What prevents us parents and our children from thinking Win-Win?

There is so much competition in our daily routine now with grades, jobs, sports, dance competitions, etc. Thinking Win-Win isn't about “winning” or succeeding “at all costs”. It's about a positive attitude, sharing, kindness, cooperation, communication and collaboration with others. Of course there is winning in games but there is no room for winning or score-keeping in relationships.

Win-Lose 😞
I don’t care how good I am, as long as I am better than you.

Lose-Win 😞
I’ll be the nice guy and just give in to keep the peace.

Lose-Lose 😞
If I’m going down, you're going down with me.

Win-Win 😊
Thinking Win Win is an attitude that says I can win and so can you. Our student leaders balance courage for getting what they want with consideration for what others want. We’re in this together so let’s both succeed!

“You don’t have to blow out another person’s light to make your own light shine”
Bernard Beruch
Are you a bucket filler or a bucket dipper?

What do buckets have to do with being leaders?! At Elm Grove, our children have learned through Leader In Me and the 7 Habits, that by thinking WIN-WIN, we must make deposits in others emotional bank accounts. At school, our children learn about bucket dipping and bucket filling. Bucket filling can be a random act of kindness or simply giving someone a compliment. Bucket dipping can be a negative comment or inconsideration of others feelings.

Bucket filling vs. Bucket dipping

Consider these scenarios:

First thing in the morning:
• Good morning! {{HUGS}} (Bucket filler)
• Get up, get up! We are going to be late if you don’t hurry and get ready. (Bucket dipper)

In drop off line at school:
• Have a great day! I know you’re going to do great on your spelling test today. (Bucket filler)
• You forgot your lunch?! I don’t have time for this, I have to get to work (Bucket dipper)

Sibling comparison:
• Nothing makes me happier than to see you doing what YOU love to do (Bucket filler)
• Why can’t you be like your sister? (Bucket dipper)

Third Alternative!

Parents, we’ve all been in a situation where we feel like referees during play dates or among our children. Does this scenario sound familiar?: “I don’t want to jump on the trampoline, I want to play Minecraft!” “Well I’m not playing Minecraft until I get to jump on the trampoline.” Leaders think Win-Win and when conflict arises, they look for third alternatives.

How can we both Win in this situation? “Let’s play Minecraft for 20 minutes and then go jump on the Trampoline for 20 minutes!”
Have you filled a bucket today?

This book is an awesome read with your children. It helps encourage positive behavior and choices. Examples of expressing kindness are provided throughout the book—a perfect illustration of how to Think Win-Win! Through sweet stories and illustrations, children are shown the meaning of bucket filling and bucket dipping. And, in classic Think Win-Win fashion, examples are provided how when a leader fills another person’s bucket, they are

The Rainbow Fish

The Rainbow Fish believes he is the MOST beautiful fish in the ocean. So, he refuses to play with other fish. Once he has no friends, he seeks out advice and is told to give away some of his beautiful scales. While he initially resists this idea, he decides to be a leader and Think Win-Win. He gives away just one of his scales, but then he realizes how good it makes everyone (including himself) feel. So, he shares more scales and has

In this story, Sam and Victoria are excited to eat the cookies Ma made for them. Then, the doorbell rings. Friends arrive and they share their cookies until there are so many friends that they only have one cookie each. This story explores how Thinking Win-Win is an important trait for a great leader and friend!