



Citizen Kids

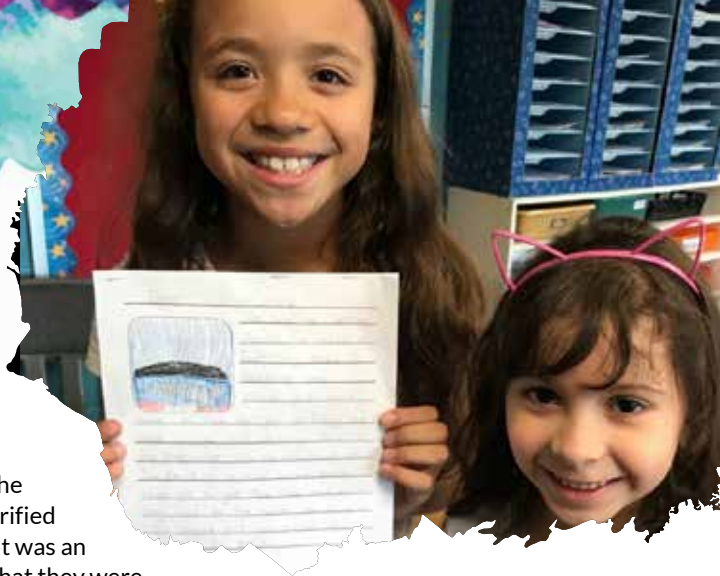
As the second grade students at Hamlin Elementary studied economics, they were surprised to hear that not everyone in their own community had what they needed to survive. The class was focusing on "citizenship," and the teacher invited a representative from a community-based organization to share how they help to provide for the basic needs of the community. The students were beyond motivated to take action and make an impact in their city.

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Students decided to conduct a food drive in support of the local organization. Putting their persuasive writing to work, students wrote letters to their families in which they shared the importance of helping the community and asked to do some extra chores around the house in exchange for a donation to the food drive. In addition, students wrote letters to grocery stores asking for donations. Several stores responded by donating gift cards or grocery items to the food drive. Going one step further, the class wrote and filmed a video advertisement for a school-wide popsicle sale in support of the food drive, which they conducted during student recess times. The sale was a huge hit!

The work of these students made quite an impact. With donations from families, local grocery stores, and with the money raised from the school popsicle sale, students collected 1,100 pounds of groceries and more than \$800 in donation money for the local charity. As the food was collected in the cafeteria on donation day, students were astonished to see the results of their combined efforts. Kristin Zagula, their teacher, noted, "It was inspiring to see the heightened student motivation during this project. Never, in their minds, had their persuasive writing mattered more. They wanted to talk about their extra chores and their donations earned during morning meetings. One of my students, who typically struggled learning second grade skills, took so much pride in his work and brought in a bag of donations that was nearly as big as he was! Going forward, my teaching team and I will be looking for additional ways to incorporate these types of authentic learning experiences into our curriculum."

As the class worked to contribute to the food drive, both teacher and



students benefitted from using the NPDL Rubrics to measure their effectiveness in the area of Citizenship. The language of the Learning Progressions clarified the pathway of citizenship development. It was an effective way for students to reflect on what they were accomplishing and where their learning could go next.

The students extended their impact further when a group signed up to run in a charity, raising funds to provide fresh water wells in Kenya. The second graders at Hamlin Elementary proved that even young children can display citizenship and make a profound impact on their local and global community.

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Guest Author: Kristin Zagula, Michigan USA

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- PARENT

