



# Ideas for School Participation

**2008**

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## **Celebrate families in your school and community!!**

A special focus of Family Day 2008 is the important role of families in education and the many ways schools and families work together to support student's success. Some ideas:

- Sponsor family literacy programs at your schools and in the community
- Involve your PTA or PTO in all your plans
- Host a giant picnic for all staff, students and families - invite staff to bring their families also.
- Hold poetry writing, painting or art projects, or singing contests with themes like: "what my family means to me" or what communities mean to families, etc.
- Link Family Day to your curriculum
  1. Projects or genealogy
  2. A "graffiti board" for students to respond to a question like "what is a family?"
  3. a youth "speak out" on family topics
  4. cross-age tutoring
  5. community service learning projects
  6. family biography projects
  7. thematic projects about "me and my family"
  8. a giant world map flagging the origins of all families in the school
  9. a school-wide collage containing pictures and stories of students and their families
- Boards of Education can invite families to speak at the September meeting on various school-family issues.
- Host a family game night, scrapbook night, book making night, movie night or reading night
- Target special activities to involve fathers. Schools could host a "Doughnuts for Dads" event before school.
- Encourage families to make up their own traditions for celebrating Family Day
- Enlist many partners such as the Family resource Centers, Head Start programs, Even Start programs, the public Libraries, adult education programs, local child care programs, museums, newspapers, radio and television stations, United Way, YMCA/YWCA, colleges and universities, civic groups, local merchants, hospitals and health centers, senior citizen centers, youth centers and groups, children's clothing and toy stores, faith-based organizations, local supermarkets...