

MEEMIC Grant/EdcampOU

Name: Laura Weakland

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School: Dolsen Elementary, South Lyon

Grade level/Subject: 4th grade

Title of Project: Taking Care Initiative (#TakingCareThurs)

Descriptive summary of the school (classroom) project:

Every Thursday, teachers across our building read aloud a picture book to their students with themes of “taking care of themselves, others, and our school/world.” As an educator and parent, I am strongly committed to the idea of teaching the “whole child.” This means not only educating them in how to think and learn, but also teaching them how to be empathetic, kind, friendly, persistent, etc. The single greatest way to teach these skills to children is through “modeling.” And the more models the better! Parents and teachers alike model these skills, but what if, one day a week, every teacher and parent across our building and the United States/Canada committed to also reading aloud a picture book with these very important themes? Picture book characters can also serve to “model” these important life skills. I believe so strongly in this idea, that I started the initiative 4 years ago in our school. I have been working to build the collection of picture books for our teachers slowly over the past 4 years. About 75% of the books in the collection so far have been funded through private donations from me and other teachers. I have also solicited donations from parents, businesses, and through grant projects like these. Books are expensive, however, and it takes a lot of money to build a “**Taking Care**” collection. I am hoping to continue to find ways to support the purchase of books for this very important initiative! I hope you will consider helping to fund our initiative!

How will this project benefit you and your school (classroom)?

This project will benefit all the students in our school and across the United States and Canada. As I purchase books for our collection, I also blog about and tweet the choices to share with others. There are currently teachers from multiple states and Canada who are also committing to this idea of teaching our kids these important skills through read aloud once a week. Not only will students in my building benefit from hearing these new books read aloud to them, but so will other students whose teachers follow my blog and tweets. The purchase of additional books for our collection helps me to continue this outreach.

How will the \$200 be used?

The \$200 will be spent on picture books with themes that support the ideas of “taking care of ourselves, others, and our school/world.” New books in our collection will ensure that all students/teachers in our building have access to books for #TakingCareThurs.

Thank you for your consideration!

Laura Weakland

<http://journaloflaura.weebly.com/taking-care>

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