

10 Fundraising Ideas

Here are 10 fundraising ideas from *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Ultimate School Fundraising Book*, by Jean Joachim (St. Martin's Griffin, 2003)

1. Turn less-prominent holidays such as Cinco de Mayo and Presidents' Day into a moneymaking opportunity by holding a potluck supper and charging admission.
2. Print school logo T-shirts, mugs, and pencils and sell at a school store, sporting events, book fairs, and parent teacher conferences.
3. Photo sales: Find parent photographers to take photos of special school events such as award ceremonies, plays, and graduation; sell the photos to parents who forgot their cameras.
4. Start a garden on school property. Let students plant, tend, harvest, and sell the produce and flowers.
5. Hold a Thanksgiving eve pumpkin pie bake sale. Right before the holiday break, have parents show off their favorite pumpkin pie recipes. Selling seasonal specialties saves people a trip to the bakery or the trouble of making it themselves. You'll build in steady sales if you do this annually and people come to expect it.
6. Do you have any parents who are singers? Musicians? Stand-up comics? Sign up parents with such skills for a grownups' talent show and charge admission. Teachers can participate, too.
7. At a street fair or other family event, rent costumes and have parents dress up as the Cat in the Hat, Pippi Longstocking, Curious George, or other popular children's storybook characters. Have the characters circulate along with a photographer armed with a Polaroid camera. Charge to take posed pictures.
8. Have a schoolwide art show of students' work. Offer free admission, but charge for refreshments.
9. Try a 50/50 raffle where the prize is half the pot. Interest grows the more you collect and buyers realize that the winner will take home at least \$500, for example, if you've sold \$1,000 worth of tickets. Watch the pot grow! Check local and state laws before you try this, however. Raffles are regulated in many areas.
10. Have a continuous white elephant store in a basement room in the school. Use a volunteer staff to run it, and ask for parent donations of secondhand clothing, sports equipment, and toys.