

Leadership Activity

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3RD GRADE LUNCH:

For each serving you will need: 2 slices white bread, 2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter, 2 tablespoons grape jelly (or the local favorite--flavor is not critical), 3 Oreo Cookies (old-school type--not orange, red, or double-stuffed), 1/2 pint ice-cold milk (have miniature bottled water available as an alternate), 1 brown-paper bag lunch sack, 1 napkin, 1 note sincerely written by a careful hand, 10-15 staff members to assemble and distribute, 3-5 staff members to lead by playing, an ipod full of old school songs and v themes

Instructions: Lots of schools put on lunchtime activities that encourage students and staff to reflect on a simpler, more innocent time in their lives. Foursquare, hopscotch, jump rope, and other "Blacktop Classics" are great activities to get high schools students to reconnect with their inner-child. Recently, my school's Renaissance program took this idea to a new level by incorporating those activities with what they determined to be the classic third grade lunch: peanut butter and jelly on white bread, ice-cold milk, and three Oreo cookies--all packaged up in a brown-paper bag and topped off with a hand-written note of encouragement and praise. The sandwiches were made fresh and packaged assembly-line style by teachers and staff--students filed by buffet style and enjoyed the time with their teachers. One of my Renaissance coordinators put together a play list on her ipod that included all of the popular cartoon and TV show theme songs from 6-9 years ago--perfect memory inducing music for our current student body! A few brave members of our staff challenged students to an intense game of four-square--it was magical! All of the above for about 1.56 per student--not too shabby!