A game to identify strategies that will bear “fruit”
to build community support and involvement for schools
and improve student achievement.

RULES OF PLAY

Number of players: 2 or more.

What you need: One die. A score card for each player – copy the sample on the back. Individual game markers to identify each player on the board.

To play: Roll the die to establish the order of play. Roll to enter the board. When you land on a square, read the communication scenario below that corresponds to the number on the square – you accumulate points in the four fruit categories, and maybe lose ground if you slip on a banana peel.

To finish: All players must roll to land on the last square (either 47 or 48) and answer the “Lemons-to-Lemonade” question (hold your answers until everyone finishes). Everyone must finish the game. The winner is the player who earns the most points with at least one apple, one peach, one cherry and one kiwi. (Tie breaker: The first to finish wins.)

The object: Improve Student Achievement by Building Community Support.
COMMUNICATION

Improved Community Support = Improved Student Achievement

Join two halves of gameboard.
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Join two halves of gameboard.
THE SCENARIOS -
Based on true tales and programs from here in Oregon!

1. Principals can each name three reasons or unique characteristics that make their schools great. All building staff know and talk about those things regularly. Earn 1 kiwi.

2. Teens for Animals Club organizes holiday giving tree at the mall to seek donations for humane society; teens also partner with elementary students as “dog walkers” for humane society after school. Earn 2 apples.

3. Invite parents and community members to be judges for Senior Project oral presentations. Earn 1 peach.

4. Create a patron tour, using student leaders as guides – and create something similar with Spanish-speaking students for Hispanic parents, grandparents. Earn 2 cherry twins for taking a novel approach to an old idea.

5. Encourage teachers to communicate with parents by providing them with “good news” stationary. Earn 1 kiwi.

6. Empty square.

7. Local media discovers the district failed to notify them of an executive board session regarding discipline of the superintendent. District official says, “Really, it wasn’t advertised?” Banana peel – Slide back 1 space.

8. Students design and build a house to sell, working with the guidance and help of local professional construction union employees. Profits from the home sale pay for continuing the program. Earn 2 apples for real-work experience combined with support from local trades folks.

9. Create Golden Age pass for school events that’s marketed to local seniors. Earn 1 peach.

10. Culinary arts students make dinner for community “dinner theater” production. Earn 1 apple.

11. Empty square.

12. Employee gets caught selling district computer equipment on e-Bay. Banana peel – Slide back 1 space.

13. Districtwide “Key Communicator” group created and kept informed through e-mail newsletter. Earn 1 kiwi.

14. Community businesses host more than 300 students for a week-long work experience in the students’ areas of interest. Earn 2 cherry twins for relevant learning that partners businesses with students.

15. Sponsor a Great Guys Day that encourages male family role models to attend a half day of school in their child’s class. Earn 1 peach.

16. Local law enforcement help students produce award-winning video on the dangers of meth-amphetamine. Earn 3 apples for quality of project, combining current issue with practical skill and local professional expertise.

17. Volunteer parents work with local sportswear company to fix and organize seconds and damaged clothing to distribute to needy students. Earn 1 peach.

18. Oregon Food Bank volunteer teaches kids how to make healthy meals and provides food to allow kids to cook the same meal for their own families. Earn 1 peach.

19. Conduct customer service training for secretarial staff that includes a role playing exercise during which the secretaries play parents who can’t speak the language of the staff. Earn 2 kiwis for combining training in two essential areas – customer service and cultural sensitivity.

20. Empty square.

21. Elementary students study how a city functions by creating a model city with businesses and government offices built out of refrigerator boxes. Parents help. Earn 2 apples for combining a good civic lesson with parent involvement.

Continued
22. Administrator gets transferred to different school after getting caught on-site in a romantic interlude with another employee. A news reporter knows the true story. When asked to comment, the superintendent says the transfer was for “health reasons.” Banana peel – Slide back 2 spaces for lying and losing credibility with reporter.

23. Parents and students plant community gardens at school. When crops are harvested, they prepare and share a meal. Earn 1 peach.

24. Car dealerships provide internships for automotive technology students in their service departments. Earn 1 cherry twin.

25. Empty square.

26. Plumbing firm provides scholarship for teacher to take Chamber of Commerce leadership class. Earn 1 cherry twin.

27. A social studies teacher shows video of a beheading in Iraq during a current events class. Banana peel – Slide back 2 spaces, one for violating district’s video policy and one for bad judgment.

28. Student works at local radio station, then teaches kids at another school about radio broadcasting. Earn 1 apple.

29. Empty square.

30. Parent brings a bat to a class and lets it out of the cage so students can touch it. Teacher later asks the principal if that was OK. Banana peel – Slide back 1 space.

31. Principal starts weekly “Second Cup of Coffee” sessions in the office so that parents or anyone who wants to talk knows this is an open time when they can drop in. Earn 1 kiwi.

32. Local business owners and managers invited to be Principals for a Day. Earn 1 cherry twin.

33. Superintendent with no PR staff establishes communication goals with the help of a professional, or someone keenly aware of the district’s PR strengths and weaknesses, and a broad-based community committee. Earn 1 kiwi – BONUS! move 1 more space because superintendent had communication issues on the radar screen.

34. Empty square.

35. When describing why a high school dance was shut down early because of student dirty dancing, a school official is quoted saying “It’s like having sex with your clothes on!” Banana peel – Slide back 1 space.

36. Students deliver meals to housebound seniors each week through Meals on Wheels. Earn 2 apples for combining ongoing service project that connects students one-on-one with seniors.

37. High school students conduct a Parents Night Out. They take care of elementary age children while parents go Christmas shopping. Earn 1 peach.

38. Sandwich chain store donates food each week for a teacher who hosts a healthy lunch discussion with a rotating group of students. Earn 2 cherry twins for getting a local business involved in promoting an important message.

39. Empty square.

40. School and/or community “reader board” used to deliver success messages, such as “20% of our 5th graders every Friday at 4 p.m. Earn 1 kiwi.

41. Teacher finds out a student has a gun in her jacket. The teacher asks the student to hand the gun over, then looks in the barrel to see if it is loaded. Banana peel – Slide back 2 spaces for a very stupid move – AND lose one apple for endangering everyone in the room.

42. Start Hispanic Moms group that meets regularly to work on a school volunteer activity. Provide an interpreter – and free babysitting to allow them to bring young children to school. Earn 1 peach.

43. All school buildings have an updated building-level crisis communication plan. Earn 1 kiwi.

44. Local bookstore hosts an after-school Reading Club for 4th and 5th graders every Friday at 4 p.m. Earn 3 cherry twins for using a local business to promote literacy.

45. School board sponsors parent literacy conference showcasing teachers and providing practical ways parents can boost literacy. Earn 2 peaches for engaging parents in their child’s learning and promoting expertise of teachers.

46. Student starts Web site for teenagers to get active in the community; you “applaud” student at a board meeting, promote the idea on district Web site, in parent and student newsletters and with news media. Earn 1 apple for active learning, AND – earn 1 kiwi for good PR.

47. & 48. Make LEMONADE! Everyone must land on this square and answer the following question correctly to win!

Sometimes you get handed a bunch of lemons – the trick is to figure out how to make lemonade. Le- mons-to-Lemonade

Five middle school students attending a high school football game are caught with methamphetamine behind the stadium. The investigation reveals that the middle school has a widespread drug problem, partly fueled by a drug house across from the school. Parents accuse the school of knowing about the problem and not doing anything about it.

You’re the principal; what will you say or do when reporters call?

a. Refuse to comment to the media because it is a discipline issue.

b. Ask the police to field calls because it is a community and a criminal issue more than a school issue.

c. Explain how you’ve been addressing the drug problem, including prevention/diversion efforts, counseling programs, working with parents and adult mentors.

d. Tell them you’re forming a task force to look at the drug issue.

e. Emphasize your collaboration with police in seeking a shutdown of the drug house.

C and E
B and D

(The answer is printed near the fold on the back of the game board.)
You want to protect the identity of students but send a message that you have a track record of taking the problem seriously and working with others to address drug issues.

Lemons-to-lemonade: Correct answer: F (C and E)