



Room Parent Meeting Information

Thank you for volunteering as a Room Parent, whether you're a first timer or your returning for your seventh time. You are appreciated!

Golden Rules of Room Parenting:

1. Communicate early with your teacher about any party plans. Follow their recommendations.
2. Communication to parents can be done electronically through a class distribution list or through the teacher. Communication can also be done through notes in the students' cubbies.
3. Keep it simple! Low budget, high fun. When making requests for contributions, offer the option of donating specific items (plates, snacks) in a sign-up format or making a '*voluntary donation of \$10*' at the beginning of the year. Please limit donations to \$10 for the year. Consider emails and/or a letter home in cubbies/backpacks to communicate with parents.
4. Room parents are also a classroom contact person for PTC and ESF events (e.g. Jogathon, Annual Giving Campaign). You may be asked to forward group emails to classroom parents to keep them informed. If you cannot or prefer not to do this, please help identify someone in your class willing to do so.
5. Be a Team Player, if you are lucky enough to have multiple Room Parents helpers. Would you like to divide up the parties, or share each one? Identify a lead person.
6. It's all been done before! Don't be afraid of the 'oldies but goodies' party options. Sugar is nice, but a sugar coma before a math test is not so nice.

Check with your teacher about which of the following parties you might have:

Harvest Party

Winter Party

Valentine Party

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

Last Day of School

Finances

We have now been asked to have Room Parents keep A.) a log of donations received from parents (without listing their names) and; B.) the expenses you incur for the parties over the year. This protects Room Parents because you can account for money should there be inquiry and it respects the privacy of our students/families. You do not have to turn any of this documentation in. Also, please keep in mind that all money is a 'voluntary donation' and NOT required. Public school is, of course, free and families vary widely on their preferences for school parties.

Staff Appreciation Week

The first full week in May is designated as Staff Appreciation Week (May 1st-5th). Typical schedule includes: poster making, handmade gift, a PTC luncheon and a special treat. Additional information regarding Staff Appreciation Week will be sent to room parents.

Party Ideas

Many teachers prefer to use stations or centers to divide class into manageable groups for parent volunteers. Adjusting for grade level, you might try these low/no cost ideas:

1. Holiday themed Bingo for younger grades (online printouts)
2. Holiday themed Pictionary on white board for older grades
3. Holiday charades
4. Crafts – younger kids do well with foam stickers, older kids can do more
5. Decorate a cookie/cupcake (check for food allergies first)
6. Wrap kids in toilet paper as a mummy or snowman.
7. Outdoor games with 'themes': water balloon toss, duck duck goose, relay races
8. Decorate a pumpkin, heart, snowman
9. Winter Holiday Traditions Around-the-World games or feasts
10. Hula hoop games
11. Book gift exchanges
12. Holiday Minute-To-Win-It games
13. Parties with a purpose - make holiday decorations for seniors, donate toys