



Ideas We Love

Family Nights, Teacher Appreciation, and More

Fun Event Ideas

Ways to get parents involved and kids excited

Boohoo/Yahoo Breakfast



Parents get together for coffee and a cry—or celebration—after dropping off their kids on the first day of school. Great for kindergarten parents.

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Make sure to have **information available about the PTO**, but don't do a hard sell.

Nice touch: This is a good time to establish your **group as a resource**. Share info about the school with new parents.

Muffins With Mom/Doughnuts With Dad

Invite parents (or another important adult) to have **breakfast with their child at school**.

This is a great way to **meet parents** of other kids in your child's grade.

Give it **any name you want**: Pastries With Parents, Breakfast Buddies; serve healthy foods, etc.

Nice touch: **Bring a camera**—take photos of families together and post them in the school lobby.



Grandparents Day

Kids bring their grandparents (or other important adult) to school.

Allow grandparents to **visit classrooms**. Hold reading activities where a grandparent reads to kids or kids read to their grandparents (or both).

Invite grandparents to **eat lunch** with their grandchildren in the cafeteria.

Nice touch: **Offer valet parking.**



Bike Rodeo



Kids **bring their bikes**

(could also include skateboards, scooters, etc.).

Events might include an obstacle course, helmet-fitting, and safety instruction.

Nice touch: Organize a **short group bike ride** where parents and children can ride together.

School Family Nights

Invite families to school for a shared event.
There are lots of different possibilities.

PTO Today offers **free kits**, each with a step-by-step planning guide, timeline, and activity ideas.




School Family Nights



Family Science Night: 20 different experiments, ranging from building a small hovercraft to learning how germs spread.

School Family Nights



STEP-BY-STEP FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Why Host a Family Movie Night?
Hosting a Family Movie Night is a great way to give families a free or low-cost evening out together. Plus, a Family Movie Night is easy to organize and run. Thousands of schools organize movie nights each year. Your movie night will allow parents and their children to experience the school in a whole new way. And it will give you a forum to showcase your parent group to prospective members—once parents see your group in action, they'll want to be part of it!

Family Movie Night Planning Tools
In addition to this step-by-step guide, we have several online tools to help you plan a successful and fun-filled night:

- Favorite **hints and ideas** gathered from some of the thousands of schools that have already hosted a Family Movie Night
- **Fun snack ideas** to go along with films you might show
- A **reproducible flyer** to publicize your Family Movie Night
- **Movie Licensing Made Easy Guide**
- **Single Event Public Performance Site License application** from Movie Licensing USA®, a simple, two-page form

You'll also receive a packet in the mail including:

- Two attractive posters to hang at school
- A banner to display during your Family Movie Night

How To Organize a Family Movie Night
RESERVE YOUR DATE AND LOCATION

- Give yourselves six to eight weeks to plan your Family Movie Night.
- Decide on a weeknight or weekend. Many groups opt for a Friday night so parents won't be concerned about getting their kids to bed later than usual.
- Before you finalize your date, check school and community calendars to make sure your Family Movie Night doesn't conflict with other events, such as sports games or school productions.

• Show your movie in a large space where families can spread out and relax—a gymnasium or cafeteria, for example.

SELECT YOUR PLANNING TEAM
Your **chairperson** will be in charge of recruiting volunteers, coordinating the effort, and confirming school licensing coverage or obtaining the required **Public Performance Site License** from Movie Licensing USA®. You'll also need:

- A technical coordinator who will be responsible for securing the movie and equipment.
- A snack coordinator to purchase or solicit donations of food and beverages, paper goods, and related supplies.
- A publicity coordinator who will publicize Family Movie Night through flyers, newsletters, and websites.

CHOOSE YOUR MOVIE
Movies just released to home video tend to be a huge draw. But old favorites can be popular, too, especially with parents who may feel nostalgic for movies they enjoyed as kids.

The *Lego Movie*, *Big Hero 6*, *Dolphin Tale 2*, and *Rowkitts* are new releases that are currently popular with kids, and more new releases become available each month—so be creative.



Our licensing sponsor, Movie Licensing USA®, keeps a current list of the top 10 most popular titles for licensing that they update regularly on the website <http://k12.movlic.com/new>. You can also call them at 877-321-1300 and ask for movie recommendations. Their representatives talk with hundreds of schools each week, so they know what's popular.

Still concerned about picking just the right movie? Let the kids decide. Select three titles and hold a schoolwide

Presented by
Movie Licensing USA®
877-321-1300
k12.movlic.com

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School Family Nights®

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Family Movie Night: Tips, timeline, movie and theme ideas, and how to get a public viewing license.

School Family Nights

GREAT BOOKS FOR KIDS

FAMILY READING NIGHT

When your child is looking for something good to read, suggest some of these favorites.

AGES 4-8

- *Black Dog*, by Levi Perfeld
- *Blackout*, by John Rocco
- *Each Kindness*, by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Green*, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- *Interrupting Chicken*, by David Ezra Stein
- *More*, by I.C. Springman
- *Nighttime Ninjas*, by Barbara DeCosta
- *Puzzled by Pink*, by Sarah Frances Hardy
- *Should I Share My Ice Cream?* by Mo Willems
- *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, by Philip C. Stead
- *Three Dorn Squirrels!* by Adam Rubin
- *Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales*, by Lucy Cousins
- *Z is for Moose*, by Kelly Bingham

AGES 9-12

- *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*, by Steve Sheinkin
- *Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading*, by Tommy Greenwald
- *Dead End in Norvelt*, by Jack Gantos
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, by Jeff Kinney
- *The Elephant Scientist*, by Caitlin O'Connell and Donna M. Jackson
- *The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Colonist*, by Loree Griffin Burns

YOUNG ADULTS

- *Anything But Typical*, by Nora Raleigh Baskin
- *Ashfur*, by Mike Mullin
- *Drama*, by Raina Telgemeier
- *The Fault in Our Stars*, by John Green
- *Forge*, by Laurie R. King
- *I'll Be There*, by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- *Mexican WhiteBoy*, by Matt de la Peña
- *My Sister Lives on the MontePice*, by Annabel Pitcher
- *Notion*, by Terry Pratchett
- *Revolution*, by Jennifer Donnelly
- *Son*, by Lois Lowry
- *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different*, by Karen Blumenthal

Presented by **PTO.org**
School Family Nights

Family Science Night: 20 different experiments, ranging from building a small hovercraft to learning how germs spread.

Family Movie Night: Tips, timeline, movie and theme ideas, and how to get a public viewing license.

Family Reading Night: Theme ideas, book suggestions, and ideas for guest readers.

Internet Safety Night

This night is aimed at helping parents teach their children to be **safe and smart Internet users.**



Internet Safety Night

The kit includes a **step-by-step planning guide** and PowerPoint with professionally written script so anyone can present it.



Teacher Appreciation

Showing teachers you support them

Teacher Appreciation



Teacher Appreciation Week is the first full week in May each year; May 2-6 this year.

Don't limit your appreciation to that week. Small efforts **throughout the year** are more impactful than one big effort toward the end of the year.

Nice touch: **Get the kids involved!**

Teacher Appreciation

School Supplies

Teachers love gifts that are **useful** and **practical**. Classroom supplies are perfectly fine.

Nice touch: Create a **school supply cake**



Teacher Appreciation

Quick and Easy

Your teacher appreciation effort **doesn't have to be expensive.**

“Get out of lunch duty” cards

Coffee tags

Nice touch: **Appreciation word cloud**



Teacher Appreciation

From the Kids



Photo collages of students

Teacher Appreciation

From the Kids



Photo collages of students

Handmade cards from the kids

Teacher Appreciation

From the Kids

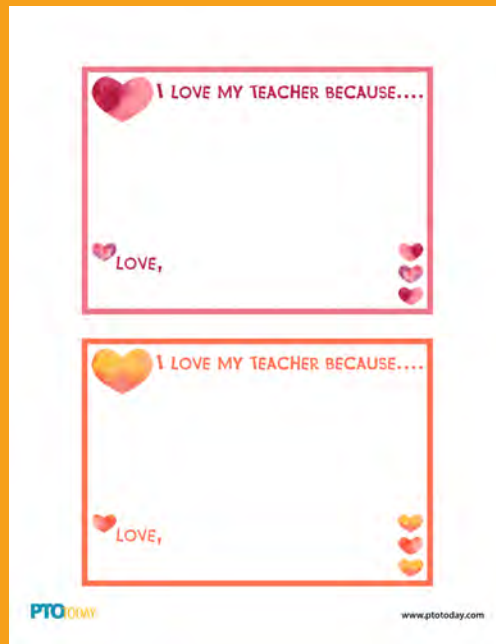


Photo collages of students

Handmade cards from the kids

“I love my teacher because” stickers

Teacher Appreciation

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Job coupons for kids

Teacher Appreciation

From the Kids



Photo collages of students

Handmade cards from the kids

“I love my teacher because” stickers

Job coupons for kids

Nice touch: **Sidewalk chalk messages** to teachers

Community Service

Helping kids understand the broader community

Community Service

Collect it

Collect **food** for the local food pantry.

Collect **gently used winter coats** for needy kids.

Collect **pajamas and stuffed animals** for the women's shelter.

Important: Always check with the charity to make sure you're filling a key need—
at the right time.



Community Service

Make it

Knit hats for the children's hospital.

Make **cards for troops** (or send Halloween candy).



Community Service

Do it

Visit a **nursing home**. Have kids bring **handmade cards**.

Clean-up day: A local park, shoreline, or the school grounds.

Hold a day at school to **honor veterans**.



Community Service

Do it

Nice touch: For the most impact, **have kids interact with the people they're helping.**



Where To Find It

You can **find more information** on all of these ideas, downloadables, and a copy of this presentation at

ptotoday.com/expo-extras.

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