sense: what can be heard, seen, smelt, tasted and touched to illustrate the theme?

What makes a good Holiday Club?

Here are some thoughts:

- It's bright and colourful
- Loads of interaction between children and adults
- Building positive strong and trusting relationships
- Everyone having a role
- Expecting the unexpected
- Fun and laughter, but with space for quiet time
- Being able to name every child
- Learning something new about God
- Mutual respect
- A choice of activities
- Being able to tell or show friends what has been happening

There are many splendid Holiday Club resources available that you can use and adapt.

Here is an example of one:

Wastewatchers

This is an exciting new resource from Scripture Union created with help from A Rocha Christians in Conservation. (www.arocha.org) It is a five-day holiday club programme for use with 5- to 11-year olds that focuses on the themes of transformation and the environment.

Wastewatchers offers a flexible programme, providing everything you need to run a holiday club: drama, craft, games, Bible discovery, small-group discussion, creative prayer and more! The material lends itself to be adapted for use with a midweek group.

There are additional supporting resources:

The Wastewatchers DVD contains five retold stories, accompanied with beautiful artwork, the Wastewatchers and 'Learn and remember' verse songs, an introduction to the work of A Rocha and a training feature on reaching the families of the children in your club.

Little Green Pages is a 48 page activity book including extracts from Genesis and John, puzzles, fun facts and group response. Use in the club and as a souvenir to take home.

Waste Watchers aims to explore:

- How God can help to transform lives
- How to hear God through his Word
- The importance of Jesus' death and the invitation to follow him
- Ways in which they can care for God's world

- How to campaign with others to bring change to God's world
- How to build relationships between churches and children's family members.

The material provides resources to cover a different aspect of transformation each day.

Day 1: God brought change by transforming nothing into something at creation (Genesis 1,2)

Day 2: Jesus transformed the lives of people when there was a social disaster at a wedding.

Day 3: A man who was blind from birth begins to see for the first time, both physically and spiritually (John 9)

Day 4: Through Jesus' death, God transformed the broken relationship between himself and human beings (John 19), making it possible for people to enter into a relationship with God.

Day 5: Jesus' resurrection means that individuals can receive new life (John 20), while communities and damaged creation can be transformed.

*Wastewatchers is available from Scripture Union
ISBN 978 1 84427 204 4 Price £9.99*

For reviews on other resource material visit
www.methodistchildren.org.uk

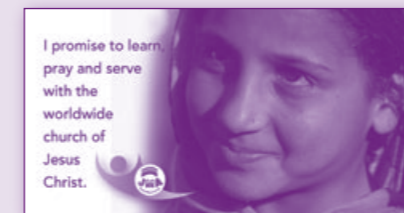


A Radical Makeover!

JMA has undergone a radical makeover! First it was Rainbow magazine and now we are delighted to announce a whole set of new JMA support materials.

JMA Prayer Cards

– ideal for distributing to children and adults alike featuring the JMA promise and a striking image from Pakistan.



JMA and MethodistChildren leaflet

– this new version of the 'JMA is...' leaflet is expanded and features all the work that is done by MethodistChildren for both children and adults as well as a special focus on JMA. Ideal for including in JMA services or for placing in Church magazines or leaflet areas.



JMA Envelopes – redesigned to feature the new logo and also some changes in the Gift Aid declaration. These are an idea tool for using in a JMA service to offer people the chance to support the work of JMA.



JMA Promise Poster – featuring the JMA promise and the new JMA logo in striking colours reflecting our website. Brighten up your noticeboards with this fabulous poster.



All these wonderful JMA materials, as well as 2006 certificates, badges, target charts, and JMA service are available from MPH. Call 01733 325002. During the spring all registered JMA Secretaries will receive an order form mailed direct from MPH and it will be available to download from www.methodistchildren.org.uk

All cheques sent to the JMA office here at Methodist Church House should be payable to M.C.F.W.M. (Methodist Church Fund for World Mission) and all orders should be sent to MPH, 4 John Wesley Road, Peterborough PE4 6ZP.

Lent & Easter

It may only be January but with Easter early this year it seemed like a sensible idea to introduce you to some fantastic resources to help you mark this important time in the Church Year.

Love Life, Live Lent

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” 2 Corinthians 9:11

This resource was born last year in the Diocese of Birmingham and proved so popular it has been published by Church House Publishing. The vibrant, full-colour booklets contain 50 simple actions to be done throughout Lent. They range from praying for someone to joining an environmental clean up. Some of the actions can be done individually, others as a group. The big idea is to inspire people to perform acts of generosity throughout Lent, that encourage kindness to ourselves, our neighbours and our planet.

Archbishop John Sentamu said: *‘Recent research has shown that generosity is a key ingredient in making neighbourhoods flourish and I think this Lent programme could help us become a more generous church – individually and as the body of Christ.’*

The booklets can be used as a launch pad for evangelism, social action, youth projects, seeker services... the sky’s the limit!

The booklet comes in two versions – one for adults and one for children. We thoroughly recommend the children’s booklet as a great way to encourage those in your church to make the world a better place through Lent!

Love Life can be purchased as a single book price £1 from Church House Bookshop or in packs of 10, with a 20% discount price £8, or packs of 50, with a 30% discount price £35 from MPH, www.mph.org.uk 01733 325002



Companions in Christ Volume 2 – Lent and Easter

Following on the success of the first volume of Companions in Christ which offered resources for Advent and Epiphany comes this second volume offering a journey for children through Lent and Easter.

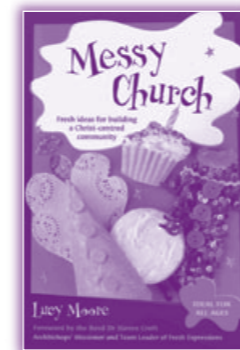
Companions is intended for a small group of children aged 8-12 meeting once a week through Lent and Easter to deepen their spiritual experience of God and to journey together as a community. The Lent and Easter volume offers material to construct a programme especially focussed on the Bible texts for this season. The material includes some wonderful ideas for a Lent Calendar which follow some of the same principles of an Advent Calendar and other new prayer and reflection activities. The book comes with all the support material in photocopyable format and also on a cd rom.

To assist those at home with the journey the children are making there is an @home booklet available for each child to take to them. It offers support and information on what the Companions programme is all about.

The book is £9.99 from MPH, www.mph.org.uk 01733 325002 and the @home booklet is available price £1 for a single copy and £4.50 for a pack of 5.



Resources & Books



Messy Church

Author Lucy Moore

Publisher brf

www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk

ISBN13 978 1 84101 503-3

£8.99 All Age resource

This book is bursting with easy to do ideas to draw people of all ages together and help them to experience what it means to be part of a Christian community outside of Sunday Worship.

Messy Church aims to create the opportunity for parents, carers and children to be creative, sit down and enjoy a meal together, have fun and experience worship.

The book not only sets out the theory and practice of Messy Church but also offers fifteen themed programme ideas to get you started. You could try this as one off events with an existing group to build and develop a relationship with the parents/carers, or you can start a completely new group.



Parabulz

Author Andrew Bianchi

Publisher Scripture Union

www.scriptureunion.org.uk

ISBN 978 1 84427 227 3

£4.99

Adults and children alike will enjoy Parabulz. It tells the parables in the Bible (and not just Jesus' parables) with energy, capturing curiosity and providing some explanation. For adults, there is the challenge to look afresh at the well-known stories and some not-so-well-known. This book is great for engaging children with the Bible.

Multi-Sensory Parables

Author Ian Birkinshaw

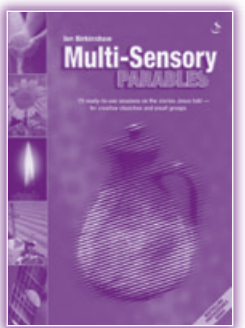
Publisher Scripture Union

www.scriptureunion.org.uk

ISBN978 1 84427 231 0

15 ready to use sessions on the stories Jesus told for creative churches and small groups. This resource is fresh, innovative and imaginative. The sessions will help to explore the parables of Jesus in a church service, small group or youth group. It offers practical and easy to follow directions that will help exploration of the Bible text.

The sessions can stand alone or can be used to create a series. All the material is photocopyable.



Living Church

Author Murray McBride

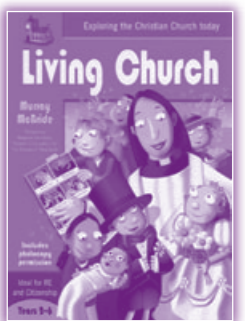
Publisher brf

www.barnabasschools.org.uk

£9.99

The Living Church is an ideal resource for those who are involved with schools work, or who would like to get more involved.

It is designed to build relationships between the local church and its local schools and unlock the building and the community it represents, as an interactive learning resource for children in Years 2-6. The material teaches children about all the major topics associated with the Christian church, including baptism, the Bible, prayer, Holy Communion, music, marriage, funerals, vestments, the churchyard, the worldwide Church and the Christian calendar. The resource includes storytelling scripts for teachers, photocopyable worksheets for children and instructions to construct a model of a church.



Working Together

One of the most amazing things about the Methodist Church is that before we start any new piece of work we are always prompted to ask the question 'Who else can we work with on this?' Working together produces better and bigger results and it's a great way to build new friendships. Children's work has always been an area where we have worked together with people from different churches and groups and this continues to be a strong part of all that we do. We heard recently from a friend in the United Reformed Church about an idea she had that became a reality because she worked with other people, you can read all about it below. Maybe you have an idea for something that would be good for the children in your area but you are worried there are not enough people in your Church to help. Working together with other people could be the answer!

A Heart 4 Children

"Occasionally, just occasionally, you have an idea, one that will not be ignored or put in that part of your mind where all good ideas are placed for the right moment that all too often never quite arrives. I had one such good idea and shared it with fellow church appointed children's workers in the North East. Why not have an ecumenical children's workers event where we could invite any denominations who wished to join with us? I floated the idea amongst the then small group of employed children's workers representing the Salvation Army, Anglican Diocese, and the United Reformed Church. Far from being dismissed or placed on the items for future meetings this was pounced upon, it sounded promising, let's work on it. During the next three months colleagues who had originally begun the marathon passed the baton on to other willing members. The planning group still remained three (very theological) representing The Methodist Church, Salvation Army and The United Reformed Church.

A year's work and planning came together through this event held at Bethany Christian Centre, Houghton-le-spring, on the last day in September.

This was seen by everyone as ecumenism at its best as those who engage with children's ministry in a variety of denominations including the United Reformed Church, Methodist, Salvation Army, Baptists and two Anglican dioceses came together to learn and share experiences.

All the 143 delegates were given a range of workshops to engage in during the day which included hands on events and lots of fresh new ideas and strategies. The workshop leaders were all local folk so

a database of skills was created that all who attended can now tap into. There were also sessions led by keynote speakers Andy Back, Martyn Payne and Puppet Power (an enthusiastic team of puppeteers from Grimsby) to savour.

This was interspersed with wonderful refreshments, a huge range of resources were on view, and there were opportunities to network with old and new friends. The day opened and closed with reflective and jubilant worship led by a band; and all that had been experienced during the day was brought together and shared at the close of worship.

There was a definite buzz surrounding the day and it appears that this sense of belief in children's ministry continues. Many of the comments received have included thanks and prayer for those who planned and organised the event, but also grateful appreciation for what the day has allowed delegates to do as well."

"This event has allowed me to keep working in junior church when I was feeling out of ideas and energy - thank you" says a Methodist delegate.

"Thank you for a wonderful day. I have learnt new ideas and really had a chance to enjoy myself with so many like-minded people; when is the next event?" another satisfied delegate.

A United Reformed church minister who attended this event gave the following endorsement:

"Heart 4 Children was a tremendous example of how there can be ecumenical working together across the region. No one denomination on its own could have organised such a good event. It was good to share and to have the numbers which allowed funding for bringing people with great expertise. We should endorse such good practice and maybe this is a way forward where youth work and other aspects of church life are concerned too."

And finally...

"We want to let people know how impressed we were by the day, and how helpful we found all the talks and workshops. We brought back with us so many treasures to pass on to our children. Not only our children! We shared in morning worship on Sunday morning with our congregation some of the exciting things we did. Thank you for thinking this idea up in the first place."

**Hannah Middleton
October 2006**

JMA a New Challenge

Last year you collected £15000 for a special JMA Project in Pakistan to help build a new health centre. The money was sent to the Diocese of Raiwind so that work could commence on the health centre. Building is now under way and the doctors and nurses have already started work.

Background information

Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is difficult for people to find a way of earning money to pay for everyday essentials such as food and a home. JMA has heard about a great project the Church of Bangladesh has been running in Jessore for over twenty years. It is a training centre where, for a small payment, young men go to learn skills like repairing motorbikes or basic electrical work. After the two-year course every one of the trainees gets a job or even starts their own business.

Our New Challenge

The JMA challenge is supporting a new project, the start of a new centre, to support the very poorest people who cannot afford to pay anything. Here young men and women will learn a skill for eight months and then be given some tools and materials to help them start work on their own. The cost is £80.00 per student to pay for teachers, meals, tools etc.

For every £80.00 raised, a young person can be trained at the new centre in Bangladesh. With their new skills they can make a living and support themselves and feed their family for many years.

Monitor how you are doing with the target chart on the back page of FuN.

Send in the tear off slip at the bottom showing how much you have raised to support this project. The closing date of the challenge is 31st of March '07.

Fundraising ideas

Ronnie Rhino sponsored bounce on a trampoline or bouncy castle, sponsored hop, skip, jump, sponsored silence

Teach a skill - Hold a 'teach a skill' event. Invite people to sign up if they have a skill that they are willing to share with others, e.g. story telling, photography, woodwork, craft, art, sport (no fee but expenses should be reimbursed). Advertise the event and get people to sign up for the workshops and charge per workshop attended.

Games Rally

An event for every age. Have a selection of board games, card games, computer or console games e.g.

Playstation 2. Have people on hand who can take time to teach the games. There are a selection of Playstation 2 games that involve groups of people e.g. Buzz Quiz, Fifa Football. Playstations or laptops can be attached to projectors and beamed onto a screen or wall as well as played through a TV set. Charge a fee for entrance.

Hold an international evening

Invite people from the local community or church to share about their culture or country and charge an entrance fee.

You could include:

- Costumes
- Music
- Displays
- Sharing stories about childhood

Hold a Glam and Sparkle event:

A Glam and Sparkle event is the glitzy alternative to a "dress-down". Encourage people to dress-up for the event – perhaps a shimmery bow-tie or shiny shirt for the boys, and glitter for the girls teamed with a tiara or even a feather boa! Charge a fee for entrance and organise games and competitions.

These are only a few ideas and we are sure that you will think of lots of exciting ways to raise this extra money to support this project.

In order that we can keep a record of how much is raised for the project please use the tear off slip at the bottom and return it to us.

Please process the funds raised through your usual channels.

Why not get your class or school involved with this challenge?

