

Ideas for Parent-Teacher Conferences, Open House and Parent Communications!

PARENT-PUPIL POTLUCK!

Get parents involved with school with this yummy idea!

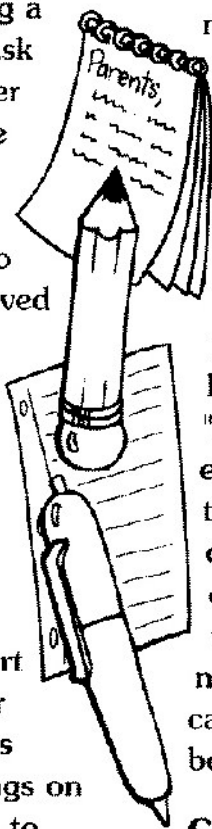
With your students' input, select a date and potluck theme. Have the children design an invitation and ask them to take it home to their parents. Students with last names beginning A-J bring a salad, K-R bring a main dish and S-Z brings a dessert. Ask each family to provide their own paper products and cutlery. You can provide paper cups and punch. By getting to know you and other parents better, your students' parents will be eager to help out at school and get more involved in their child's school experience.

OPEN HOUSE GOODIE BAGS!

Give each student a brightly-colored lunch bag. Ask them to decorate the bags for their parents to take during Open House. Fill the bags with good work papers, a special note students write to their parents and any small art projects. At the close of the day, after the classroom is spruced-up and desks straightened, have students set the bags on their desk tops. Parents will be proud to take the bags home to share with other family members.

PARENT SIGN-UP SHEETS!

Encourage students to help in the classroom, especially during holidays and field trips by sending home a parent sign-up sheet. (A sample form is contained in this unit.) Add known dates or any other specific information before duplicating the form for your students.



UP-LIFTING OPEN HOUSE

At your local gift store, have a large balloon filled with helium and tied with a ribbon to give to each child in class. (You may wish to have several extra balloons filled, just in case some break unexpectedly.) Give each student a balloon and ask them to write their names on the balloons using a permanent marker. Tie the appropriate balloon to each student's desk. What an "uplifting" and colorful way to welcome parents to class! (Parents can then take the balloon home to their child after the conferences.)

MYSTERY STUDENT!

Break the ice during Open House or Parent-Teacher Conferences with a "Mystery Student" bulletin board. Give each student the "Mystery Student" questionnaire to fill out. Frame the papers with colorful paper and display them on the class board. As parents visit the classroom, ask them to guess which questionnaire was filled out by their child. Parents can then write the student's name at the bottom of the page.

CLASSROOM UPDATE!

Send weekly or bi-weekly update notices home to parents using the form in this unit. Fill in the important information you wish to send to parents, duplicate on colored paper and send a copy home with each student on a regular basis.

This quick way of notifying parents of classroom achievements and upcoming events will go a long way in your efforts to communicate with your students' parents.