

HELLO SEPTEMBER

Decorate your door

1. Welcome Back – Welcome to Grade ____
Cover your door with a large character (Big Bird, Snoopy, a dragon...) and have the students sign their name in a fancy, creative way on the character's belly.
Sign in please!
2. A Great Bunch of Grade ____ Students
Cover the door with a large bunch of grapes. Students can draw/bring in pictures of themselves and autograph the grape.
3. Have a Hoppy Good Year – Hopping Back to Grade ____
Let's Hop Through Grade ____
Individual bunnies with each student's name on a bunny.
4. Welcome Baa-ack
Little Bo Peep – individual sheep shapes.
Students can decorate and autograph their sheep.
Students can cut out sheep from their own hand pattern.
5. Have a Bear-y Good Year (Winnie the Pooh Theme)
Individual bears or honey pots.
6. Have a Whale of a Year
Individual whale shapes.
7. Have a Buzz'n Good Year!
I'm So Glad to Bee Back!
We're So Glad to Bee Back!
Large hive with individual bees.
8. Meet the Pick of the Crop
Large apple tree with apples – Basket of apples – Bushel of apples
Students' names on apples.
9. Step in to Grade ____
Large foot – students' names on smaller footprints.
10. A Year of Magic – Amazing Things Happen Inside
– Have a Magical Time in Grade ____
Large magician's hat.
Students' names on rabbits, hopping out of hat.

Photos can be used for:

1. Bulletin Board Displays
2. Open House (to show the themes already completed)
3. Teacher's Portfolio (to show various themes/programs used in your classes)
4. Good Times in Grade ____

Here are a few terrific ideas using photographs!

1. **Cowboy Day:**
Each student dress in Cowboy/Cowgirl attire.
Photographs are displayed on a Bulletin Board or a poster.
Title: "Wanted"
Descriptions of the students are written on doors to cover the snapshot.
Parents/other students try to guess the wanted person.
2. **Pioneer Day:**
Students describe the activity seen in the photo.
3. **What is Real?**
Read and discuss the Velveteen Rabbit.
Photograph each student with their "special", "most dear" possession.
Students write/tell about this "special thing".
4. **Dreams:**
Photograph each student with their stuffed toy, blanket, pillow, etc. on the floor – dreaming.
Students write about their dreams.
Display stories with photos.
5. **Pet Day:**
Write about their pet – story to accompany the photo.
Neighbour/Relative's pet
A Pet I Would Like to Have
Pet Wreath – doggie bones to decorate a wreath, bow...
6. **Circus Day**
7. **Snow Day**

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

If you begin immediately in the second week of school, you should get through your entire class before the school's year end. In some cases you may have to double up (one boy, one girl per week).

These are the variations I have seen and tried for "Student of the Week". No matter which method you use or with any grades from K-4, It's a Hit!!

Designate a certain area in your room strictly devoted to Student of the Week activities. If possible this area should be a permanent set up in your room or hall.

Draw names for the student of the week (Friday). In some classes this "student" wears something special (crown, button, flag on desk, head band with bobbles).

Students can interview this student, trying to find out about him/her. As the year progresses, students' questions should become more interesting. (The teacher may want to devise an interview form throughout the year for the class to follow.)

1. In pairs, students print one idea they remembered on a strip of paper. As the students read their strip to the class, their sentence is taped to the bulletin board. The class organizes the strips in order to tell a story. Each student can write about the student/or a chart story can be written. Individual stories can be compiled into a booklet and later presented to the student.
2. Students can jot down points during the interview and write a story, poem, letter, or make a cartoon story or a drawing of the student. Students should be encouraged to vary their report on the student of the week (not always draw a picture about...). Student's work can be on display for the duration of his/her turn. Stories, poems, pictures and photos... can be displayed.

An outline can be made on mural paper. The student can paint, colour, cut out and paste features/clothing onto the shape. Silhouettes can be made and displayed along with a story or poem. (This is a good opportunity to use students from junior grades to assist with tracing students' figures, heads for silhouettes, checking/listening to stories...)

During the week the student has the opportunity to present to the class items of interest (photographs, trophies, medals, collections, their pet, stuffed toy, favourite book, a poster, a model...).

Students can fill out a birthday chart (at home, school) and return it on their birthday.

Today is my ____ birthday.

I feel _____.

My birthstone is _____.

My flower is _____.

My horoscope is _____. It says that I _____.

Others who have a birthday today are: _____.

I hope _____.

Birthday Report:

Yesterday...

At my party...

What a party!

A party to remember.

Students can include: gifts, activities, games, photos, cards to show...

Next year...

GRAPHING

(picto, bar, line, circle)

Colour in a box/student

Students paste their photos into boxes.

1. This is how I get to school.
2. Stay for lunch – Always Never Sometimes
3. Birthdays
4. Hair – Colour/Kind
5. Eye Colour Glasses Yes/No
6. Height – September January June
Weight – September January June
7. Summer Activities
8. We have lost some teeth this year.
9. Favourite Stuffed Toys (bring toy)
10. Pets
11. Summer Shoes – Laces/No Laces

Alternatives to Paper Graphs

Try to use hands-on items/the real thing to graph,

e.g. Summer Shoes—students take shoes off and line them up according to style (sandals, runners, loafers...). Students can actually see/experience the groupings and results.

Resource: teacher's guide "Math their Way"

BULLETIN BOARD IDEAS

Here are a few suggestions for permanent bulletin boards or wall spaces since certain activities/events will happen often throughout the year.

If you are short on wall space try: the inside of closet doors, cupboards, hanging walls, sides of filing cabinets, windows blinds, or hang things from the ceiling.

1. **We're In The News!**
Look Who's In The News!
Post newspaper articles involving class/school students or community happenings.
Afterwards the news can be compiled into a scrapbook.
Pictures taken of the class throughout the year can be added to the scrapbook.
2. **Coming Attractions!**
Don't Miss This!
Students can inform the class of upcoming events.
e.g. theme-related T.V. programs, a community event, event of interest to entire class (Olympics, elections, playoffs).
3. **We're Proud of _____ Today.** (student, whole class)
Students can bring in picture, trophy, award, creation, test paper... to display.
4. **Happy Birthday _____!**
5. **Personal Events**
Have a large tooth shape. Students can put picture in tooth if they have lost a tooth.
Have a large rattle. Students can put picture in rattle if new baby in family, if they are an aunt/uncle.
Confirmation celebration, Brownies, Cubs, etc.

Things I do slowly.

Things that bug me.

Foods I like.

Things that scare me.

Treasures I have.

How do you measure up?

Work with a partner.
Complete the chart below.

Measure the distance around:

my head _____

my neck _____

my waist _____

my knee _____

My hand is _____ long.

My left arm is _____ long.

My foot is _____ long.

My right leg is _____ long.

I am this tall. _____

My partner is this tall. _____

Getting to Know You

Take the time to learn about your students and build up their self-esteem.

- The teacher brings in 3 items which represent something about the teacher.
 - photo of the teacher's family
 - cookbook - Enjoy cooking. Bring in a batch of cookies to share!
 - an item representing your hobby, etc.

Each student must bring in 3 items of his/her choice that represent the student. Students must be ready to explain the importance of each item.

- Time Capsule**

Discuss with your class the memories and special stories they'd like to share about themselves with the class.

Discuss the things/items that helped them to remember about a special event, trip...

Each student will need a box (shoebox) and materials (markers, stickers, pictures from magazines, wrapping paper...) to decorate the outside of the box. It should tell a bit about their likes/dislikes, etc.

The students will bring items to put inside, that tell about themselves.

e.g. • photographs
• a string to show their height
• a piece of their hair (after a haircut)
• a story about themselves
• 1 item from a collection they have

As the year progresses, they continue to add items. At the end of the year, they can look back at their memories.

My Birthday Plans

This year for my birthday

For decorations I'd like

My birthday cake

I'd like to invite _____

We will _____

I will be _____
