

Happy Everything from A-Z!

January, 2005

Give children something to look forward to and a special memory by turning an ordinary day into one of these surprise days! Get dressed up, cook a treat, make a craft, bring in a guest speaker, tie in some music, play games, and think of other creative ways to make 2005 come ALIVE! Look at the list below, and then use your imagination to tie in celebrations with themes, standards, and school events.

Hint! You don't have to "party" all day long. How about turning the last 30 minutes on Fridays into "Fabulous Friday"? Children would get a treat for working hard all week, and they'd leave with happy feelings about school!

Aeronautics Day - Make paper airplanes and see how far they can fly. Invite a pilot or flight attendant to speak to the class.

Alphabet Party - Assign each child a different letter of the alphabet and ask them to bring something in from home that begins with that sound. Make letter shaped cookies and sing alphabet songs.

Arbor Day - Plant a tree. Name your tree and watch it change in the different seasons. Sing songs and tell stories around your tree. Draw pictures and write poems about your tree.

Apple Day - Have a tasting party where children sample various kinds of apples. Graph their favorite. Make applesauce, apply jelly, or apple pie. Cut apples in half diagonally, dip in paint, and print on paper. Do you see the star in the middle of the apple?

Art Fair - Set up art stations (painting, clay, collage, puppets, jewelry) around your room or playground.

Author's Tea - Encourage each child to write an original story. Edit their work and spend time on illustrations and covers. Invite parents to an "Author's Tea" where each child has the opportunity to share his/her book.

Backwards Day - Wear clothes backwards and follow your daily schedule backwards. Don't forget to eat your dessert first at lunchtime!

Beach Party - Bring beach towels and wear sunglasses, shorts, and bathing suits. Play beach ball games, beach music, and have a "cool" snack like popsicles. (This is a great way to add "sunshine" to a winter day!)

Book Party - Bring in your favorite book to share with friends, or dress up like your favorite character.

Buddy Day - Divide children up into partners and plan activities they can do together. For example, they could read together, write a story, draw a picture, play a card game.

Camping Day - Set up a tent on the playground and spend the day in the great outdoors. Read, write, play games, and eat hotdogs and s'mores for snack.

Career Day - Children come dressed for the career they'd like when they grow up. After sharing with friends, have each child draw a picture (or take a photograph) and make a class book.

Clown or Circus Day - Dress up like clowns or other circus performers. Do tricks and try to make each other laugh. Popcorn, peanuts, or Cracker Jacks make a great snack!

Cook In - Let the children go to different stations and prepare foods and drinks. You might want to have a different activity for each of the food groups.

Dance Party - Let the children bring their favorite records from home and dance the day away.

Doughnuts with Dad - Invite dads in for doughnuts before they go to work. Let the children make invitations and help prepare the food. Involve the dads in an art project with the children, such as finger painting or play dough.

Hint! Encourage children to invite an uncle, neighbor, or big brother if their dad is unable to come.

Earth Day - Recycle, plant a garden, pick up trash, do junk art, and talk about the things that we can do to care for our planet.

Family Work Day - Plan a Saturday when parents can come to school with their children and paint, clean, work on the grounds, build a fort, or do other projects together.

Fashion Show - Plan a fashion show and invite another class.

Friend Day - On this day, children may invite a special friend to visit for a portion of the day.

Grandparents Day - Grandparents or "adopted" grandparents can come for cookies, songs, a skit, and fun.

Hat Day - Ask children to wear their favorite hat to school, or challenge them to design a hat from a paper plate and art scraps.

Hobby Day - Children bring crafts or photos of a hobby they enjoy or someone in their family enjoys.

Hollywood Day - Dress up like your favorite movie star or entertainer and play "Guess Who I Am?"

I Can Do Something Special Day - Every child sings a song, tells a joke, shares a hobby, or tells what's special about them. Video and send home for parents to see.

Jelly Bean Day - Estimate how many jelly beans are in a jar, graph favorite flavors, do jelly bean art, and play jelly bean games (toss the beans in a cup).

Kite Day - Bring kites from home, or let children create their own kites from sacks, paper plates, plastic bags, and tissue paper.

Luau - Make grass skirts from draw string garbage bags. Cut straws in 1" pieces and alternate stringing with paper flowers on dental floss to create a lei. Hula, surf, and eat pineapple fruit kabobs for snack.

Lucky Day (Friday the 13th) - Play Bingo, wear four-leaf clovers, hunt for pennies, make rabbit's feet from cardboard and cotton, etc.

Mardi Gras - Decorate a wagon to look like a float, make crowns, and have a parade through the school where you pass out treats.

Maze Day - Set up a maze for children to crawl through with appliance boxes and blankets.

Muffins with Mom - Make muffins and invite moms in for a little party before work.

Nature Day - Take a nature walk and do nature arts and crafts. Have children look through binoculars made from paper towel rolls and write or draw what they see in nature.

Nursery Rhyme Party - Encourage each child to memorize a nursery rhyme. Invite parents or another class and let children get up and recite their rhymes. Serve "Humpty Dumpty" egg salad sandwiches, "Jack Horner" pizza pie, and the "Little Teapot's" tea.

Opera Day - Instead of talking, sing all day. Sing to answer the roll, read, do math, etc.

Pajama Party - Children wear pajamas, bring sleeping bags, and watch a video as they eat popcorn.

Pet Day - Bring real pets (with adult supervision), stuffed animals, or pictures of pets.

Pizza Party - Set up a pizza parlor in the classroom with menus, waiters, food, and a cashier. Make homemade pizza from English muffins, tomato sauce, cheese, and pepperoni.

Pumpkin Day - Everyone brings a small pumpkin to decorate. Count seeds, make pumpkin bread, and brainstorm all the things you can do with a pumpkin.

Puppet Day - Make puppets, and then put on a puppet show.

Queens and Kings - Make crowns for each child to decorate, and then ask them what they would do if they were a king or queen.

Quiet Day - Whisper all day long. Don't forget to read and sing in whisper voices, too!

Riding Round Up - Bring bikes, scooters, riding toys, and helmets. Block off a portion of the parking lot and draw an obstacle course with chalk. Discuss bike safety.

Rodeo - Cowboy hats and western wear will put you in a "wild west" mood. Ride stick ponies made from newspaper and lunch sacks. Crumble shredded wheat on a plate and pretend to eat it like a horse.

Sock Hop - Wear funny socks, take off your shoes, and have a dance.

Sports Day - Wear shirts and hats of favorite teams. Bring balls, bats, racquets, and other sports equipment and play, play, play!

Tasting Party - Everyone brings a favorite food to share with classmates. Encourage children to bring healthy foods, and ask parents to prepare the food into bite size pieces.

Teddy Bear Parade - Children bring in a teddy bear or stuffed animal and parade around the classroom. Have them write stories and draw pictures of what they like to do with their bear.

Toy Day - Children bring a favorite toy from home and share with their friends. (This works well after Christmas vacation.)

Unbirthday Party - How about a birthday party when it's everyone's "unbirthday"? Play party games, sing, and decorate cupcakes.

Valentine's Day - You know when this is! Check out my February websites for LOVELY ideas!

Wash Day - Wear old clothes and bring sponges, pails, and squirt bottles. Let children wash playground equipment, desks, toys, etc. (Tie this in with a water play day at the end of the school year.)

Winter Picnic - When it's cold outside, spread a blanket on the floor and have an indoor picnic.

X Marks the Spot - Hide clues and set up a treasure hunt around the playground with a prize for everyone at the end. Let children draw their own treasure maps.

Yellow Day - Children wear yellow, paint with yellow, have a yellow snack, and find things that are yellow on a nature walk. (Change for other colors.)

Zany Day - Wear silly clothes that don't match. Tell jokes, sing silly songs, and read riddle books.