



Funding-Raising Ideas

Want a Grammar Gallery Site License, But Don't Have School Funds? Consider Self-Funding!

In the context of on-going regulation changes, increased unemployment, and rising costs to provide fresh and relevant new content, Grammar Gallery has maintained its commitment to providing the highest quality instructional materials for English learners *without* increasing prices. While the cost of our school license (\$400) is very reasonable, we understand that some schools are struggling to find funds in their school budgets to purchase it. At a recent meeting with educators, one remarked on the Grammar Gallery school license option, "That's so little that a school could just have a bake sale to pay for it." That gave us the idea to assemble some fund-raising ideas that individual school may want to consider in order to purchase a license to use Grammar Gallery.

Note: The fund-raising ideas below are from <http://www.fundraiserinsight.org/ideas/>.

50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 raffle is very simple you can have at a school festival or any event. You get a roll of raffle tickets from a local party supply shop. These are the style of tickets that have two sections that both share a unique serial number. You sell as many tickets to each person as they want, for a fixed fee. Typical fees are \$1 or \$5. You give the participant one half of the ticket and place the other half in a bucket or box. At the end of the event you draw a ticket from the bucket and announce the winner. The prize is the half of the amount collected from ticket sales. Typically participants have to be present at the time of the drawing to win. If nobody claims the prize when the number is drawn, simply draw another number until somebody wins.

Bagger for a Day

Sometimes it seems that your local grocery store can be too busy and that you always end up bagging your own groceries. This quick and easy fundraising idea lets you provide a

community service and raise funds at the same time. Find a busy grocery store that is willing to help your group and pick a busy day of the week. Print off flyers that explain your group and what you are doing in the store that day. Hand out the flyers to people entering the store. Give your "baggers" a quick lesson on how to properly bag, for example heavy items on the bottom and eggs and bread on the top. Have a tip jar at each register. You may want each bagger to wear a nametag with your group's name on it as well. Bag each person's groceries quickly and with a smile.

Bake Sale

This is an easy fundraiser to run as part of a larger event, such as a holiday craft sale, or sporting event. You will want to give a call out to all the bakers in your group and have them make their specialty. Ask that they send a list of ingredients with their baked goods. Make sure you have an assortment of different types of desserts ranging from



cookies and muffins to whole cakes and pies. You will want to package items individually (single cookies) and in larger groups (plates of cookies) so that you have something for everyone. Clearly label all items with a price and ingredients list. Clearly mark anything with nuts so you don't have any allergic reactions. On the day of the sale, set everything up on a long table. Have a cash box and have at least twenty dollars in small bills and coins for making change. Sell bottled water and soda to wash down the goodies!

Community Cleanup

A great way to raise money is with a cleanup day. You can choose a beach, park, or other area in your community that needs some TLC. Ask people in your neighborhood and community for pledges for every hour of cleanup time. Get a large group of volunteers together, and have plenty of large trash bags on hand. Be sure to provide your volunteers with gloves, too, to keep everything as sanitary as possible. Another small group of volunteers can follow along, collecting the trash bags as they fill up, and providing empty ones. It will help to have a large truck, or a few small ones to collect all the bags of trash, and take them to the nearest landfill. You can make even more money for your cause if you separate the trash from the recyclables as you go. Some recycling facilities will pay for collected plastic bottles or aluminum cans. Even if you don't get paid for recyclables, it's still just an environmentally friendly thing to do.

Board Game Tournament

Pick a favorite game such as Sorry, Trouble, or Monopoly. Assemble four-person teams that will work together to accumulate points or you can allow individuals to participate. Charge an entry fee for each team, in order to earn

money. Give a portion of the proceeds as the winning prize or get prizes donated from local businesses. Decide if you are going to play with a time limit for each game so that everyone has the same chance and to keep things running on a schedule. Decide on any "House" rules beforehand. Set up bleachers for the audience and consider having a 50/50 raffle or raffle for door prizes. Definitely have a concession stand with coffee, soda pop, popcorn, chips, hot dogs, and bottled water to earn extra money.

Break the Balloon

Pop, pop, pop. What can be more fun than popping a balloon? Winning something for doing so, of course. This is an easy fundraiser and can be incorporated into other events as a fair. You will need balloons, a helium tank, string, and slips of paper with prizes printed on them. Go to the local retailers and explain who your group is and what you are raising funds for. Ask if they would like to donate a prize in exchange for free advertising at your event. On the day of the event, place the prize slips into the balloons, fill them with helium, and tie a string to them. All balloons should have a slip of paper, even if it is just a thank you for participating, so they all look the same. You may want the balloons to all be the same color to distinguish them from others at the event. Sell the balloons telling people to hold onto them until a big announcement. After all the balloons have been sold, instruct everyone to pop their balloon and see if they have won. It will be humorous to see the different methods of popping the balloons. Instruct the winners to come up and claim their prize.

Buckets for Donations

This fundraiser is perfect to collect the change given at countless stores in your town. Gather old coffee cans and other



types of containers and then punch holes in the top. Print out a cover sheet with information about your group and what you are collecting money for. Cover the cans with your cover sheet and then distribute them to local businesses willing to place them on their front counter. Approach the store manager and have a professional looking cover sheet that explains your charity and your goals of fundraising. Make sure that you dress in a professional manner. Keep the cans there as long as it is acceptable to the business owner or for the duration of your fundraiser. Send a representative of your group once a week to empty out the cans and collect the money. Make sure you update the store manager on your group's progress and thank them for helping your group.

Carnation Day

Everyone loves to receive flowers and it can be very uplifting to know that someone is thinking of you. Have a carnation day as a fundraiser. Carnations are a relatively inexpensive flower and you should be able to get a great deal buying them in bulk. Contact a local nursery, greenhouse or florist and see if they can help you out. Have pre-sales of the carnations before school and during lunchtime for a week before the day. Make up cards that have a line for student's full name, homeroom, and spot for a personal message. Set up a table to sell the cards and pens for the students to fill them out. Have collection boxes to place the cards in. You may want to have the boxes labeled with homerooms or alphabetically (A-D, E-G, etc.) to make sorting easier. Have a cash box with small bills and coins so that you can make change. On the morning of Carnation Day, have some people grouping flowers and cards and others delivering them to homerooms. The recipients will love hearing their names read off and receiving the flowers. Consider ordering extra to give each

teacher and principal one as well.

Deposit Bottle Collection

This fundraiser works great in the States with a returnable bottle deposit or area with money for scrap collection facility. Create a flyer with information about your group and why you are collecting money. Pick a collection day and instruct people to place their returnable bottles and cans outside their front door by 9:00 AM. Distribute the flyers house to house in local neighborhoods. Avoid placing them in mailboxes, as this violates federal law. Give a few days notice to leave people time to collect their bottles and cans, but not enough time to forget. This is an easy way to collect money because you are taking away the hassle of returning the bottles. Make sure you print up a thank you note to leave at the houses that leave you bottles. On the collection day it will be easiest to drive around the neighborhood in trucks and vans, so that you have plenty of room for all the bottles and cans.

Gift Basket Auction or Raffle

No one wants to do another candy sale for his or her schools' fundraiser. Here is one that is gaining in popularity and returning large rewards for those that host it. Make each classroom or homeroom responsible for one themed gift basket. Send a note home to parents to donate one item within the theme or contact local retailers, businesses, and sales representatives to see if they would like to help out. For instance, one classroom could have a sports theme and their basket could include a baseball glove, basketball, jersey, and tickets to a local game. A chocolate lover's basket could include a chocolate bar, hot chocolate, chocolate cookbook, and a box of brownie mix. The assembled baskets could then be auctioned off in a silent auction or raffle tickets could be



sold. Have a listing of each basket's full contents on the basket. Get a roll of two part raffle tickets. Set up a bucket near each basket so people can place half of their raffle ticket into the buckets of only the baskets they want to win. At the end of the night, draw the winning tickets and let the winners claim their prizes.

Grab Bag

This fundraiser is similar to a What's in the Box Auction and a White Elephant Sale with a couple of important differences. First, a grab bag fundraiser is not an auction. You'll charge a flat fee per item. Supporters will also not be able to see what they're buying. Have volunteers donate inexpensive items. They can be anything from used books to gag items. You can also spend a little money to buy fun things at a dollar store. Place each item in a paper bag and seal all the bags so the items inside are not visible. No feeling or shaking of bags is allowed! Decide what to charge per bag—a few dollars is appropriate. Supporters pay the fee and then choose a bag. They won't know whether they're getting a real treasure like a great cookbook, or a silly item like a rubber ducky. That's part of the fun! Most people will buy more than one bag to try to get to the good stuff. Place some scratch-off lottery tickets

Grown Up Spelling Bee

Use a classic childhood competition for your next fundraiser. Have a grown up spelling bee. Find volunteers that would like to participate. You can either collect an entry fee to raise money, or charge an admission fee to the audience. Give participants a copy of the "Spell It" book to study from. Use the official spelling bee rules, such as asking for a definition of a word and asking to use it in a sentence. Use easier words for the first few rounds. Later rounds should be interesting as you start using the more

difficult words, such as extrapolate or neurological. Have a concession stand and sell snacks and drinks to earn extra money. It would be really cute to sell cookies cut into letter shapes and alphabet soup. Give each participant a certificate and award the winner a trophy and a dictionary. This would be a fun event to host every year, so consider getting a large trophy that you can engrave with all the winners' names.

Guest Speaker Seminars

Every community has members who stand out for some reason. It may be the local news anchors or athletes, or a successful local business owner. One way to raise money for your organization is to set up guest speaker fundraisers. Ask well known members of the community to donate some time, just an hour will do, to talk to groups about their professions, how they overcame adversity in their lives, what it took to get them where they are, basically any inspiring topic. Then sell tickets. To encourage participation and increase excitement about the event, sell a set number of tickets, and let everyone know seating is limited. You can also sell concessions, but for an event of this nature, it's probably better to charge a little more for tickets, and offer complimentary snacks and beverages. And don't limit your speakers to the high profile members of the community. Ask a firefighter to talk about what their job is like, and the sacrifices the job requires. Invite a single parent who works and runs a successful household to give tips to other parents. Everyone has stories and information to share, no matter who they are or what they do. The possibilities are endless.

Holiday Flower/Plant Sale

Spring tulips, Easter lilies, fall mums, and poinsettias are all seasonal flowers that could be a great fundraiser for your



group. Find a local nursery that will sell flowers or plants to your group wholesale. This fundraiser works best as a pre-order, but you should have some extras on hand to take advantage of last-minute sales. This is a fundraiser that can be run multiple times a year to take advantage of the seasons. You will need to work out with the nursery if they will deliver the flowers to you or if you will need to pick them up. Advertise your sale with flyers sent home with students and in your local newspapers. Have a pickup day and time for everyone to get their flowers. Send each plant home with a thank you note and a care sheet.

How Many in That Jar?

You will need your best guessing skills for this fundraiser. This fundraiser is very simple to run and requires very little equipment. You will need a large jar or clear box and something to fill it with. Pick something like candy-covered chocolates, nails, marbles or cards. You will also need index cards or slips of paper with lines marked for name, phone number, and guess. Set the jar in a public spot and have someone selling guess slips for one or two dollars. People are welcome to submit as many guesses as they are willing to pay for. Have a box for placing guess slips into. Run the contest for a week to give everyone a chance to make a guess. After all the guesses have been entered have a small group of people count the items from the jar. Count several times to be sure of the total. Announce the winner and give them a share of the total money raised.

Pennies From Heaven

This fundraiser will create a healthy competition amongst classes, while letting the students work together for a common goal. A penny fundraiser is simple. Each class will have a jar to collect pennies in. One penny equals one vote towards the class. To make it

interesting and raise more money, let any other coin denomination equal a vote against the class. For instance, a nickel would equal five votes against the class. Keep each class's jar in a public location to allow anyone to cast a vote for or against a class. Empty each jar at the end of the day and keep a running total. Let this fundraiser run for at least a week to give everyone a chance to bring in pennies. A great time to run this fundraiser would be during school spirit week. The final result can be revealed during a pep rally at the end of the week. This is a fun and easy fundraiser.

Photography Fundraiser

Why pay for a hastily taken photo at the noisy, crowded mall when you can host your own photos session, and earn some money for your group at the same time? A photography fundraiser is a great way to make money for your cause; it just takes a little planning. Talk to local photographers to find one willing to donate their time and talent. Depending on the season and your school, set up a backdrop for the photos. For example, you could have a winter holiday scene. Put together a nice setting with an artificial tree, empty boxes wrapped to look like gifts, and a nice backdrop. The photographer may even be able to provide that. Remember, it doesn't just have to be for kids. Let the grownups get in on the action for some fun photos. Provide a concession stand with punch and cookies for everyone to enjoy while they wait their turn for a little extra income. Then have fun getting into the holiday spirit!

Traditional Raffle

There's something to be said for tradition. There are all kinds of raffles you can hold to raise money for your group, but a traditional raffle is one of the easiest fundraisers out there. Contact local businesses to talk to them



about your school and your fundraising goals. Ask them to donate merchandise or gift certificates to be used as the raffle items. You can buy a large roll of two-part tickets at any party supply store, and they're not very expensive. They're the kind of tickets that have two parts, each with the same number printed on them. You can sell tickets for \$1 or \$2 each. Supporters will get one half of the ticket, and you put the other half in a large bowl, bag, or box. At the time of the raffle, mix the tickets in the bowl up, then randomly draw one ticket out at a time. The person holding the ticket with the matching number wins! It's up to you whether ticket holders need to be present to win, but it does make it more fun to actually hand a prize over to someone, and it keeps you from having to store anything to be awarded later. With donated prizes, the only money you have to spend is on the tickets, so this fundraiser has the potential to raise quite a bit of money.

What's in the Box Auction

Curiosity killed the cat and it will be curiosity that will work in your group's favor with this fundraiser. Have all the attendees bring a wrapped package, big or small, to the auction. They can place anything they want in the box from tickets to the opera (perhaps weighted down with some rocks) or the lamp Aunt Esther bought them as a wedding gift (a hideous thing really). As each box is brought in, label it with a number and place on tables that have been set up. People should be allowed to examine the boxes, picking them up and shaking them. Absolutely no unwrapping or peaking! You can either run the auction live with an auctioneer, or as a silent auction. In a silent auction, people write down their bids on a piece of paper kept near the box and try to outbid each other that way. Seed the auction with a few really great items that have been donated by local stores to keep bidding high. Let each winner unwrap their box in front of everyone after they win to show off if they got a great prize or a dud. This will be fun for everyone.

GRAMMAR GALLERY

