

Math for Free Rice

When Big Hollow RtI Math Intervention teacher Ms. Jamie Koburi came across the freerice.com website she saw not only a chance to help others but also potential for a great learning opportunity. FreeRice is a non-profit website run by the United Nations World Food Program designed to provide free education and help end world hunger by donating rice to those in need. Ms. Koburi's second grade students have been using the FreeRice website to practice their addition and subtraction math facts. For each correct response 10 grains of rice are donated to an impoverished country. On the side of the screen there is a bowl that shows the rice being donated. This gives students a great visual of their donation and motivates them to work even harder to earn more rice.

Students have been excited about the program from the start and have maintained their enthusiasm as they work towards their goal of 100,000 grains of rice, 5,000 grains per student. They have already donated over 20,000 grains of rice. Many students demonstrated great levels of commitment to the project by continuing to work during their spring break independently. In class, students are graphing and tallying their individual donations as well as adding together their group's total donations. "It has been a great program to be involved with. I am so pleased to see my students working together, improving their math skills, and feeling good about their work. I have seen an improvement in their scores since we have begun free rice, and just as importantly these students are learning how to give back to other less fortunate communities. They are a compassionate and hardworking group of kids that I am immensely proud of," said Ms. Koburi.

Not only are the kids at Big Hollow excited about the FreeRice project, the community is getting involved too! On Friday, April 15 a reporter from The Lakeland Journal came out to the Elementary School to report on the program. Look for the article in this week's paper. If you would like to get involved visit <http://freerice.com/> and join the second graders in donating rice.