Pennies for Patients
Primary Content Area: Biology

Introduction
The Pennies for Patients project is a service-learning project that will enable students to feel they are addressing a real need and learn about blood composition and a blood disease that impacts thousands of people in the United State. The project gives students the opportunity to assist research efforts to find a cure for the disease. Students will learn that leukemia is a blood disease in which white blood cells do not function properly to fight off infections. Instructional videos, which may help prepare students regarding the disease, are available through your representative. By conducting the “Pennies for Patients” service project, students will help raise money to fund research and patient aid programs provided by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Prior to the campaign, students can create individual collection containers from recycled coffee cans, Pringles containers, milk jugs, etc. The Pennies for Patients project runs for any three-week time period of your choosing in January and February. Your donation must be received by early March to qualify for top prizes.

Project Goals
- Students will be able to understand the development, structure, and function of molecular and cellular systems.
- Students will be able to understand blood composition, its role in the human body, and the diseases to which it is subject.
- Students will be able to work together in a group to implement a project that meets a crucial social need.
- Students will collect and donate at least $350 while raising awareness regarding leukemia and lymphoma.
- Students will reflect on their experiences.

Procedure/Project Sequence
1. Teach your students about blood composition and blood diseases. This instruction can be woven into the following units:
   - Continuity (genetic code and genetic mechanisms)
   - Development, structure, and function (molecular and cellular)
   - Regulation (positive and negative feedback systems)
2. Go to [www.schoolandyouth.org](http://www.schoolandyouth.org) and register your school to participate in the Pennies for Patients campaign. Download the coordinator’s guide from the link below.
3. Select the dates for your Pennies for Patients campaign (any three-week period in January or February is great) and email them to your contact person.
4. Set a fundraising goal of no less than $350 as well as participation goals.
5. Contact local bank regarding counting donations.
6. Educate your students regarding leukemia and lymphoma using fact sheets found in the Coordinator’s Guide.
7. Allow students to create an awareness poster campaign highlighting facts that captured their attention. Display informational and promotional posters throughout the school.
8. Collect donations on the established collection dates and announce classroom totals and goals.
9. Have your donations converted into a cashier’s check made payable to LLS and mail with your Results Form.

10. Recognize the top fundraising classroom, as well as all students and staff who participated. Reward your top fundraising classroom with their Domino’s® Pizza Party.

11. Guide your students in a reflection exercise. You may want to allow your students to decide how they would like to reflect: through writing, art, discussion, or further research. Students could identify a disease, research its impact, and document the work of an organization addressing that health problem in the United States or around the world.

Community Partners/Resources
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
651 West Washington Boulevard, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60661
312/651-7350
http://www.lls.org/aboutlls/chapters/il/

Addendum
This project addresses the following Common Core State Standards:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.11-12.6 Analyze the author’s purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text, identifying important issues that remain unresolved. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.11-12.9 Synthesize information from a range of sources (e.g., texts, experiments, simulations) into a coherent understanding of a process, phenomenon, or concept, resolving conflicting information when possible.

This project addresses the following Next Generation Science Standards:
HS-LS1-1. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the structure of DNA determines the structure of proteins which carry out the essential functions of life through systems of specialized cells.

Duration
Students should spend 8-10 hours on this project.
Preparation: Background learning on blood systems and diseases – 3-4 hours
Action: Development and implementation of fundraising campaign – 3-4 hours
Reflection: Writing/Discussion/Research – 2 hours

Cross-Curricular Connections
Connections with Technology, Art, Mathematics, and Social Science course could be made during this project.