

Here are seven wacky ways to motivate students to reach a collective fundraising goal, reward their hard work, and even get your school featured in the local paper! So go ahead, recruit the school principal, a well-liked teacher, or other willing members of the school staff, and let the fun begin!

Pucker Up!

For some reason, students love to see adults kiss an animal...especially one you don't see every day. So find a pig, cow, goat, donkey, or even a fish (yes, a fish!), put on some lip balm, and say, "smooch"! Put the word out to staff, parents, and local farms to find the creature that is just right for the job!

Up on the Roof!

Prepare yourself to spend a night or day on the school roof. Your students won't believe their eyes when they get off the school bus and see you emerge from your rooftop sleeping quarters! If a day on the roof sounds better, set up your office high above the school and invite the kids to watch you work during recess. Have fun playing this one up—wear footie pajamas and let students think they woke you up in the morning, or send office papers down to them via paper airplanes! Day or night, the sight of you holding court on the roof will surely be one to remember!

Hair, Hair Everywhere!

This one is easy...all you need is someone who is willing to shave or dye a beloved mustache, beard, or head of hair for a good cause! Invite all students to come watch the hair removal or hair dyeing live, or broadcast it via television on the morning announcements. A fun twist is to allow the top fundraising student to shave or dye the hair in any style or pattern he or she wants to. Who knows...your school could be responsible for creating the next big hair trend with this stunt!

You're Suspended!

No, this one won't get you a day off, but it will get you suspended in midair for all to see! Here's how it works: stand on a chair or crate in front of a concrete wall in the school and allow students to place strips of duct tape across your arms, legs, and torso in order to secure you to the wall. Once enough strips of tape have been used, the chair or crate can be removed—leaving you "suspended"! Allow the top 25 fundraising students to be responsible for applying the tape, names from a hat, or come up with your own way to include students in this stunt. Don't believe it will work? Head over to YouTube and search "JDRF Suspend the Principal" for proof!

Play Dress Up!

Time to dig through that old costume trunk and find something that the kids will go crazy for! Dress like a robot and do the robot dance during gym classes, deck out an avid sports fan in the gear of a rival team, make someone who really hates pink (or another color) dress in the color from head to toe, or wear another sort of costume that students will be psyched to see! There are many options for this stunt, so be creative and have fun with it!

Sing it Loud!

You are about to deliver the performance of a lifetime! Pick a song, recruit some willing colleagues, and prepare a karaoke routine to perform for students. You'll get tons of bonus points for choosing a song that the kids love, wearing creative costumes, and stepping to the beat with perfectly choreographed dance moves. Make the most out of it by renting a karaoke machine for the day and inviting students to join the fun. Rehearsal starts...now!

I Scream, You Scream!

Your students will love this opportunity to "play with their food" without consequence. Invite a group of students to cover you with ice cream, sprinkles, chocolate sauce, cherries, etc. as the rest of the school cheers them on! Reach out to the local ice cream parlor for donations to help pull this stunt off and consider offering an ice cream party to top students, classrooms, or grades as a nice tie-in. If the idea of getting covered in ice cream leaves you feeling cold, how about renting a hot dog costume and allowing students to add ketchup, mustard, and all the fixings? Or, come up with your own fun way to reward students with a school-approved "food fight"!

Based on PTO Today article: "Principals Do the Darnedest Things" by Emily Graham