

Parent Involvement

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**Parenting-** I plan to implement a workshop survey for parents to fill out (See Appendix A). My hope is that through this survey, I will get a better idea of the workshops needed, and the best times, days, and places for parents to attend. I plan on having the parents fill out the survey twice during the school year in order to keep preferences as up to date as possible. The parents will receive the survey through e-mail, mail, and/or through their child taking it home. All the parents have to do is simply answer three questions regarding topic, time, and place. Once the parents complete the survey, they have to send it back to me through any means. I will gather data from every parent survey and decide which workshops to host, when to host them, and where.

I think through implementing this survey, I will get a better idea of what parents want to learn from workshops. This survey will also help me to decide the best place and time to host the workshops which will allow for optimal parent attendance. The biggest problems with workshops are that parents are uninterested, they don't fit into the parent's schedule, and they are in an inconvenient place. Using this survey completely bypasses this problem by gathering data from parents beforehand to offer them the best possible situation when it comes to workshops. As a classroom teacher, I know how important it is for parents to attend these workshops and learn more information about children, so by implementing this survey, I can provide parents with the best workshops, times, and places to suit their needs.

**Communicating-** I plan to implement multiple means of parent-teacher conferencing for parents. As a classroom teacher, I know that it can be hard for parents to find the time to come in and conference. This is why I am introducing conferencing in four different ways. In addition to the traditional come in and talk to your child's teacher type of conference, I am also introducing phone, skype, and different day conferencing. Phone conferencing is where the teacher and parent(s) have a recorded phone conference regarding the child. Skype conferencing is where the teacher and parent(s) have a recorded skype conference regarding the child. Different day conferencing allows the parent(s) to come in on a more convenient day (within a week of conferences) to have a sit down meeting with the teacher regarding the child. Lastly, traditional conferencing is where the parents come in at a scheduled time and have a sit down meeting with the teacher regarding their child.

To begin implementing these new means of conferencing, I will send home a conferencing slip for the parents to fill out in which they select which type of conference they would like (See Appendix B). These slips will then be returned back to me and I will create a conference time sheet based on the results of the conferencing slips. For example: Millers- phone conference- 4:00, Smiths- traditional conference- 4:30, etc. Next, I will send home a slip to the parents with their conference type and time. If the time doesn't work, the parents can always call me or send an e-mail to set up a different time.

I think that by allowing for different types of conferences, I am better able to accommodate most of the parents' schedules. Even if they have a very busy schedule, parents can have a conference with me from their home, work, or anywhere else without the hassle of having to come to the school. Even though the use of technology can sometimes be a little unsteady, recording the calls and skype sessions should allow for more security on both ends.

Parent-teacher conferences are very important for both teachers and parents, and by allowing multiple means to do so, participation in conferences should increase.

**Learning at Home-** I plan to implement a family learning night in which parents and their children can come to the school for a night of fun, learning together as a family. I will begin by selecting a date and time that I think will work for most families of students in my classroom. I will then create a flyer to post and send home with my students so the families have at least a 2 week notice of the event (See Appendix C). Prior to the event happening, I will decide what to do at each of the stations for the event (reading, math, art) and gather the supplies needed to make each of the stations successful. I will also have to find three teacher volunteers to help run the stations on the night of the event. A few days prior to the event, I will send home another flyer as a reminder to the students and their families. The night of the event, I will set up each station and tell the teacher volunteers what they will be helping with at their stations. Once the families come, they will be welcomed and assigned to a certain station. Every half hour the families will rotate stations until each station is complete. Once the families have visited all three stations and done the projects, the night will end with a snack and social hour. I am hoping that I can have the snacks provided by the school PTO but if not, I will provide the snacks.

I think a family learning night is a wonderful opportunity for families to come and learn together. For a child, having their family interested and learning beside them will give them the motivation to continue learning. For families, no matter the age of the members, they can have fun creating projects and learning alongside each other. The family learning night is a wonderful opportunity for families to learn together, have fun while doing so, and learn some tips to carry the learning over to their home. When a family learns together, they grow closer and learn new and exciting things about each other. This is why I am hoping the family learning night proves to be beneficial for all families that attend.

**Volunteering-** I plan to implement a career week in which in which students bring a family member in to talk about their job. The career week would be a week long process in which approximately three individuals would speak a day. I will begin to implement this idea by first talking to my students about jobs and which jobs they like or think are “cool.” Next, I will tell my students that we will be having a career week and that they must find someone in their family whose job they admire. I will then send home a flyer two weeks in advance for their parents and/or family to look over (See Appendix D). The students will have two weeks to select an individual, let me know, and for me to set up a time for the individual to present their job. On the assigned week, three individuals will come in on their assigned afternoon and present their jobs to the class. This will continue throughout the week and end on the last day of the week (Friday).

As a classroom teacher, I feel it is important that students know and learn about the jobs people do every day. Many jobs are taken for granted, and if people were to come in and talk about those jobs, students might develop a deeper appreciation for them. Even though having three individuals come in a day for a week takes up a lot of time, students are learning about their community and fulfilling many social studies standards. They also get to talk to the individuals, learn about their jobs, and possibly try out some of the equipment that helps the individual do

their job. This is a wonderful learning experience for the students and it allows parents and other family members to volunteer in the classroom through talking about what they do every day.

**Decision Making-** I plan to implement a suggestion box in which parents can make their suggestions and ideas known. The suggestion box would be a locked box placed outside of my classroom. Suggestion slips (see Appendix E) and pens will be placed beside the box for parents to use whenever they have a suggestion as to how I can better my classroom or an idea concerning the whole school. The box will be checked every Friday, and upon receiving a suggestion/idea, I will review it and make contact with the parent who suggested it (if noted) for more information. If I decide to take the idea or suggestion into account, it will either be implemented or given to the school board/principal for further review.

As a classroom teacher, I want the parents of my students to feel like they have a say in what happens in the classroom. I believe that by implementing a suggestion box, parents can voice their opinions and provide suggestions regarding ways to improve the classroom and every child's learning. Parents that decide to fill out a suggestion slip have the option to remain anonymous, filling out the slip takes relatively little time, it can be done at any time, and parents still are able to voice their opinions. Parents are important to the well-being of classrooms and student-teacher relationships and taking their suggestions seriously is one way that I can ensure the parents in my classroom feel like they are making a difference.

**Collaborating with Community-** I plan to implement a hero day in which I have firemen, policemen, doctors, and nurses come in and speak with the students about their jobs. The students would get to ask questions, possibly try on some of their gear, and discover what makes these brave men and women true heroes. Hero day would be done in the afternoon on a day that allows as much time as needed for the heroes to talk and demonstrate.

I plan to carry out this plan by first contacting firemen, policemen, doctors, and nurses to see if they would be willing to come in and what days' work for them. Once I have found a person to represent each profession and a day that works for all people, I will then create a save the date flyer to send home with my students (See Appendix F). The day of the hero presentations, I will welcome them, introduce them to the class, and let them take over for the rest of the time. Hero day could also be split into hero week in which a new hero comes in every single day. Hero week would allow the heroes more time to demonstrate, talk about their job, and answer questions from the students.

I believe hero day is very important for the students because many of them have never had the opportunity to interact with any of the heroes. I want the students to get to know the heroes in their community, learn about their jobs, and discover that even though they do not wear capes, policemen, firemen, doctors, and nurses are still heroes. Hero day would also give me the opportunity to cover a few social studies standards in a fun, unique way.

## Parent Workshop Survey

1. Topic: (Choose which topic(s) interest you)

- |  |   |                                       |  |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discipline    | <input type="checkbox"/> Homework       | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting    | <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviors       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relationships | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullies        | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-esteem  | <input type="checkbox"/> Power Struggles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Siblings      | <input type="checkbox"/> Setting Limits | <input type="checkbox"/> Calming Down | <input type="checkbox"/> Other           |

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Time: (Choose which time(s) and day(s) of the week work best for you)

Start time (p.m.):

- |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

End time (p.m.):

- |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10:00 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Day of the week:

- |                                 |                                   |                                    |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday    |                                   |

Explain your choices: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Place: (Choose which place(s) would work best for you)

- |                                       |                                    |                                  |   |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom    | <input type="checkbox"/> Gymnasium | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |                                    |                                  |   |

4. Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Conferences

It's time for parent teacher conferences again! As a teacher, I know that it can be difficult for you as parents to find the time to come in and conference with me. That is why this year I am trying a whole new way of conferencing. Instead of the standard come in and talk with me conferences, I am introducing 3 new ways to conference that can help fit your schedule.

1. Traditional conferencing- Parent(s) come in and have a sit down meeting with the teacher regarding their child.
2. Skype conferencing- The teacher and parent(s) have a recorded skype conference regarding their child.
3. Phone conferencing- The teacher and parent(s) have a recorded phone conference regarding their child.
4. Different day conferencing- Parent(s) come in on a more convenient day (within a week of conferences) to have a sit down meeting with the teacher regarding their child.

Please complete the form at the bottom and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

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Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Traditional

Skype

Phone

Different Day

\*If noted traditional, the following does not need to be completed.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

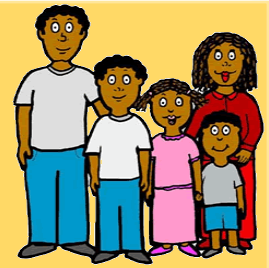
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Skype: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested New Day: \_\_\_\_\_



# Family Learning Night



When: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:00-8:00

Where: Gymnasium

What: This is a family night hosted by Mrs. Haak. During the night, parents and their children will have fun learning together at multiple stations as well as learn helpful tips for working together at home.

Family learning night is a wonderful opportunity to spend some time together as a family while learning and having fun. The night will begin with a welcome and then the families will circle through three different teacher-lead stations, reading, math, and art. At each station, families will have the opportunity to learn alongside their student while doing projects that are fun and engaging. The night will end with a snack and social hour provided by the PTO. Every member of the family is encouraged to attend and take part in learning and connecting as a family.

**All families welcome!!!**





# Career Week

Where:

Mrs. Haak's  
Classroom  
(Room 7)

What:

Student family  
members will be  
coming in to talk to  
the students about  
their jobs.

When:

March 13-17,  
2017

Does your mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, aunt, or uncle have a cool job? Are they a doctor, dancer, fireman, construction worker, or chef? If you think you know someone who has a cool job, bring them in for career week! During career week, students will be bringing in people who they think have cool jobs! These people will then talk to the class about their job, what they get to do, and what makes it cool! They will also be there to answer any questions you may have for them. So, if you know someone who has a cool job, bring them in and let the whole class know about their job!





## Appendix E

Suggestion/Idea: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My name is...

Anonymous                      or                       Name: \_\_\_\_\_

May we contact you?

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not wish to be contacted.

- Upon receiving this suggestion/idea it will be reviewed by the classroom teacher and contact will be made (if noted) for more information. If the suggestion/idea is taken into account, it will either be implemented or given to the school board/principal for further review. We appreciate your suggestions/ideas and will try our best to make sure they are implemented.



# HERO DAY



When: March 22, 2017

Where: Mrs. Haak's Classroom (Room 7)

What: Firemen, policemen, doctors, and nurses are coming to speak about their jobs as heroes, answer questions, and show the equipment that helps them be a hero.

What do firemen, policemen, doctors, and nurses all have in common? They are heroes! Each day they work to save people's lives. Now you have the chance to meet a real, live hero! On March 22, 2017 firemen, policemen, doctors, and nurses will be visiting to tell you all about their jobs and how they help others. Come ready to meet your favorite everyday hero, learn about what they do, and possibly try out some of their gear!



## References

All photos are from google.com.