

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.

Use leftover/remnants of theme wallpaper, e.g. Smurfs. Set up a Smurf scene on your door. Cut out individual Smurfs and print the students' names on each. When you change the Door Theme, use the Smurfs for helper cards, sign up tags, etc.

Try to include a poem or a rhyme. Get the students involved in decorating the door.

Plan with your staff to have at least one Door Decorating Contest during the year.

SMILE EVERYONE!

Individual Photos

Take the time to photograph your students the first two weeks of school. (Helper, Grade 7-8 student, the principal—a good way to get the principal to your room early!)

or

Photocopy the students' pictures from their student record card.

Throughout the year you'll come up with several ideas in which to use the photos.

1. Graphing: Students can paste their photos on large group/class graphs.
2. Authors: As the students create stories, books, poems... they will want to include a page about the author.
3. Pen Pals: Students can include their picture in letters they write to their pen pals.
4. Book Pockets: Pictures can be pasted on book pockets, along with their names. This is great for K-1 students who are just beginning to recognize their name in print.
5. Creative Writing: Students can paste their snapshot onto paper. Then, add their body, surroundings, etc., to show an activity they enjoy.

Cartooning – create caricatures of their class mates.

Photograph your class throughout the year to show them working at various centres.

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

PLAY/EXPLORATION

Put goodies in freezer bags/plastic bags/boxes. After ____ minutes, students can exchange or join with a partner.

Let the students explore, experiment, discover, question in partners, groups or individually.

e.g.

1. Legos
2. beads with a string
3. finger puppets
4. book and a tape
5. small slate and chalk
6. stamps/stamp pad paper
7. sewing cards
8. a game
9. plasticine and board
10. bag of shells
11. baseball cards – hockey cards
12. Pictures/Sentences to match
13. dice
14. deck of cards
15. blocks
16. an abacus
17. flashcards
18. colouring book and crayons
19. colouring book and small paint set
20. marbles
21. dominos
22. magic slate
23. coloured paper clips
24. corkworking
25. small pad and magic marker

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

Here is a list of high interest books to read to your class. Some of your better readers would enjoy reading them on their own. Along with a story, try to read a poem each day!

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day
• Judith Viorst

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever • Barbara Robinson

Brenda and Edward • Maryann Kovalski

Bridge to Terabithia • Katherine Paterson

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory • Roald Dahl

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs • Judi Barrett

Gustav the Gourmet Giant • LouAnn Gaedder

I Wanna Go Home • Gordon Korman

If I Were In Charge of the World and other worries • Judith Viorst

Ira Sleeps Over • Bernard Waber

Millicent and The Wind • Robert Munsch

Mud Puddle • Robert Munsch

Owls in the Family • Farley Mowat

Puddleman • Maryann Kovalski

Rosie and Michael • Judith Viorst

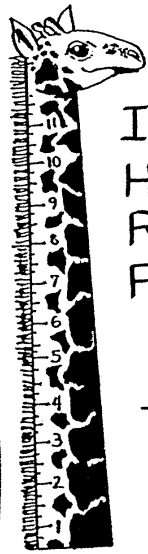
Sadie and the Snowman • Allen Morgan

The Shrinking of Trehorn • Florence Parry Heide

The Velveteen Rabbit • Margery Williams

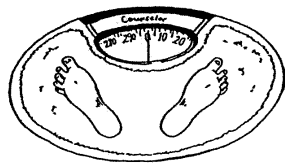


Work with a partner.
Measure your height.

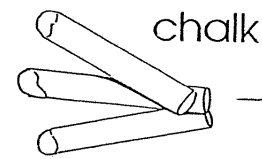


I'm growing, I'm growing,
How high will I go?
Right now I'm this tall
From my head to my toes.

How much do I weigh?
You can see right here,
But I bet I'll weigh more
If you come back next year!



Longer or Shorter



chalk



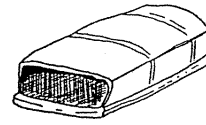
lunch pail



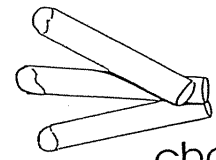
scissors



running shoes



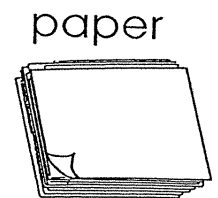
chalk brush



chalk



markers



paper

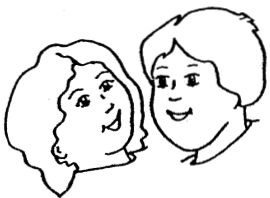


ruler



pencil crayons

Brown eyes, green eyes,
Hazel eyes or blue,
Here are my eyes
Looking at you!



Creative Activities

- Painting/Crayon Drawings/Cut and Paste**
Make a picture of:
 - yourself
 - your family
 - you with your pet/friend/family, in your _____ uniform
 - Summer Fun *How I Keep Cool in the Summer*
My Favourite Summer Place
The Picnic
A Place I Visited This Summer
- Plasticine/Modelling/Box Sculpture/Building**
 - me
 - my pet
 - a summer water/land/sand toy*Box Sculpture Puppets*
Students bring a box from home (shoebox and lid, cereal box...) Cover the box with wallpaper, fabric, scraps, a collage of the things they like. Make a head from bristol board, papier-mâché. Attach the head and limbs by slitting the box in the appropriate places. The box puppets should sit on shelves, desktops, with the legs hanging over the edges.
- Make a "Me Vest" or "Me Hat"**
Me Vest Materials: large brown grocery bag
scraps to decorate
On the centre bottom of the bag, cut out a circle to fit around the student's neck. Pick a front. Slit the bag (in the middle) from the edge to the circle (for the neck). On the sides of the bag, cut out the holes for the arms. Students decorate their vests to show things about themselves. This would be a good activity to do when the student is "Student of the Week". They will need help with the cutting.
- Face Masks**
Students decorate a paper plate to show their features (scraps of paper, fabric...crayons, yarn, pipe cleaners). Students can cut holes for eyes (optional). Tape a popsicle stick or ruler to the plate so it can be held in front of the face.