



## 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.

## 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...).

Student of the Week gives the teacher a chance to get a closer look at the individuals. This is a great time to build up the student's self esteem and to stress being positive with the class.

"Everyone is important."  
"Everyone's talents are different."

### Teaching Strategies to Incorporate:

1. sentences
2. sequencing sentences for story writing (paragraphing)
3. questioning/interviewing
4. descriptive words
5. graphing activities would develop from the information
6. learning about individual students

Do something special for the Student of the Week.

1. Have lunch with teacher.
2. Visit another classroom for one period.
3. Special job.
4. Teacher or class can write a book about the student and present it on the last day.

## BIRTHDAYS

Birthday graphs are usually permanent. Arrange to display them where they can stay up all year e.g. Birthday Train, Clown with balloons.

- Class graph: birth dates.
- Birthdays are recorded on monthly calendars. Students can draw names and make a birthday card for that person. Artist can indicate his/her name on back of card like Carlton/Hallmark trademark. Student is responsible to have each member of the class and teacher sign the card on time for the person's birthday.
- Announcement and photo (optional) on Bulletin Board for the birthday girl/boy.
- Sing Happy Birthday.
- Wear Happy Birthday button for day.
- Wear Happy Birthday hat for day.
- Decorate the student's desk – balloons, streamers, sign.
- Have a mascot on desk.

## 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.

## CALENDARS

On a monthly calendar, students/teacher can record special events coming up (e.g. field trips, science fair, speeches, music festival, special days "Colour Day" "Uncrate the Sun Day"...)

This calendar could act as a newsletter to inform parents of these events and hopefully to get/keep the parents involved and interested in school affairs.

Include reminders for yourself:

1. the special day(s) this month
2. idea for Guess How Many?
3. preparations for Mission Impossible Activities
4. change bulletin boards and centre cards

### Classroom Calendars:

Use shapes for each day of the month. Arrange the shapes to reinforce patterning skills (multiplication facts)

e.g. September: apple, school bus, apple, school bus...

October: ghost, bat, witch, ghost, bat, witch...

November: leaves, acorn, acorn, leaves, acorn, acorn...

Include on your classroom calendars: Special Days, School Events, Students' Birthdays, Number Patterns (even, odd...colour code).

Students can complete personal student calendars, compiled in booklet form, scrapbooks, duotangs...

### Guess How Many (one/month, one/term...)

The guesses can be open to others for certain items.

1. marbles in a jar
2. children in the school
3. jellybeans in a jar
4. books the class read in a month
5. parents who came to Open House



COLOUR.  
CUT OUT AND PASTE ON YOUR FACE SHAPE.

eyes

ears

nose

mouth

DRAW THE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU SPECIAL  
ON YOUR FACE SHAPE.

hair

dimple

freckles

	Yes	No
1. I am a boy.		
2. I am a girl.		
3. I have freckles.		
4. I wear glasses.		
5. My hair is long.		
6. My hair is short.		
7. I have curly hair.		
8. I have straight hair.		
9. I am tall.		
10. I am short.		
My name is _____		

Colour the pictures that go together.

Draw things you see on the way to school.

Count the steps from home to school.