Turn buckets of gold into water.
Give water and help children out of poverty

World Day for Water
22 March 2006

Participating schools will receive a certificate

On World Day for Water, 22 March 2006, please help WaterAid Australia to provide some of the poorest people in our region with clean water, effective sanitation and hygiene education.

To support your World Day for Water activities please find inside:
- Assembly outline
- Case study
- Suggested activities
- Facts and figures
- Fundraising ideas

Please also visit the Learn Zone section of our website for:
- A fabulous story written by writer Angela Costi depicting a day in the life of a young girl in Timor - Leste
- Activities for all ages designed by WaterAid volunteer Sarah McGoram (Teacher, Sacred Heart Primary School, Pearce, ACT)
- Online game
- Other links and resources to support your school and classroom activities.
WaterAid’s Buckets of Gold appeal

Join in the celebrations on World Day for Water, 22 March, by taking part in WaterAid’s Buckets of gold appeal and raising funds to help some of the 1.1 billion people in the world who do not have access to safe water. This leaflet provides information and ideas for fundraising so that your school can fill empty buckets with buckets of gold. WaterAid will turn your buckets of change into buckets of fresh, clean water which will provide some of the poorest communities in the world with the chance to take their first steps out of poverty.

Erika Makalli (above) is from Mbalawala village in Tanzania. Erika used to have to spend much of her time walking long distances to fetch water for her family. The water was dirty and often made her ill, but she had no choice. Now Erika has a tapstand close to her home where she can get fresh, clean water which her village installed with WaterAid’s support. “Before we got clean water in the village I was constantly sick and had horrible, itchy skin because I could never wash properly,” says Erika. “I was always suffering with stomach cramps and diarrhoea. I had to get up at 4am and walk a long distance to find water. It took two hours and I could only collect a small amount of water to take home. I used to try and rush to get to school and wouldn’t be able to wash or have any breakfast beforehand. Most of the time I missed school altogether because I was sick or just exhausted. There were so many diseases in this village. In fact the school closed down for 10 months in 1998 because so many children were sick it wasn’t worth opening it. If I still had dirty water I wouldn’t be going to school anymore. I probably wouldn’t have had any real education at all. Also, most of my friends would probably have died from the diseases we used to get. Life would be miserable. Now we have clean water I feel I can at last look forward to a brighter future. Perhaps I will be a health and hygiene teacher when I leave school.”

How your buckets of gold will help change lives

Students and teachers at Edgeworth Heights Public School in NSW made a river of coins during their 2005 celebrations.

Response form

Send to WaterAid Australia, Private Bag 1 Mitcham, VIC 3132

☐ Please accept our donation of $ ______________
☐ Cheques to be made payable to WaterAid Australia
☐ Cash deposited Westpac bank BSB 033 000 Acc # 937590

Date deposited ______________

Contact name ______________________________
School name ______________________________
Address ______________________________
Postcode ______________________________
Email ______________________________
Show students a map, globe or picture of the Earth.
Water covers about 70% of the Earth. Without water there would be no life on our planet. Human beings need water to survive, but we use it in many different ways.

What do you use water for? (Responses may vary; shower/bath, brushing teeth, flushing the toilet, cleaning, cooking, eating/drinking, recreation, watering the garden etc).

Hardly a day goes by when we do not use water!

In the Australia we can get fresh, clean water from the tap whenever we need it, but there are many people in the world who don’t have clean water on tap or in their homes.

There are about 6.4 billion people in the world. Can you guess how many of them live without clean water? (Responses will vary) The answer is 1.1 billion people. That is roughly one-sixth of the world’s population!

Children are often responsible for collecting water. In Africa and Asia children can sometimes walk several kilometres to the nearest water source and queue for hours. The walk home can be exhausting with the heavy containers balanced on their heads or backs. Collecting water leaves little time for going to school, doing homework or playing with friends. Kate is 10 years old and lives in Uganda. It is her responsibility to collect the water for her family.

“I have to walk a long way to get my water. A tap will be good. We’ll have clean water, we can clean our things better. I have diarrhoea and malaria. My friend Nanyonga died from malaria last October. I miss her.”

Soon Kate will have clean water close to home because her community is working with a charity called WaterAid. WaterAid works in 17 different countries including our neighbours Timor-Lest and Papua New Guinea, helping people get access to clean water, educating them about good hygiene and building toilet facilities.

Taps and toilets are installed close to peoples’ homes. WaterAid projects involve the participation of everyone in the community. Men, women and children help by digging and collecting materials and building fences to protect the water source from contamination. When people contribute to a WaterAid project they feel proud when it is completed and they will protect and look after it for years to come.

You can help too by joining in with WaterAid’s Buckets of gold fundraising appeal in celebration of World Day for Water on 22 March 2006. Collect your spare change at home and bring it into school; look for buckets located throughout the school where you can deposit your coins. At the end of the week we will count up the coins and send them to WaterAid.

WaterAid will use your donation to provide fresh water to people in need in the 17 countries where it works. It costs WaterAid just $33 to provide someone in Africa, Asia or the Pacific with a lasting supply of clean water and a loo. Every coin that you collect will be used to help people like Kate live a better life.

Conclude assembly by identifying teachers and classes involved, informing students of any upcoming events or projects and setting a fundraising target (see How your buckets of gold can help for items to choose for your target).

Sources:
2 WHO/UNICEF Monitoring Programme 2000 Assessment
3 World Health Organisation website: www.who.int/en

Assembly outline

“When I used to collect water from the river it was horrible. The river water stinks and used to give me tummy ache. Now I collect this water in the morning, afternoon and evening, after school, and this water tastes good!”
General facts

Children throughout the world suffer because they don’t have access to safe water and sanitation. Their health, education and family relationships are affected.

In many countries children, particularly girls, are responsible for the collection of water. Girls as young as 10 years old may take the main responsibility for drawing and carrying the family’s water.

The size of the water container may vary with the size of the child, but each litre of water carried weighs one kilogram and may need to be carried several kilometres. Carrying such heavy weights is damaging in the long term for adult women, and for girls there are even more serious implications given their physical immaturity. In particular, there can be damage to the head, neck and spine. In extreme cases deformity of the spine can lead to problems in pregnancy and childbirth.

It is 12% more likely that children will attend school if water is available within 15 minutes rather than one hour’s walk and 11% more girls attend school when toilets are available.

The simple act of washing hands with soap and water can reduce diarrhoeal diseases by over 40%.

Facts, figures and fundraising

Just $33 will provide someone in our region with a lasting supply of water, sanitation and hygiene education.

Ask the children to save all their spare change (they can also involve their friends and family) for 33 days and see how much you can raise towards WaterAid’s Australia’s work in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea.

A child dies every 15 seconds from water-related diseases.

Ask each to collect one small water bottle or drink container and then fill it with their change. When everybody has brought in their bottles empty the coins out and arrange them in the shape of a river.

Many children in developing countries aren’t able to go to school as they have to help their families collect water. Children will carry several litres of water (a litre of water weighs one kilogram) and can walk several kilometres carrying this load.

Weigh your coins into kilograms to represent the weight of water that some children carry each day.

Over two million people, most of them children, in developing countries die each year from diseases associated with lack of safe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

Do you have a great fundraising idea to support WaterAid’s work?? Send us your story and photos, we love hearing from students, teachers and communities.

Resources available

WaterAid Australia is a new international aid agency, established in 2003. WaterAid Australia is a unique partnership between the Australian water industry and the aid sector.

We have many resources available through our website including stories, activities, and an online game to actively engage children of all ages.

Please visit http://www.wateraid.org/australia/learn_zone/

We also have an educational DVD available for loan, Buckets of Water. To request this DVD for loan please contact WaterAid Australia. (Details below)

If you would like more information please visit our website or contact us directly email watercharity@yw.com.au, Telephone 03 9872 1730 or Fax 03 9872 1132.