

# Family Invitations/Sharing projects

One of the biggest changes to class sharing time this year was the elimination of a due date or specific sharing day for each child. The word invitation means optional, so that took pressure off parents in their busy lives. I hope that this way, the child will go home and ask the parent to help them complete it, if it's something they really wanted to share. The focus of these activities was to give us all a closer glimpse into each other's lives.

**'...we cannot fully understand a child without listening to the interconnected vibrations of her life in the context of her family.'** (Chung & Clandinin, 2010, p.186).

**"We are constantly and intently on the watch for reflections of our own life on the plane of other people's consciousness..."** (Bakhtin 1920/1990, as cited in Miller Marsh & Turner-Vorbeck, 2010, p. 97).

**It is important that teachers work on "developing and implementing curricula that are sensitive to the lived experiences of all children and their families...providing activities that include multiple story lines...from which children can draw..."** (Miller Marsh & Turner-Vorbeck, 2010, p. 103).

***Family Shield:*** *Open Ended (suggestion, foods, travel, activities, picture)*

***Family Recipe:*** Open-ended activity. Some took photos, some drew pictures, and all made us hungry! The children told us how to make the food and shared the pictures on the Smartboard.

***December Family Invitation*** This could be sent after the Christmas break. It was nice for the class to see what traditions they had in common with their classmates, and what was unique about each family's celebration.

- FAMILY PORTRAIT-for display in the classroom
- ART PROJECT-share how it is made, materials etc.
- FAVORITE STORY-book from home, favorite part, characters etc.
- FAVORITE SONG-sing, play instrument or just bring a CD
- 100 ITEMS FOR 100th DAY-open-ended
- SOMETHING FROM A FAMILY TRIP

# FAMILY ART INVITATION

Dear Families:

Our next invitation/sharing project is to create an art project at home and bring it to share with the class. There are no guidelines for this project, as the more unique and creative these are, the better! When your child brings his/her project to share, they can explain the inspiration to create this particular project, steps to creating it, and the materials used, and any other pertinent information (feel free to send 'cheat notes' to help in this process). This project can reflect your family's cultural heritage if applicable. This can be a project for your child and you, or involve the entire family if you choose! Please know that any and all projects will be valued!!! It should focus on your child's input, contribution, and creativity rather than on the finished project. This project can be sent to school at any time in the next few months.

Below are excerpts from Elliot Eisner's **10 LESSONS THE ARTS TEACH** (downloadable from the website listed at the bottom) which is also posted outside our classroom.



- The arts teach children that problems can have **MORE** than **ONE** solution and that questions can have more than one answer.
- The arts celebrate multiple **PERSPECTIVES**. One of their large lessons is that there are many ways to **SEE** and **INTERPRET** the world.
- The Arts teach students to think through and within a material. All art forms employ some means through which **IMAGES** become **REAL**.
- The arts help **CHILDREN LEARN** to say what cannot be said. When children are invited to disclose what a work of art helps them **FEEL**, they must reach into their **POETIC CAPACITIES** to find the words that will do the job.
- The **ARTS ENABLE** us to have **EXPERIENCE** we can have from no other source and through such experience to **DISCOVER** the range and variety of what we are capable of **FEELING**.

[www.arteducators.org/advocacy/10Lessons\\_handout.pdf](http://www.arteducators.org/advocacy/10Lessons_handout.pdf)

## Family Stories Invitation

Dear Kindergarten Families,

We have been learning so much through our storytelling curriculum this year! We would like to invite your family to take part in storytelling by sharing one of your family stories! This invitation is open to any family member, including aunts/uncles and grandparents! We invite you to join us in the classroom to share your story orally with the class, or to write your story down and we will read it in class (and perhaps act it out as well!) These can be stories from your childhood, stories of your family's adventures, or everyday events that make such a difference in our lives! Email if you wish to set up a storytelling session in person, or simply write your story and send it to school with your child, or email it to ([kdeibert@gscs.sk.ca](mailto:kdeibert@gscs.sk.ca)). There is no deadline on this invitation. Any size, any shape, any method you choose! We look forward to sharing your stories with the class.

Mrs. Deibert/ Mrs. Heagy

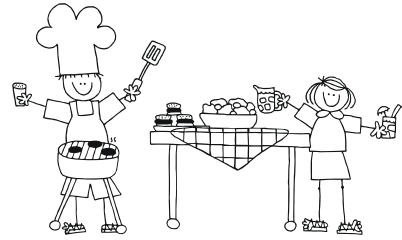
“Family stories reveal who we are and where we’ve come from. They tell us what is important in our culture and clan and how we fit into a certain group that is related by genetics, marriage, and adoption. The best stories create a sense of hope and joy at the strength, courage, tenderness, quirkiness, and other characteristics that God uniquely created each family to reveal. The very best stories remind us of our ability to shape our lives and make meaning. *Stories Give Us a Sense of Belonging* (Dan B. Allender and Lisa K. Fann)

# December Family Invitation

We would like to know about some of your family Christmas season traditions. Draw or paste photos and have your child give a description of the activity (have your child do as much as possible) four of your family's Christmas traditions in the boxes below. Use the back if you need more room. If you would like to send an item that goes with one of the traditions, that would be fine also! We will be sharing these within the next few weeks, and after Christmas if you wish to do it over the holidays. Thanks!


# World's Greatest Cook

## Family Invitation



Name \_\_\_\_\_

This month we invite you to share a simple family recipe! Choose something your family enjoys making together. Make the food for a meal or snack, and help your child record the steps below. They can draw the food or you can attach a photo of your family preparing or eating the food. They should be able to tell the class how they made the food. The recipes will not go home to other families so it doesn't have to be accurate, it's better that it's in your child's words! (Return at any time this month.)

Enjoy!

# World's Greatest Cook!

## Family Invitation

Dear Kindergarten Family,

Our family invitation this month is to share a favorite family meal/snack or recipe. Decide together on what your favorite is (kindergarten child's opinion is the most important!) and make it together. Take and print photos of the process of preparing this meal/snack/recipe and/or they can draw a pictures. Then ask your child to describe the steps necessary to make it and record their language. Feel free to use the back of this sheet or additional paper of your own.

When they return the sheet, they will be asked to teach the class how to prepare this meal/snack/recipe! I will scan their photo/artwork to display on the Smartboard. No deadline, just return it when you've had time to enjoy this activity!