



Fundraising Tips for Elementary School Teams

Autism Art Project:

Have teachers share a lesson teaching their students all about autism. Have this teacher coordinate with the school's art teacher to have students do creative projects expressing their thoughts and feelings about autism. After the artwork is created, display it in a prominent location in the school to raise awareness. To add a fundraising component to this project, place donation jars in front each art piece and ask students to place change or dollar bills in the jars that correspond to the work they like best. The artist with the most change in their jar will win a prize.

Backpack Drop:

Make packets of general Autism Speaks brochures and walk information. You can also include a personalized fundraising letter. Give these to your child's school and have teachers place them in each child's backpack before they leave for the day. You might be surprised by the response you will get from other parents.

Bake Sale:

Have everyone from your team bring in individually priced baked goods to sell. Choose a time and location where many students will be present, such as in a major hallway between classes or during lunch. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Bingo Night:

Everyone loves playing Bingo, and putting together a Bingo night is simple. You will need a room with lots of tables and a Bingo caller. You can download and print your own Bingo cards for free. Also make a plastic tumbler for hand painted ping-pong balls for selecting each number and you're good to go. Charge either a general admission fee or a fee per game, and give donated prizes to the winners. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Board Game Night:

Host a board game night in your home or school and have families and team members lend board games. You can either have your guests pay a general participation fee or a fee per game. You can play rounds of games in a tournament style and have a playoff for the winners. Have simple prizes for your winners at the end of the night. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

CandyGrams:

A CandyGram is candy bar or gift bag of candy with a note attached that you can sell to your fellow students. When students buy the candygrams, they write a note to the person they're buying it for, and the candygram is then delivered to that person during a designated time. It's a really fun way for people to give holiday gifts to their friends, and it can be a really easy way to fundraise for your team! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Jeans Day:

Get school approval to host a jeans day or a casual day. Make sure to advertise the event by posting fliers on bulletin boards, sending out emails to students and teachers, or handing out fliers to students as they leave for the day before the actual event. On jeans day, ask teachers to collect the money from students who are dressed down. Recommended amounts are around \$2 or \$5, but check with your school before setting an amount.

Penny War:

This fundraiser is perfect for any school team! First, all participants need to divide into teams. A good way to divide into teams is by classroom or grade level. Each team should decorate and personalize their container. Participants should put pennies (positive points) in their own containers, while placing silver coins and paper money (negative points) in the competing teams' containers. There should be a set date for the end of the competition, and the team with the most positive points at the end wins. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Puzzle Piece Campaign:

Sell Autism Speaks puzzle pieces for \$1 and display them in a prominent location such as in the assembly hall, main hallway, or cafeteria. Send each child home with a flier so parents can send in money for their child's puzzle piece. Turn this into a contest between classes or grade levels to see who can sell the most puzzle pieces around school. The winning group could then receive a small prize such as a pizza party during lunch hour. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Student/Faculty Games:

Challenge groups of students and teachers to typical field day games such as the three-legged race, egg and spoon race, balloon toss and dress-up race. The students who win will receive prizes from the teachers they compete against such as getting to leave class early, getting a night without homework, or even extra credit. If the teachers win, the students have to do things for them such as help clean the classroom, bring them a snack, or even lead the class. To make this into a fundraiser, everyone must pay a small fee to enter the competition, students and teachers alike. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Video Game Tournament:

Have someone bring in a gaming system and set it up in a classroom during a free period. Wii Bowling tournaments are popular, as are Guitar Hero or Rockband tournaments. Each participant pays to play in the tournament (recommended donation is between \$5-\$10 depending on the ages of the participants). A tournament bracket should be created, and each participant will move forward in the tournament as they win each round. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Contact your local Autism Speaks office for step-by-step instructions about how to host each of the fundraisers or if you want materials to display at your event such as brochures and Walk Now for Autism Speaks banners.