

# Parent Engagement

Resources and Wisdom



## Introduction (Rationale)



This section of the website is a collection of resources that are meant to aid teachers in promoting parent engagement in their classrooms. Each section has resources that a teacher can use and reconfigure to their own needs in the hopes that they can encourage more parent involvement without the onerous task of creating their own resources. A major focus of mine is practicality and these resources will provide educators with practical solutions for creating parent involvement.

Current research indicates that active parent involvement has huge implications on student achievement (Epstein, 1992, 1996; Hill & Taylor, 2004; Jeynes, 2016; Wilder, 2014; Wong et al., 2018). Parent involvement also plays a large role in promoting positive attributes for students such as, increased self-esteem and regulation, improved relationships between teachers and students as well as parents, and constructs positive expectations for students (Castro et al., 2015; Hill & Taylor, 2004; Oswald et al., 2018; Wang & Sheikh-Khalil, 2014; Wilder, 2014). The research is clear that parent engagement in a student's academic journey can have positive outcomes.

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## **Start of Year**

The start of the year for many teachers, parents, and students can be intimidating. So many new situations. A new teacher? New class? New environment? These are all factors that play into a student feeling welcome, but it also has an impact on how parents feel.

In the Start of Year section, there are some practical resources that will allow a teacher to get to know their students' family situations more intimately, while promoting an invitation to the parents to advocate for their child. The surveys give an authentic opportunity for parents to share their insight and experience of what is important to them and their child. You cannot deny that parents are truly the experts of what does and does not work for their child. The surveys also provide a type of invitation to the parents to be part of the child's education. Invitations for parent involvement can play a vital role in solidifying whether the parents view themselves as an active participant in their child's education and in the school community (Hoover-Dempsey et al. 2005; Hoover Dempsey & Sandler, 1997).

The start of the year package can be viewed as a snapshot of the expectations and guidelines that the teacher has in their classroom. It provides a transparent view of what the teacher expects and the processes that occur in the classroom on a daily basis, so no one is left in the dark.

## **Learning Celebrations and Providing Positivity**

In the learning celebration section, there are various resources that educators can use to promote parent engagement in the classroom and bridge the gap between school and home. Encouraging parents to become more involved throughout the school year can be daunting. The learning celebrations are meant to create opportunities that parents can become part of their students learning while trying to accommodate their busy lives and diverse family situations. The learning celebrations are meant to be non-judgmental forms of communication between the parents, teachers, and students.

Research states that parents are usually concerned about interaction with teachers because it usually means that something is wrong. Learning celebrations attempt to promote the importance of being able to communicate openly about the successes and challenges for the students (Brock & Edwards, 2010, Graham-Clay, 2005).

Another goal of the learning celebrations is to encourage communication among the parent community and build social support for families. Creating a team approach between the teacher, parent, and student promotes positive relationships and student success (Epstein, 2010).

The learning celebrations can also have a positive impact on the student and parent relationships by creating teamwork between parents and students. These opportunities for parents and students to work together to create common goals have been shown to encourage an environment for role modeling of appropriate behavior and expectations and ultimately create an environment for success (Hill and Taylor, 2004; Stevens &

and ultimately create an environment for success (Hill and Taylor, 2007, Stevens & Patel, n.d.).

Finally, when parents show their expectations and celebrate their child's success this provides an environment that promotes student achievement (Wilder, 2014). There is also a very strong correlation between parents who are more involved in their child's education and the parents that demonstrate that they have higher expectations for their children (Castro et al., 2015, Wilder, 2014). Parent involvement, which is promoted by learning celebrations, provides opportunities for parents to demonstrate their positive beliefs, attitudes, and values towards educational experiences. This parent involvement can provide positive reinforcement for students that learning, and school, is important (Wilder, 2014).

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# Parent Engagement

Resources and Wisdom



## CATEGORY

### Start of the Year

The start of the year for teachers is an essential time to create a meaningful relationship with the students and their families. To start this process, an educator has to initiate the process by asking the right questions to get to know the families dynamics and the needs of the students. It is also vital to start inviting parents into your classroom culture and to provide your classroom expectations and your vision for the year. This can be an onerous task but these resources will help you set the stage for the year ahead.

#### Classroom Parent Information Package



The purpose of the parent information package is to give a snapshot of the important day-to-day information about your classroom. It provides a brief overview of all the different elements that occur daily in the classroom. This can include student...

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#### Parent Engagement Facts



The goal of this resource is to provide information and facts to parents to enlighten them to the positive benefits of being activity involved in their child's school community and their education. The parent engagement fact sheet was created using...

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#### "Getting to Know" Surveys



Surveys are a simple and direct way to increase parent involvement in your classroom. By simply asking parents their opinion on various school topics can create positive relationship between parents and teachers. Parents are experts of who their child is...

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# Parent Engagement

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## Classroom Parent Information Package

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The purpose of the parent information package is to give a snapshot of the important day-to-day information about your classroom. It provides a brief overview of all the different elements that occur daily in the classroom. This can include student planners, gym expectations, library information, how snack and lunch work, homework and behavioural expectations. It also provides concrete expectations of the culture that you are establishing in your classroom. It can be a very useful item to set the groundwork and start to create a positive and meaningful relationship with families. This document is fully editable as teachers all have varying classroom cultures, schedules and expectations. Please explore or download Parent Information Package. Feel free to change anything you'd like. Enjoy!

[Parent Information Package \[Word Document\]](#)

[Parent Information Package \[PDF\]](#)

Mr./Ms/Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_

**Parent Information Package**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Package was modified from Tanya Timmerman.

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## Parent Engagement Facts

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The goal of this resource is to provide information and facts to parents to enlighten them to the positive benefits of being activity involved in their child's school community

and their education. The parent engagement fact sheet was created using current research with the intention of providing insight into why and how parents can be an active participant in their child's education.

Please explore or download the resource for Parent Engagement Facts:

[Parent Fact Sheet \[Word Document\]](#)

[Parent Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#)

**Name**

Address  
Phone  
Email

# Parent Engagement Fact Sheet

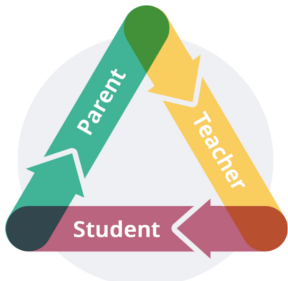
Date:

## Research

The current research overwhelmingly shows that parent engagement in their child's education has many positive effects. The goal of this fact sheet is to inform you, the parents/guardians, of the positive benefits of being an active member in your child's education.

### Goals

Every family has different needs, dynamics, time restraints, schedules, cultural backgrounds, and situations that make all families unique. Like families, classrooms are unique communities that function together to reach a common goal of student success. Similarly, one of the reasons we strive to create positive relationships between parents and teachers is to promote student success and achievement through a team approach. A parent or guardian who acts as a child's co-pilot through their education offers their child a better chance of being successful emotionally, socially and academically.



**2**

## Facts

1. Parent involvement is an essential part of a child's development and especially impactful on their academic success.
2. Parent involvement has been strongly associated with improvements in cognitive, language, and social emotional development. It also can positively impact self-esteem, social inclusion, emotional regulation and self-perception of academic competence.
3. Parent expectations and aspirations for their child have a very strong correlation with student achievement compared to other forms of parental behavioural involvement.
4. A parent's own beliefs, attitudes, and values towards education strongly correlate with their own child's beliefs, attitudes and values towards education.
5. The strongest associations between parent involvement and student success can be achieved in the following ways:
  - a. reading at home,
  - b. holding high expectations/aspirations for a child's academic achievement and schooling,
  - c. communicating with a child about school, and
  - d. encouraging and supporting the child in terms of learning outcomes.
6. Higher communication between households and schools promotes increased parent awareness about student progress and creates shared goals that encourage an environment for higher achievement and role-modeling of appropriate behaviour.
7. Increased communication can positively impact the student's self-work efficacy.

school engagement and intrinsic motivation towards school.

#### References

1. Epstein, 1992; Hill & Taylor, 2004; Jaynes, 2016; Wilder, 2014; Wong et al., 2018
2. Oswald et al., 2018; M.-T. Wang & Sheikh-Khalil, 2014; Niia et al., 2015; USDHHS, 2016
3. Boonk et al., 2018; Wilder, 2014
4. Castro et al., 2015; Wilder, 2014
5. Boonk et al. (2018)
6. Hill & Taylor, 2004; Stevens & Patel, n.d.
7. Fan & Williams, 2010; Goodall & Montgomery, 2014



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# Parent Engagement

Resources and Wisdom



## “Getting to Know” Surveys



Surveys are a simple and direct way to increase parent involvement in your classroom. By simply asking parents their opinion on various school topics can create positive relationship between parents and teachers. Parents are experts of who their child is. They can give the teacher direct answers for questions like: What do they like? What do they dislike? What works best for them?

Allowing parents to be involved in decisions can encourage their own involvement and build stronger relationships with the teacher. The goal of these surveys is to allow teachers and parents to communicate about the needs of their child and their family. It also promotes open dialogue about discussing a student’s progress later in the school year. These surveys also highlights the needs of the family and what the schools can do to help. An essential part of student success is creating a team-based approach between parents, students and teachers. These surveys allow for the initial steps to be taken in finding out more information and creating a meaningful relationship with families.

Please explore or download the different surveys:

Getting to Know (General)

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[Getting to Know Survey \(General\) \[Word Document\]](#)

[Getting to Know Survey \(General\) \[PDF\]](#)

Getting to Know (Family)

[Getting to Know Survey \(Family\) \[Word Document\]](#)

[Getting to Know Survey \(Family\) \[PDF\]](#)

Getting to Know (Tech)

[Getting to Know Survey \(Tech\) \[Word Document\]](#)

[Getting to Know Survey \(Tech\) \[PDF\]](#)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Getting to Know Your Child

What is the most important thing I should know about your child?

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What are a couple passions that your child has? (*Ex. Sports, music, dance, Lego, etc.*)

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What is one thing or area you want your child to improve on this year?

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How does your child feel about grade \_\_\_ and school?

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My child works best when the teacher is...

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My child does not work well when...

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What motivates your child to learn?

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What skills does your child have regarding the use of technology? (*Ex. Google, Word, Using I-Pads,*

Chromebooks, laptops, ect.)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Getting to Know You and Your Family

How would you like to be involved with your child's education?

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What is your preferred method of communication? (Ex. Email, phone, meeting, FreshGrade, note etc.)

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What did you enjoy when you went to school?

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What did you dislike when you went to school?

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What do you have available at your house? Ex. Computer, smartphone, iPad, ect) How comfortable are you with using technology? (Ex. Email, FreshGrade, Google, Blogs, etc.)

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Who else lives at your house? (Ex. Pets, siblings, etc.)

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What does a typical afternoon after school look like with your family?

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With adequate warning, would some adult family member be able to join for evening school events? (Ex. Poetry night, trivia night, talent show, etc.)

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Would you be open to practicing certain concepts with your child at night to solidify their understanding of the topics? (Ex. Reading, writing, multiplication facts, addition facts, etc.)

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If not, what are the obstacles that you facing that might hinder these objectives? (Ex. Work,

other siblings, other obligations, life, etc.)

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Anything else you would like to tell me that might help make this a successful year?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Home Technology Resources

What is your preferred method of communication? (Ex. Email, phone, FreshGrade, note, etc.)

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As far as technology, what do you have access to in the household? (Ex. Smart phone, laptop, I-Pad, etc.)

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Would you feel comfortable using online form of communication? (Ex. Email, FreshGrade, Blog, etc.)

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Would you be interested in coming in for a tutorial evening for the various programs we use in the classroom? (Ex. FreshGrade, Google Classroom, etc.)

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Is there anything specifically you would like to learn to help you understand the platforms we use in the classroom?

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# Parent Engagement

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## CATEGORY

### Learning Celebrations

Parent involvement bridges the gap between school and home. Bridging that gap is key in encouraging well rounded learning and positive child development. Encouraging parents to become more involved can be daunting so holding "Learning Celebrations" that accommodate busy lives and diverse communities are essential. Engaging in non-judgemental forms of communication lays the foundation for strong and collaborative relationships between parents and teachers. The more connected parents feel to the school and its teachers the more likely they are to actively engage in learning with their children. Learning Celebrations will naturally encourage communication among the parent community, which will build social support for families.

Kids being able to demonstrate their learning in different ways outside the more structured classroom will build a more confident learner. These resources are events or projects that can be used by a teacher to encourage family involvement and create memorable events that parents and students can share. Teachers are by no means expected to use all of these events in a year but hopefully this website can provide an ample amount of ideas and resources that teachers can use. All of the resources are editable, to allow the teacher to customize the events to fit their classroom needs, as well, as their own ideas.

#### Guidelines for Learning Celebrations

- Early in the school year make parents aware of all celebrations and get them to commit
  - Respect all family diversities
  - Provide a childcare lounge for young siblings (if possible)
- Host a parent only night early in September to inform parents of Celebration expectations
  - Publish your Learning Celebrations early
  - Make sure kids are involved from idea to product
  - Stay in the background during celebrations
- Establish behaviours at Celebrations with your students and guests early on
  - Stress the value of a School/Parent /Community partnership
- Utilize available adults and professionals ie school psychologist, librarian, caretaker or administration
  - Set clear boundaries and emphasize learning expectations
  - Never trivialize celebrations

#### Celebrating Math Learning Night




#### Poetea- A Celebration of Poetry



#### Student-Led Cafe Conference



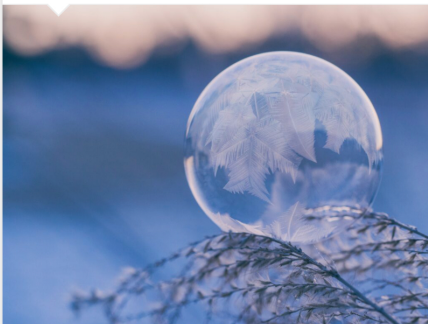


A math night is a fun event for kids in elementary school along with their parents. It lets kids show off their math understanding and skills. It also introduces kids to mathematical concepts beyond the classroom. Meanwhile, it provides an...

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### Winter/Christmas Carnival



The whole notion of a winter carnival can be traced back to New France. It is an outdoor celebration that occurs in the dead of winter. In the beginning, a Winter Carnival was a way to devise activities that would...

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### Learning Through Reinvention of the Traditional Science Fair



The ultimate goal of a school wide Science Fair is to provide the student with an exciting and meaningful learning experience while also developing scientific literacy. Through prior

A Poetea is a culminating event grown from a study of poetry in class. A Poetry study could be an intense short term poetry study or a full term poetry study. The choice is yours. It is a way for...

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### A Celebration of Culture and Diversity



The goal of having a Learning Celebration focused on our personal history is to have kids understand the richness of their own narrative. Having parents involved in both collecting information and providing a sharing opportunity helps kids begin to accept...

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### Art Walk Learning Celebration

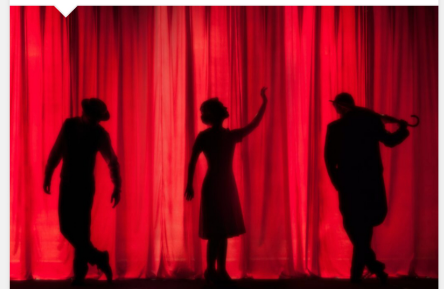


Student-led conferences are a great way for students to share their learning with their parents or family. A student-led conference is a meeting between the students and their family. The student shares their portfolio of work and discusses their own...

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### Talent Show



The objective of a Talent Show is to create an open and inviting environment for learning and exploration by sharing unique skills and expertise with friends, parents and community. The experience should be focused on the students but if...

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### Family Game Night



A family game night can bring many families together to share an enjoyable experience. It can be a positive experience for families to share a common experience and create a better community in the classroom. A family game night has...

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knowledge and critical thinking students begin to answer questions and solve relevant...

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Hosting an Art Walk in your school will not only celebrate student artwork, but also provide another opportunity for student/parent/community interaction and bonding. Creating an atmosphere of partnership generated by collaboration empowers parents and the student. Art is a rich...

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## Celebrating Math Learning Night

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A math night is a fun event for kids in elementary school along with their parents. It lets kids show off their math understanding and skills. It also introduces kids to mathematical concepts beyond the classroom. Meanwhile, it provides an opportunity for parents to see what their kids are learning in math along with problem solving math problems together as a team.

Please explore or download the resource for Celebrating Math Learning Night:

[Celebrating Math Learning Night \[Word Document\]](#)

[Celebrating Math Learning Night \[PDF\]](#)

## Celebrating Math Learning Night

### Overview

A math night is a fun event for kids in elementary school along with their parents. It lets kids show off their math understanding and skills. It also introduces kids to mathematical concepts beyond the classroom. Meanwhile, it provides an opportunity for parents to see what their kids are learning in math along with problem solving math problems together as a team.

### Guidelines of a Math Celebration

- The first and most important step of a community math night is to both encourage and entice attendance
- Use a variety of cross age activities
- Post your math night agenda to inform parents of general format of the event
- Use a large, shared learning space like the school gym, library, a large foyer or use classrooms to highlight specific math concepts
- Set up a variety of stations to allow for choices

### Goals of a Math Learning Night

- Explores the various processes of math used in the classroom
- Suggests how to support your child doing math at home
- Demonstrates strategies of math problem solving
- Introduces and familiarizes parents to current math vocabulary and general math literacy
- Promotes family engagement through math
- Purposefully connects parents to classroom learning
- Reinforces the role and responsibility parents have in their child's learning
- Promotes individual student success
- Highlights the value of math in real life
- Begins to develop a positive fun stigma around math
- Increases mathematical understanding
- Empowers parents
- Demonstrates that problems in math can be solved in a variety of ways
- Encourages collaboration between adults and kids
- Educates parents about math curriculum expectations

- Have sign-up sheets to help control numbers at individual stations
- Use older kids in the school to be the facilitators
- Use kids, educators, admin and support staff to contribute math activities and math manipulatives ie Lego, counters, math games
- Divide your space into stations with each station emphasizing a mathematical concept ie. Measurement, fractions etc.
- Encourage kids and parents to explore several stations
- Build on your math activities over time so that your math night becomes an annual event
- Make sure all stations are fun but math-challenging and engaging

### Ideas for math stations

- Tangrams
- Set up a toy store with coins and exchanges
- Robotics
- Building structures with straws
- Sudoku's
- Dominoes
- Measurement
- Math tic-tac-toe
- Fraction Action
- Dice games
- Graphing station
- Life-size number line
- Drawing to scale
- Shapes
- Problems using Base ten

- mosty challenging and engaging
- Invite parents to help with cleanup at the end of the evening

- blocks
- Cribbage and other card games
  - Design a math board game
  - Using symmetry through drawing
  - Cutting and pasting shapes
  - Lego math
  - Estimate and confirm (guess then count)
  - Math facts bingo



2

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# Parent Engagement

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## Poetea- A Celebration of Poetry

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A Poetea is a culminating event grown from a study of poetry in class. A Poetry study could be an intense short term poetry study or a full term poetry study. The choice is yours. It is a way for students to be creative and let families celebrate their learning.

Please explore or download the resource for Poetea- A Celebration of Poetry:

[Poetea- A Celebration of Poetry \[Word Document\]](#)

[Poetea- A Celebration of Poetry \[PDF\]](#)

[Poetry Unit Parent Letter \[Word Document\]](#)

[Poetry Unit Parent Letter \[PDF\]](#)

[Poetea Invite \[PDF\]](#)

## Poetea- A Celebration of Poetry

### Overview:

A Poetea is a culminating event grown from a study of poetry in class. A Poetry study could be an intense short term poetry study or a full term poetry study. The choice is yours. It is a way for students to be creative and let families celebrate their learning.

### Poetea Day Instructions

1. Prior to the celebration make sure students have picked their favorite poem from the unit.
2. Get the students to rehearse their poems and outline how to read out loud to an audience.
3. Have the students to create some decorations for the class to encourage investment in the event.
4. Appoint a student as the master of ceremonies and provide an order in which the students will be reading.
5. Get the master of ceremonies to introduce the different readers.
6. Encourage students to be great audience members and lead by example.
7. Organize the classroom with seating and a spot for the presenter.
8. Welcome the parents and then let the master of ceremonies take over and let the fun begin!

### Poetry Ideas...

- Acrostic ABC (Accecdarian)
- Reading and Performing Poems for Two Voices
- I Am From
- Cinquain
- Parody Poems (Visit Nursery Rhymes)
- Remembrance Day
- Box of Crayons
- If I could change the world
- Why Be a.....
- I Wear Many Hats
- When I Think of ( Family )
- Christmas Acrostic (Introduce Couplet)
- Shape/Concrete Poetry
- Look for Poems that tells a Story
- Alliteration
- List Poem
- Haiku
- Choosing Your Poem for Memorization
- Become an Animal
- A Poem that tells a Story
- Ballad - Illustrate events in story by use of storyboard
- Metaphor Poem
- Cartooning a Poem
- Some Day I'm Gonna
- Nature Poem
- Using Humour in Poetry
- A Poem with a Message
- Limericks
- Colours
- Rhyming Poetry
- Alliteration in Poetry
- Words Poem ( I like Words)
- Celebration of Poetry



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Dear Parents,

Beginning next week our class will be starting a poetry project that will continue for the school year. Students will be reading, writing, memorizing and sharing poetry on a weekly basis. We will be having a guest teacher in our classroom once a week to assist with the presentation of our poetry exploration.

Poetry is a mandated part of the elementary curriculum and ongoing research shows that poetry not only enriches learning outcomes but it also motivates children to read and builds essential skills like vocabulary, fluency, expression and writing. In the classroom poetry promotes literacy, helps build community and fosters emotional resilience.

A final objective of bringing poetry into our classroom is for the pure enjoyment poetry brings. We will not analyze and deconstruct. We will look for poems that wake us up, fill us with joy, sadness or delight. Forget the ones that don't seem to make sense but we will find those poems that communicate with the deepest parts of our being.

As part of this study we would ask that students bring in any poetry books they already own and are willing to share. Please clearly label these books so that they will be returned. We ask that each student bring in a binder that will become a poetry journal and writing management tool. This does not have to be new and can have writing on it, as we will be covering it. If one cannot be found the school will provide one. This too will be returned filled with meaningful writing and wonderful art. The final request would be that each student bring in a preschool photo that will become a part of this study.

In the spring we plan to have a "Poetea" sharing party and hope you will join us for this. More information will be sent home at a later date.

Thank you for helping us make this a fun and positive learning experience for your child.

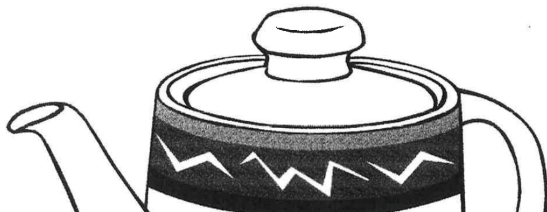
Sincerely,

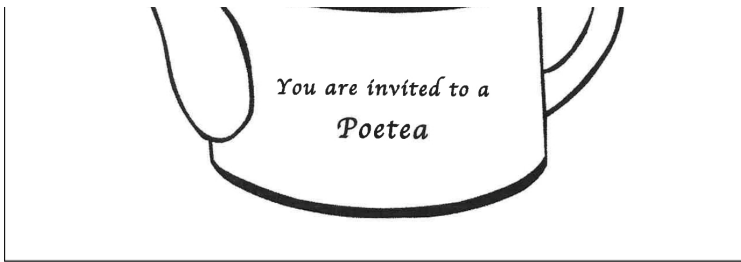
*Mr. Gorman's Class is hosting  
A  
Celebration of Learning*

*When* \_\_\_\_\_



*Where* \_\_\_\_\_


*Please RSVP*







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 **seansjourney** 


 February 9, 2021

 [Learning Celebrations, Parent Engagement Resources](#)

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# Parent Engagement

Resources and Wisdom



## Student-Led Cafe Conference

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Student-led conferences are a great way for students to share their learning with their parents or family. A student-led conference is a meeting between the students and their family. The student shares their portfolio of work and discusses their own progress in different subject areas with their family members. The important thing about student-led conferences is that the student takes charge of showing their work to their own audience. There are many different styles and formats for student-led conferences, but the format of this particular conference is set up as a café. Bon appetit!

Please explore or download the resource for Student-Led Cafe Conference:

[Student-Led Cafe Conference \[Word Document\]](#)

[Student-Led Cafe Conference \[PDF\]](#)

[Student-Led Cafe Conference Menu \[Word Document\]](#)

[Student-Led Cafe Conference Menu \[PDF\]](#)

## STUDENT-LED CAFÉ CONFERENCE

### Overview

Student-led conferences are a great way for students to share their learning with their parents or family. A student-led conference is a meeting between the students and their family. The student shares their portfolio of work and discusses their own progress in different subject areas with their family members. The important thing about student-led conferences is that the student takes charge of showing their work to their own audience. There are many different styles and formats for student-led conferences, but the format of this particular conference is set up as a café. Bon appetit!

### Structure

1. Set up classroom as a small café.
2. Depending on how much effort you want to put in, add a lamp or two, tablecloth, and set the mood for a small French café.
3. Get students to invest in the idea by having them create decorations for the café and outlining their expectations and duties.
4. Explain to the students that they will be a server at the café, serving their parents with their schoolwork instead of regular café items.
5. The teacher will act as the maitre-d'.
6. Please see attached document of a class café menu.
7. Rehearse with the class on what is expected and how the evening will run.
8. An option is to have the students also serve tea and biscuits to their parents while going through the different courses.
9. Parents are encouraged to give positive feedback to their children and to enjoy the evening.
10. Adding music such as bossa nova or light jazz is a nice touch.
11. Make sure the night is fun and informative.

### Benefits of Student-Led Conferences

- Encourages responsibility
- Promotes good organizational skills
- Promotes communication skills
- Creates an authentic experience for parents to learn about their student's progress
- Builds student's sense of responsibility and accountability for their own learning
- Allows for short and long term goals to be set
- Increases understanding of meeting learning goals
- Reassures students that parents and teachers are there to support them
- Shows students that they are accountable for their academic and behavioral choices
- Provides an insight into the parent and child relationship
- Takes pressure off the teacher to run parent teacher conferences

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Student Name:

Parent(s) in attendance:

Starters

Tea  
Coffee  
Cookies

Division Five  
Café

# Appetizers

## Agenda

Tell how you know what to write down in your agenda. Show and tell how useful your agenda is.

## Desk and Bin

What does your desk look like? How organized are you? Do you need anything? Like more loose-leaf paper, pencils or colouring supplies?

## Main Courses

### Reading

Throughout the year you have been practicing silent reading after recess and lunch. What books have you been interested in reading? In class, Mr. Gorman has been reading you a book. Share which book you have been listening to. Describe the characters, setting, plot and conflict of the story.

### Science

We have been working on the transfer of energy through the food web. What have you been researching to complete your up-coming project?  
What is the difference between a producer, consumer and decomposer?

Welcome to our little café! Please allow your server, \_\_\_\_\_ to find you a table. Take a seat and enjoy! Your maitre-d' is Mr. Gorman, who will host your 'meal'. Bon appetite!

### Writing I

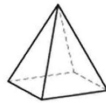
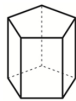
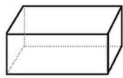
Share your ABC book of literary devices. What are you most proud of? Can you explain what some of the words in the table of contents means? You may take your book home as well!

### Writing II

We have recently started a writing unit. Show your writing duotang and share what you are most proud of. What is the final goal of the writing unit?

### Math

Explain what we have been learning about in class.  
*Hint: Something to do with shapes.*  
Show how many edges, faces and vertices the following shapes have.



## Desserts

### General

Show anything else that interests you in the classroom or that your parents would like to see? *Complex colouring you do during Mr. Gorman's read aloud? Your manga person? Extra-curricular activities? What we do in gym?*

Parent Comment Section: please leave feedback about your experience at our café. How was your server? Is there anything we could have done differently? Thanks!



# Parent Engagement

Resources and Wisdom



## Winter/Christmas Carnival



The whole notion of a winter carnival can be traced back to New France. It is an outdoor celebration that occurs in the dead of winter. In the beginning, a Winter Carnival was a way to devise activities that would defy the harsh elements of winter and offer an escape from the bleak dark days of the season. Over the last decade winter carnivals are emerging just to celebrate the winter season as a time to be celebrated rather than just endured.

Please explore or download the resource for Winter/Christmas Carnival:

[Winter/Christmas Carnival \[Word Document\]](#)

[Winter/Christmas Carnival \[PDF\]](#)

Winter/Christmas Carnival

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## Overview

The whole notion of a winter carnival can be traced back to New France. It is an outdoor celebration that occurs in the dead of winter. In the beginning, a Winter Carnival was a way to devise activities that would defy the harsh elements of winter and offer an escape from the bleak dark days of the season. Over the last decade winter carnivals are emerging just to celebrate the winter season as a time to be celebrated rather than just endured.

The objective of an outdoor winter festival /carnival is to offer another event to bring families and school together to help promote parent engagement and build stronger communities.

### Tips for planning a Winter/ Christmas Carnival:

- Make the community aware of the date and general format.
- Allow kids to contribute ideas.
- Use an online ideas page to help the community to submit ideas.
- Involve parents at every level from planning to the actual event.
- Allow parents to form a supportive group that will take on the bulk of the planning and actual set-up.
- Support the ideas of the parents wherever possible.
- Embrace the day positively with your students.
- Adjust your winter festival according to the weather/ environment of your area.
- Have kids research a Winter Festival from another part of the world.
- Approach community businesses for funding to help enhance the day i.e. Food, decorations, prizes.
- Make sure that most of the teachers in your school will attend.



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# Parent Engagement

Resources and Wisdom



## A Celebration of Culture and Diversity

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The goal of having a Learning Celebration focused on our personal history is to have kids understand the richness of their own narrative. Having parents involved in both collecting information and providing a sharing opportunity helps kids begin to accept and appreciate diversity. Knowing about our past can help us understand who we are. As kids collect data around their family's unique heritage, they become aware of how their story is different from the story of their peers. Growing up in a country that is becoming increasingly diverse means that it is imperative that kids understand and respect each other's differences. This exposure of individual heritage and culture provides the opportunity to help bridge the norms, attitudes and values of our past to unite us.

Please explore or download the resource for Celebrating Math Learning Night:

[Celebration of Culture and Diversity \[Word Document\]](#)

[Celebration of Culture and Diversity \[PDF\]](#)

**A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND DIVERSITY**

**Overview**


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**Structure**

- Using school time students will explore the whole notion of culture and ethnicity.
- With the help of parents' students will learn about their own heritage going back several generations.
- Each student will decide on a family to track for their study (mom's or dad's or both).
- Parents will help their child fill out a questionnaire about their family to help collect information that they will then use at school.
- In this way the country of their heritage study will be identified.
- Using some school time, the parent information questionnaire and technology they will begin to assemble a chronological record of their family history.
- Students will research these countries to learn about language, religion, music, education, values, food, housing, landmarks, clothing, traditions, history, and government.
- Most importantly, have fun!

Students will then plan how they will present and share their findings at a Cultural Exhibition choosing from the following headings:

1. Map showing both Canada and country of origin
2. Family Tree
3. Timeline of events of several family generations
4. Language chart showing common terms in their native language
5. Food specialties (this could actually be a sample of a typical snack or a picture showing traditional foods)
6. Artifacts (toys, souvenirs)
7. Photographs showing past generations or historical sites
8. A drawing by the student to depict colours important to their country
9. Any traditional clothing that might be worn that is different from our clothing
10. A copy of traditional music of that country or national anthem
11. A major historical event from their past.

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# Parent Engagement

Resources and Wisdom



## Talent Show

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The objective of a Talent Show is to create an open and inviting environment for learning and exploration by sharing unique skills and expertise with friends, parents and community. The experience should be focused on the students but if the teacher permits, parents and students could work together to create a routine to perform.

Please explore or download the resource for Talent Show:

[Talent Show \[Word Document\]](#)

[Talent Show \[PDF\]](#)

### Talent Show

**Overview:**

**Benefits of a Talent Sharing event:**

Allow kids to present something

The objective of a Talent Show is to create an open and inviting environment for learning and exploration by sharing unique skills and expertise with friends, parents and community. The experience should be focused on the students but if the teacher permits, parents and students could work together to create a routine to perform.

### Tips for planning a "Talent Show"

- Promote the idea early to allow kids to start thinking about ideas.
- Offer examples of the type of talents they could showcase.
- Be clear about expectations and rules.
- Encourage a variety of talents.
- Be available to help kids with ideas, costumes and other props the school may be able to help with.
- Encourage practice at home to promote parent engagement.
- Rehearse individual entries to make sure they are school/age appropriate.
- Have an official rehearsal of all entries to provide a time frame to help with program set-up and act changes.
- Spend time helping with presentation and music.
- Use rehearsal to test sound system.
- Spend time with program order to encourage a co-operative audience.
- Start and finish the show with the two strongest acts.
- Print a program so that participants are clear about when they present.
- Using older siblings to help with actual performance promotes confidence and validates contestants.



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- Allows kids to present learning in a different way
- Empowers kids to plan, organize and demonstrate creatively
- Promotes peer mentoring
- Helps build community
- Promotes social competence
- Opening the school to parents helps promote parent engagement
- Demonstrates unique skills and helps build confidence
- Begins to teach kids about being a part of a live audience
- Celebrates the whole notion of multiple intelligences

### Talent Show Rules and Guidelines:

- Only school attendees can enter or perform (parents can be included if the teacher allows it)
- Animal performances are not allowed
- Each performance cannot exceed five minutes
- All acts must pass the teacher first and must therefore be kid appropriate
- Each performer can only perform once
- Keep your talent show as free of competition as possible

### Talent Show Ideas

- Singing
- Dancing
- Playing a musical instrument
- Magic
- Comedy
- Readers theatre/skit
- Sports demo

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# Parent Engagement

Resources and Wisdom



## Learning Through Reinvention of the Traditional Science Fair



The ultimate goal of a school wide Science Fair is to provide the student with an exciting and meaningful learning experience while also developing scientific literacy. Through prior knowledge and critical thinking students begin to answer questions and solve relevant problems. Non-competitive Science Fairs can provide a wide range of learners with a broad appreciation of where scientific knowledge comes from and also connect how we can use it in our daily lives. Parents can be involved in a variety of ways by taking on various roles.

Please explore or download the resource for Learning Through Reinvention of the Traditional Science Fair:

[Learning Through Reinvention of the Traditional Science Fair \[Word Document\]](#)

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LEARNING THROUGH REINVENTION OF THE  
TRADITIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

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## Overview

The ultimate goal of a school wide Science Fair is to provide the student with an exciting and meaningful learning experience while also developing scientific literacy. Through prior knowledge and critical thinking students begin to answer questions and solve relevant problems. Non-competitive Science Fairs can provide a wide range of learners with a broad appreciation of where scientific knowledge comes from and also connect how we can use it in our daily lives. Parents can be involved in a variety of ways by taking on various roles.

## Materials and General Rules

- One or two students can work on a project.
- Questions/investigation will be presented to the teacher before beginning project.
- School will help provide necessary supplies, if possible.
- School will allot Science time on a regular basis, allowing for students or projects that require more time.
- The whole project will be completed during school time with the assistance of school staff and peers.
- The Science Learning Fair will not be competitive but will be somewhat open ended, changing the focus of the traditional Science Fairs from winning to learning.
- The non-competitive format encourages the learner, with an emphasis on understanding and improving skills and knowledge.
- Teachers need to be involved at all levels to help students stay on track.
- Projects require support in the form of supervision, oversight and ongoing assistance.
- It should be emphasized that process is more important than product.
- There is no such thing as failure in the process.
- The actual celebration should be fun and a positive sharing time between student/parent/community.

## Purpose

- To celebrate the Scientific Process
- To engage, educate and stimulate parent interest through science
- To stimulate interest in scientific investigation beyond the classroom
- To recognize and celebrate scientific talent and ability
- To provide another opportunity for parental engagement in their child's learning
- To increase interest in Science in general
- To encourage intellectual curiosity about how things work
- To help students understand how science is relevant to the real world

## Job of parents in the New Age Science Fair

- Parents could assist in various ways by helping the class rather than their individual child.
- A call for materials to assist could be made by the teacher in a letter home.
- Some parents may have the means to donate funds to assist in purchasing additional supplies.
- Parents could assist in the physical set-up and takedown.
- Parents can be encouraged to provide both verbal and written positive feedback to all projects.
- Parent attendance should be encouraged so making the experience pleasant/positive is critical.
- If parents cannot attend, the teacher could make a short-video and parents could comment remotely.



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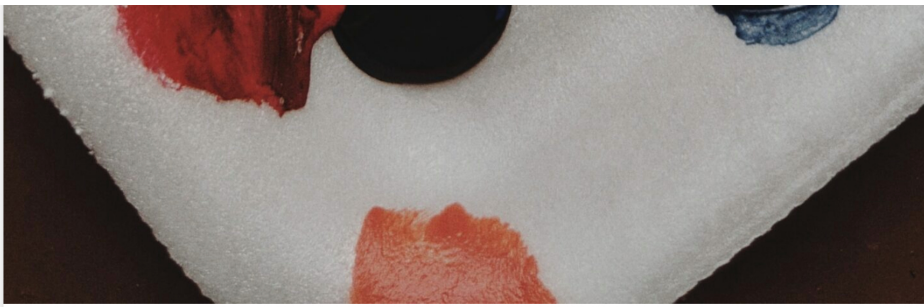
## Art Walk Learning Celebration



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Hosting an Art Walk in your school will not only celebrate student artwork, but also provide another opportunity for student/parent/community interaction and bonding. Creating an atmosphere of partnership generated by collaboration empowers parents and the student. Art is a rich way to nurture the inherent potential of many children. Celebrating art and utilizing parent engagement demonstrates the value of all aspects of learning. Students also have the opportunity to acknowledge the work of their peers, while showcasing their own work. Providing this social platform for families initiates positive communication between all parties involved. The informal structure is less threatening and therefore encourages and allows everyone to engage without such emphasis on formal assessment.

Please explore or download the resource for Art Walk Learning Celebration:

[Art Walk Learning Celebration \[Word Document\]](#)

[Art Walk Learning Celebration \[PDF\]](#)

**LEARNING THROUGH REINVENTION OF THE TRADITIONAL SCIENCE FAIR**

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# Parent Engagement

Resources and Wisdom



## Family Game Night



A family game night can bring many families together to share an enjoyable experience. It can be a positive experience for families to share a common experience and create a better community in the classroom. A family game night has the possibility to build stronger relationships inside your classroom but also within families. It also allows parents and students to learn new games and new life skills together. The family game night at school does not have to be a big ordeal. It could be as simple as gathering a few board games or group games to play as an entire group or in small groups. Let the games begin.

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FAMILY GAME NIGHT

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### Game Night Tips

- Try to accommodate families and set a time that works for everyone.
- Have a time frame so families can join later or earlier depending on schedules.
- Have a variety of games.
- Have a couple group games.
- If possible, put away all screens.
- Have snacks or drinks available, if possible.
- Remind everyone to relax and enjoy and be in the moment.
- Start off with a group game to set the tone for the evening.
- Encourage playing games with families that are unfamiliar.

### Purpose

- Teach new games to families
- Let families get to know each other through fun interactions
- Teach and reinforce new skills
- Stimulate learning
- Make the students curious about new activities
- Help develop life skills
- Learn how to follow directions and to communicate in a positive manner
- Develop a child's critical thinking and social skills
- Encourage sportsmanship
- Build character

### Ideas for Games

- Families can bring in board games to share
- Minute to win it games
- Fishbowl
- Charades
- What's in the bag
- 20 questions game
- Lego game night
- Jenga
- Trouble
- Sequence
- Code Names
- Catan
- Etc.



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# Parent Engagement

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## Positivity Journal



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Providing positivity for students is a key component for students developing self-esteem, self-worth and self-confidence to be successful in school. It allows the student to gain positive reinforcement from their teachers, parents and peers throughout the school year. It also provides an avenue for parents to receive positive feedback about their child.

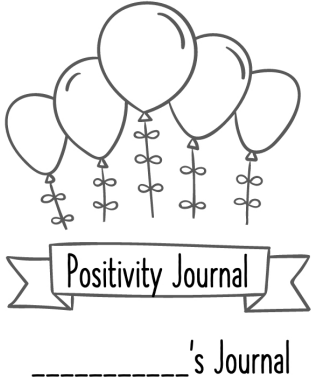
The goal of the Positivity Journal is that teachers, parent(s) and another student are encouraged to write about something that the student has done that they are proud of, accomplished or are working on. This can be repeated every week, two weeks or month.

This journal can be altered to fit the needs of your classroom and individual students.

Please explore or download the resource for Positivity Journal:

[Positivity Journal \[Word Document\]](#)

[Positivity Journal \[PDF\]](#)

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<p>---Sept---</p>	
<p>Teacher: _____ _____</p>	
<p>Parent: _____ _____</p>	
<p>Student: _____ _____</p>	