



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Milpitas Christian School Students Raise Funds for Paradise Fire Victims**

*Innovative "Penny War" Competition Teaches Valuable Lessons to Middle School Students*

MILPITAS, CALIFORNIA - Milpitas Christian School is pleased to announce that the week-long campaign to help victims of the "Camp Fire" in Paradise has raised a record \$3,300. Initiated by student leaders at Milpitas Christian School, this creative fundraiser for grades 6-8 will provide funds to meet critical needs for displaced individuals and families.

#### **Can a Penny Make a Difference?**

How can middle school students make a difference? Student Council members at Milpitas Christian School voted to raise money for fire victims through a "Penny War" competition. The ninety middle school students were encouraged to donate pennies and dollar bills into their class' collection jar; each penny was worth one point. During the three-minute passing time between classes, students could also deposit silver-colored coins (nickels, dimes, and quarters) into a competing class' jar. Each nickel subtracted five points, each dime subtracted ten points and each quarter subtracted 25 points.

"The Penny War encouraged all the students to be generous," explained thirteen-year-old Melody H., President of the ten-member Student Council. "Not only was it a fun competition between the grades, but we were able to raise and donate the money to a good cause, and that's what made it so special."

"Past fundraisers yielded a few hundred dollars," added Student Council advisor and seventh grade teacher Cristine Vo. "Students brought in their allowances and savings. Some parents even matched their child's donations. I'm very pleased that our students are learning how to be the 'hands and feet' of Jesus by caring for a nearby community."

## Results of Penny War



After hours of sorting and counting, the official results are:

- 6<sup>th</sup> graders won (133,585 points)
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders finished second with 42,490 points
- 7<sup>th</sup> graders were last with just 2,383 points

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders formed an alliance to defeat the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. The winning 6<sup>th</sup> graders earned the privilege of an in-class potluck and movie.

### Community Service

Milpitas Christian School challenges every student to grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Later this month, grades 7 and 8 will be helping at the Milpitas Food Pantry and The Family Giving Tree, respectively. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are expected to serve a minimum of 6 hours per trimester and share what they learned through a “reflection” form.

“We’re excited to see the kids take ownership of this Penny War,” Ms. Vo continued. “We’ve already heard them ask about when they can start their next fundraiser. Time to start saving those pennies.”

## About Milpitas Christian School

Founded in 1974, Milpitas Christian School (MCS) seeks to transform lives for Christ through excellence in education, relationships and service. MCS offers education to preschool, elementary and middle school students. Starting in 2019, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will be admitted to Milpitas Christian College Preparatory, a high school with a STEM/STREAM (science, technology, robotics, engineering, arts and mathematics) focus. MCS accepts students of all races and nationalities and does not discriminate in any of its programs based on gender, race, or national origin.

For more information or to arrange a campus tour, visit [MilpitasChristian.org](http://MilpitasChristian.org) or call (408) 945-6530.

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## Tags and Keywords

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