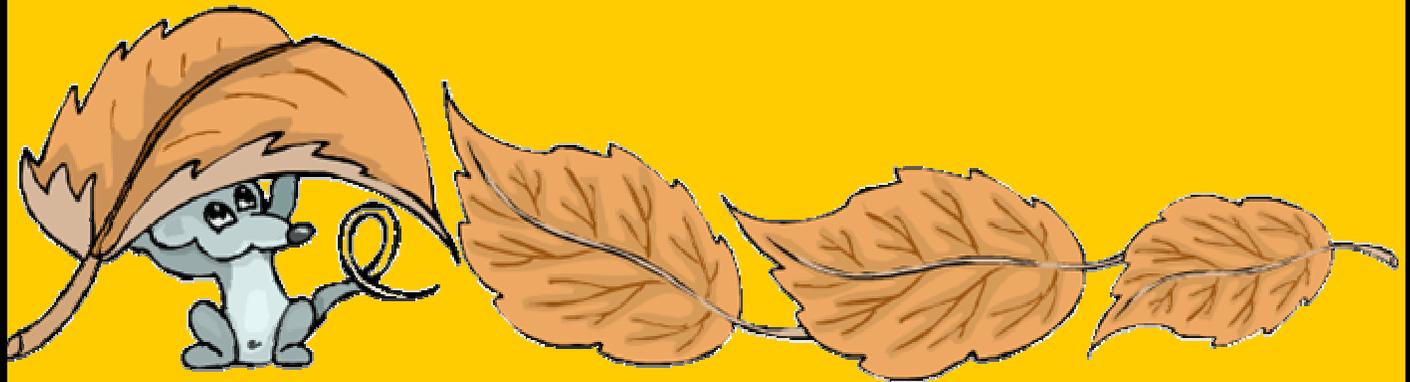


# Bulletin Boards for the Autumn



# Bulletin Boards

## Some things to ponder .....

"I like to make a lovely, bright colourful classroom to welcome my new class. This takes some time and work in the summer, but is worth it to me. I try not to over-do the decoration, but always put butcher paper in fall colours on the bulletin boards and I buy the edging. I put up the alphabet and numbers, of course, and colours and colour words in K and Grade One. I always make up one bulletin board with a welcome to my students, with each of their names and a place to add a picture of each on the afternoon of the first day.

Several bulletin boards are left with the fall background, ready to put up the children's work done in the first week - usually a self portrait in K and One, or a descriptive story of themselves in Grade Two and Three. Another board is usually art work."

"I have a very different approach to 'walls'. I feel it is the kids' and my room so I only put up what is necessary to begin the year - letters for the word wall (not the words - we build that together), and the calendar. I tell the kids that we will work together to make it our room and the very first day of school we do a small and simple craft that I immediately put up. They are very excited and proud of our room. It feels odd as everyone puts up things - but I feel the kids are young and don't really look at the stuff on the walls until it is their theirs and their friends', not mine. It's like the idea of 'breaking bread' together - cementing a relationship..."

"I have spent many days in the summers giving up my much needed free-time to decorate the classroom. I used to hang up lots of charts and create all kinds of clever boards. The kids hardly ever used my charts or read the poems. Now I start each year by hanging colourful paper or fabric on my boards and I put up colourful borders. I decorate my door and put nametags on the cubbies. I later fill the bulletin boards with the children's work or with things I have taught.

That being said, if you do create an amazing classroom in any primary grade before school begins, it will be useless to the children unless you spend a great amount of time referring to the charts or poems that you have put up. In Kindergarten and Grade One the charts should be memorized so the children can use them when they 'read the room' and refer to the charts in work times."

N ice

A lways on time

T errific

A ctress

L ikes to read

I nteresting

E veryone's  
friend!



Most primary teachers cover bulletin boards with the coloured butcher paper and a fancy purchased edging. This is attractive and easy, of course - but there are other things you can use to cover those ugly spaces!

Fabric is great. Stretch it out and staple it. It doesn't fade or show staple holes like paper, and can be taken down and washed to use next year. Use a pastel or single colour or a simple not-too-busy pattern if you want people to focus on the bulletin board material. There are lots of fabrics that are great for themes, seasons or holidays. You can also find fabrics with texture - velvets, burlap, felt, etc. Check the remnant bins for bargains, too!

Sheets, table cloths or curtains bought at discount stores are good.....

You can buy shower curtains at dollar stores - these can be written on - see page 17 for ideas to use these.

Gift wrap, newspaper, comic book pages, magazine pages are interesting.

Look through wallpaper bins for discontinued lots. These can be interesting and fun. Wallpaper borders are also great for decorating. Just staple these!

If you are in an older school, paint your bulletin boards! Give them several coats - then you can add stencils to make it more interesting if you wish.

## Bulletin Board Ideas

### Welcome!

Put up a 'Welcome' bulletin board for your new class! Here are some ideas.....

One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish.

Here are Ms. Smith's new fish!

Cut out large coloured fish and put the students' names on them. Add pictures after the first day! Maybe you could draw ones like the ones in the Dr. Seuss book.



For Grade 2 or 3 - make a cross word of all the names so everyone connects. The students can do it for a first day project. Give out a page with squares to print in.

On the first day take a picture of each student wearing sunglasses. Enlarge just the heads on the computer and print out - cut around the heads and put up on a board - head it 'We're Cool!'



Have little ducklings and a mother duck (you!). The board could be titled, 'Waddle We Do This Year?' "Waddle into a Cool Class", etc.

A simple bulletin board can have stars - "Ms. \_\_\_\_\_'s All-Stars!" or 'We're off to the stars' or 'Reach for the stars!'

Grade Threes will like a bulletin board with jeans for each one and the label, "Grade Three Jean-iuses".

"On the first day read the book *Chrysanthemum*. We talk about the students' names and the number of letters in each. We graph our names by the number of letters. Who has the longest name? Who has the shortest? Then we do flowers. They trace a circle for the centre and print their name in it. Then I have pre-cut petals - some wide and some thin, and they glue the number of petals behind the circle as they have letters in their names. We talk about the petal size and the best choices."



### A Bright Bunch

"On the first day I take a digital photo of each of my kids wearing sunglasses. I print off a copy of each on circles - my photo editing program has this option - about 6 inches (15 cm.) in diameter. I mount the pictures on suns, and label the bulletin board 'I have a hunch, This is a bright bunch!'"

### A Spotlight

"I made a picture of a large spotlight, and then yellow paper for the light widening across a black background. Then I have the names of all the students at the end of the light. You could have photos or self-drawings of the students, too. I titled the board 'Grade Two is in the spotlight!'"

### Acrostics

"I have my Grade Three students write acrostics using the letters in the first names. They print their names going down the page in fancy print - bubble letters are usually the most popular - and then print a word or words beginning with each letter that describes the student. For some letters we brainstorm ideas."

### My Summer Vacation

"I have my kids decorate a paper plate with their name and pictures of what they did on their vacations. I make a bulletin board look like a picnic table, with a red and white checkered cloth and then set the table with the plates around the edge. In the middle was a list of vocabulary words. Then we decorated the whole thing with small black ants!"

### Fall into Grade One

"I made a tree with falling leaves with the students' names on them. The leaves could be hand prints in fall colours."

### Here's a Great Bunch!

Cut out purple circles about 9" (22 cm.) in diameter. Outline with black pen. Print a student's name on each. Pin them up to form a cluster of grapes. Add a green stem and leaves. Take several 3" green circles and cut to the centre in a spiral. Add these to the stems.

### It's Fall!

"I set up a white background by putting up white paper on the wall and the floor. Then I took photos of the kids pretending to fall. They had great fun with this! Some pretended to fly, and others pretended to fall forward or bent backwards. Then I printed the pictures and we cut around them and then mounted them on a white bulletin board with falling autumn leaves. The pictures were adorable, and I got a lot of compliments and laughs from the parents!"

### Apples for the Teacher!

"We do an apple theme in September, so I do an apple bulletin board to greet the kids. I cut out a lot of large apples - maybe 6 inches across - in red, yellow and apple green. On the first day we talk about the colour of the apples and the children tell me their favourite coloured apple. I print the names on the apples. Then I put them in a big apple tree on the bulletin board. We graph the colours and do some math with the numbers. It gives me an idea of the math knowledge the children have."

### You are Tee-riffic!

"I put up a 'clothesline' across the back of my classroom. I pre-cut t-shirt shapes in different pastel colours of paper, and on the first day each child chose a shirt and decorated it with their name, pictures or other designs. We hung the finished shirts on the clothesline with coloured clothespins. They are very cute!"

### Me!

"I have my Grade Threes write a story about themselves but without their names, and while they are doing this I trace their silhouettes on black construction paper, using the overhead projector. Then they cut out the silhouette and it is mounted with the anonymous person description. I put them up on a bulletin board in the hall, and the parents read the board and try to find their own child."

### Our Apple Orchard or The Apples of My Eye!

Make a large tree from brown butcher paper. Make the branches wider than you want them and then scrunch them in your hands lengthwise so they look three dimensional and have ridges along them.

Cut out large apples, one for each child. Put a child's photo on each and the names.



### Fall into Reading!

Print this poem: Cut out (or purchase) brightly coloured autumn leaves and print a child's name on each. Staple these falling leaves at random over the board. Or.... in the first week have the students fingerprint on 9 x 12 paper in orange, yellow and red. When dry, cut out leaves as large as possible. (You can draw the shape on the back of the paper and they can cut them out.)



The leaves are falling

**Grade \_\_\_\_\_ is Hopping With Excitement! or Leap Into Grade \_\_\_\_\_!**  
**or Welcome to Our Pad!**

On a blue background, cut out light green lily pads and dark green frogs.



**Swinging into Grade \_\_\_\_\_**

Have the students draw themselves on a swing... or go out to the playground on the first day and take a digital picture of each child on the swing, pretending to be swinging high. Print them out on plain paper - and if you want to save ink, in black and white.

**Welcome to School!**

May this school year bring  
You happiness galore,  
And may you enjoy it  
Right to the core!

Have a large apple core on the bulletin board and add the students' names.



**Welcome to Our Bear-y Wonderful Class! or You Are Bear-y Special!**

Print each child's name on a picture of a bear or teddy bear.

**Blast Off into Grade \_\_\_\_\_**

Draw a very large rocket ship with lots of windows. Put a photograph of each child's face looking out a window. Make the background black or dark blue and decorate with stars and planets.

**A Class With Many Flavours!**

Have ice-cream cones with a great variety of ice-cream colours.

**Our School!**

Photocopy an outline of a cute fish. Print each child's name with black felt pen, and then have the students colour them as brightly as possible.

**Smile!**

"My door will say, 'Smile, you're in Ms. \_\_\_\_\_'s class!'. I will put the names on smiley faces."



**The Olympics** These are great for Grade Two or Grade Three classes:

Going for the Gold

An Olympic Year

Carrying the Torch for Learning

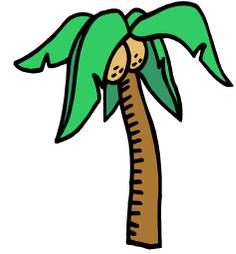
A Winning Class

Do Your Best!

Award-winning Students

### Chicka Chicka .....

Decorate your classroom from the book 'Chicka Chicka Boom Boom'.  
See these sites to make palm trees.



<http://www.thevirtualvine.com/ccbb.html>

<http://www.proteacher.net/discussions/showthread.php?t=173225>

### Sunflowers

Put the children's faces (a photo or a drawing) in the center of sunflowers and label with the names. Title it 'Welcome to Our Kinder - Garden', or 'Watch Us Grow', 'A Place To Grow', etc.

### Empty Boards:

Put up a very nice title that says 'Invisible Art' and watch people stop and look!  
Make a sign that says 'Under Construction'.

### And more .....

Using pencils: 'Pencil us in for a great year!' or 'Welcoming a sharp bunch of students'  
Do a 'We're Hoppy you're here' door with frogs..'  
Using feet or shoes: 'We're starting off on the right foot' or 'Step into Grade Two'.

### Fishy Ideas....

"You could have the children create different fantasy fish with crayon on a pre-cut shape, leaving a large circle area in the middle for their picture and name. All must be coloured facing the same direction (preferably noses to the right so the fish are travelling from left to right). They are then fastened to the bulletin board in a triangular fashion, so that you start with one fish on the right side, two fish behind him, and the third row with 3 or 4 fish and so on. The title of the board reads "School's In!"

"Make an Ocean board! Label it Our Underwater Zoo. The background paper is blue with brown paper cut for sand along the bottom, and then seaweed (green construction paper) coming up. Every day the children make an underwater sea creature, and they are added to the bulletin board. Examples are: crabs, snails, fish, starfish, whale, dolphin, etc."

### A Puzzle

"Create giant puzzle pieces in bright colours. Mount these on a black background and separate each piece slightly so the background shows. Each piece can have the child's name and picture on it the title ca be We Fit Together Perfectly."

### Hanging Out!

Cut out shapes of t-shirts and hang them on a ribbon or rope clothesline. Write the names of the children in your class on the t-shirts. You can put photo's of each child on the t-shirts, too. You can title it Ms. \_\_\_\_\_'s Class Hangs Out Here!"

## **Bears!**

Have the children colour pre-cut bears for one class and teddy bears for the other class (or two kinds of bears...) Title: **Welcome to Our Bear-y Wonderful Class**, or **Teddy Bears Picnic**.

Take the children's pictures the first week of school. Cut out a bear's footprint for each child and put the picture and the child's name on it. Put them on the board as tracks. Title the board **Paws to See Who's in Kindergarten!**

## **One of a Kind**

Make cut-out or painted handprints with the child's name.

## **Bargains...**

Some inexpensive bulletin board ideas - For backgrounds use wrapping paper, newsprint, and donated fabric. IKEA has great bright wrapping paper—large rolls and inexpensive. Vinyl tablecloths from the dollar store make great backgrounds. Think ahead and get seasonal ones on sale after a holiday or season is over. You can cut letters and numbers out of wrapping paper, or wallpaper samples and then laminate them. Any inexpensive vinyl can be purchased and letters and shapes cut out, such as vinyl pool floats or light placemats. Air-popped popcorn shaken in a bag with dry tempera paint makes great blossoms for a bulletin board tree, too, and crumpled paper bags make good tree trunks & branches. Wood-grained contact paper cut into strips makes a realistic split-rail fence.

## **Balloons**

"Have the title **We're Lifting Off To A Great Year** or **Taking off for a Great Year** on the board and make small hot air balloons (using colourful construction paper) for each child. One class could be hot air balloons and one class could be regular balloons or kites, or simply have two colours of balloons. Add the children's names and pictures."



"Make back-to-school balloons, each with a picture of a child. Add string and you have a colourful bulletin board that is easy to make."

## **Nuts About Fall**

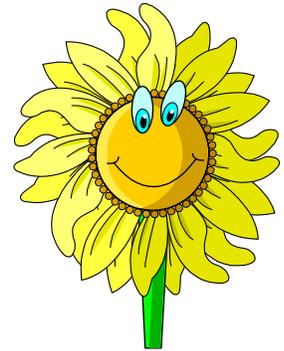
Here's a cute bulletin board for fall - Put up a blue sky with a thin strip of green grass at the bottom. Draw a tree branch coming out the side of your board. Hang acorns and leaves with the children's names on them off the branch. At the bottom, add squirrels with the teachers' names, and more leaves and acorns. Make sure to use fall colours! Title this **Nuts About Fall!**

## **Wild!**

Use **We Are Wild About Kindergarten!** Or **Kindergarten Safari**. Decorate with brown freezer paper and brown and green raffia for grass. Use pictures of elephants, zebras, lions, tigers, etc. with a child's name on each one.

### Sunflower—Good Morning...

Make a garden of sunflowers! Trace and cut the children's handprints for the petals. This would make a wonderful fall bulletin board.



Ms. \_\_\_\_\_'s Bunch - balloons (or bananas!) have a clown (or a monkey) holding them.

Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ New Crop - apples on a tree, or another harvest fruit or vegetable

Stepping into Kindergarten - shoes

Hats Off to Kindergarten - hats..

Busy Workers - use insect shapes, bees or ants.

### All the Colours of Kindergarten or Kindergarten Rainbow

Make a large rainbow and have pots of gold for one class and umbrellas for the other— both could have the children's pictures on them. Or ..... A crayon box and a crayon for each child with his name. Very colourful!

### What a Great Bunch

Apples — if you teach Kindergarten, make one class red apples and one class green apples. Each apple has the child's name and photograph. Place the apples on a large paper tree or in two large bulletin board baskets.

### We're All Here!

"I teach in an old school that is two story and has rows of windows. I took a photo of our school and then copied the shape onto white paper so that it was large enough to just about fill a bulletin board. I cut out the windows and the school and tacked it on a yellow background. The first day I took digital photos of the children (head shots) on a plain background. I cut out the pictures to fit the windows and popped the children's pictures into the windows. I titled it "We're All Here!". It was wonderful!"

### Watch Us Shine

"I made a huge sun in the upper left corner of the bulletin board. Then I took thick yellow yarn from the sun to the names and pictures of the children."



### Catch the Reading Bug!

Have the title on the board, and on the first day have the children draw and colour bugs with their names on clearly. Or ..... have a Volkswagen bug and the faces of the children looking out the windows.

### We Go Together

This can stay up all year long. Make a quilt on your bulletin board. Staple up different coloured squares to make a rectangle, with enough squares for your students (4 x 5, 5 x 5, etc.) The squares can be made of paper or fabric sewn together. (Fabric is good if you sew - it doesn't show staple marks and it doesn't fade easily. It can be used year after year.....) Print a name at the top of each square. Now different projects can be put in the squares. For the first project, have the children make their faces using paper plates with yarn for hair. For autumn the children can do a leaf project, for Hallowe'en it can be changed to drawings of the children in costume, etc. The quilt background stays up and the squares can be changed often by stapling art or work projects.

### Names, Names

"I cut out the letters of each of their names in many different colours. I give them the letters and they arrange them vertically any way they want and glue them together. Some kids go straight down, some like to kind of zig-zag it and some have come up with really funky ways! One child tried to do his horizontally but it took up too much room - it hit the name next to his - so now I make them all glue them up and down. I laminate them, punch a hole in the top letter and hang them up. (I have fishing line dangling permanently with a paperclip attached to the bottom.) The room looks so good with them up there! I do this and leave them up all year unless I take them down to hang something seasonal temporarily."

### Popping Up in Grade One

This one is easy to make. Cut out popcorn shapes from white tag and add the students' names and/or photos.

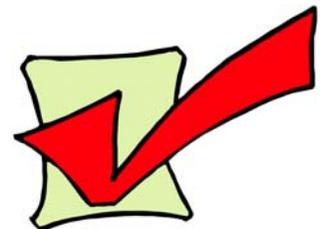
### We Are Stars!

Make a large apple tree and put up the children's pictures and names on apples. Then one day in the first week, give each child an apple and cut the apples through the center to see the star. They can dip the apple cut in red paint and then make prints. Put the prints around the border of the apple tree.

### Checkers and Checks

"I made a huge checker board using black and white construction paper cut to 9" squares. I bought plastic plates in red and black in the dessert size and placed them on the grid. The title was **Check in and check us out. Welcome Back!**. The students drew themselves (only the head) and glued them to the plates."

Cut out big check marks, one for each student. Have them write a biography and take a digital photo of each child. Mount the three items on a bulletin board.



### Autumn

**Awesome Autumn** can be the title of a fall or back-to-school board. Decorate with coloured leaves and a rake on one side.

## Bees Everywhere!

An information bulletin board with the headline: **What's Buzzing in Grade Two?**

School or classroom rules titled: **Bee Your Best!**

A large attendance hive with a small Velcro square for each student to attach their own bee when they arrive.

A jobs bulletin board: **Worker Bees** with individual beehives labelled with jobs and the students names.

A classroom newsletter: **News from the Hive.**

A sheet to record homework for absent students that says **While you've BEEN gone.**

A puzzling morning question called **The Bee Stinger.**

A showcase for students work called **Bee-utiful Work.**

Display quotes around the room and replace the word be with bee.

Student of the week called King Bee or Queen Bee.

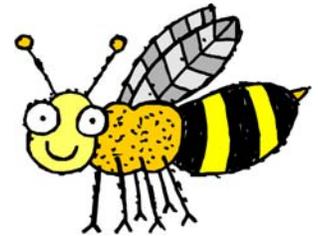
Make bee or beehive nametags for each student.

Decorate the outside of your door like a large hive with a big banner

**Grade Two - A Hive of Activity!**

Make a large honeycomb area to set class goal for books read.

Gradually fill in honeycombs as books are read.



## An Ocean Theme

**An ocean full of good work** for displaying work samples.

**Welcome to our school** Each child's face on a fish, some funny ones thrown in, including your own

Make a big shark with lots of teeth - **Take A Bite Out Of This!** with a book in its mouth.

Use a real net, goggles, flippers and shells, etc. surrounding a board.

Use a real net, starfish, goggles, flippers, surrounding a board.

**Catch of the Day:** person with a fishing pole for display of good work, writing samples

**Something's Fishy in Grade (or Room) \_\_\_\_** for your newsletter

**Oceans of fun in \_\_\_\_\_.**

**We're up to something fishy.**

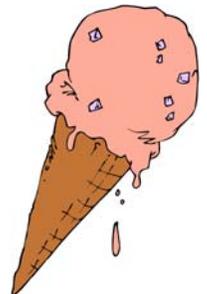


"Have a bunch of fishies (school of fish) with the kids' digital photos on each - maybe an octopus or ray (as in Nemo) with the teacher's photo. The kids could do rest with paper seaweed, shells, etc."

## Ice-cream Cones

**Our Class Comes In (number of children) Flavours!**

Each child can make a large cone shape of brown construction paper with a scoop of their favourite coloured ice-cream on top. They put their names on the cone and their picture on the ice-cream.



"I cover all my boards with black felt. I change the borders to go with the theme. The black looks crisp and provides a visual rest for the eye. It never fades or shows staple marks." (Try

"Our theme this year is sunshine, and my window says, **Time to Shine in Grade Two!**"

"As a back to school activity that will also become a bulletin board, I am going to do a puzzle and a bulletin board titled **We Fit Together**. I will cut very large puzzle pieces. I will have them outline the puzzle piece in crayon or marker (about an eighth or quarter of an inch or so) to emphasis the 'puzzleness' of it and then allow them to decorate inside with their name and face or doing something to show togetherness or co-operation, sharing, etc.... Number the pieces on the back for easy re-assembling, and put a mark on the front of each piece to show which edge is up so the pictures will all be 'looking' in the right direction. A piece with the picture upside down will spoil the affect. Re-assemble the pieces by gluing them to a large piece of mural paper."

### Going on a Safari!

"My bulletin board will say **Swinging Into Grade Two** with vines and palm leaves. The children's names will be on monkeys. I am going to make a sign for the door that says: **Warning! It's A Jungle In Here!**

A bulletin board will be titled **We Are Wild About Writing**. The BB will be covered with fabric or gift wrap with animal fur print - leopard skin, zebra print, etc.

To 'Read (or write) the Room' the children can use binoculars, flashlights, or small nets, and wear helmets."



### Who's Who in Grade Two

"I take pictures of each child on the first day of school. For the first week I do mini-writing lessons, reviewing the basic skills, and the children write their biographies. I get a story that looks something like this:

#### **Megan Jones**

**Megan Jones is 7 years old. Her birthday is on June 17. She lives in a house on Maple Street. She has 2 brothers and no sisters. She likes to read. Her favourite food is pizza. She doesn't have a pet, but she wishes she had a cat.**

Then I type up the story and print it out. I put the photo at the top of the page and the story at the bottom and put them up on a '**Who's Who in Grade Two**' bulletin board. At the end of September I take them down and put the page into a plastic sleeve and put them in a binder. The kids love to look at the book and read their stories."

### T-riffic!

#### **We'll Have a T-rrific year**

I made T-shirt cutouts with the names of the children. They decorated the shirts at the 'Meet Your Teacher' session and we displayed them at that time.

## Smiley Faces

**Work Worth Smiling About!**

**I'm happy to be back at school!**

**Doing good work (doing our best, being a good friend...whatever) puts a smile on our face!**

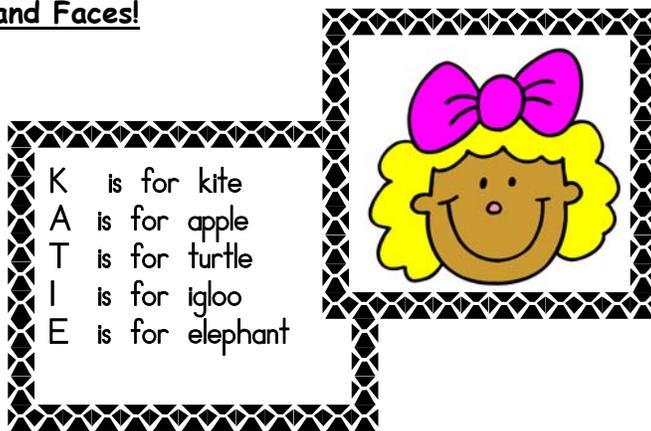
You cannot give a smile away,  
No matter what you do.  
Every time you give me one  
I'll give it back to you!

## Feet

**Grade One - A BIG Step**

Make a big foot shape with a happy face on it. Cut out pairs of little feet for the children and put them around the big foot. Put the students' names and pictures with the feet.

## Names and Faces!



## T-Shirts

**A Great Line-Up!**

Cut out brightly coloured t-shirt shapes. Print a child's name on each. Hang them with clothes pins to cords strung across the bulletin board.

## A Handy Class

Have the children paint their hands and make handprints on chart paper or on separate papers and mount on the bulletin board. If you use the primary colours it makes a bright display.

## A Gentle Protest

For those teachers who have very large classes, here is a mild but effective protest:

**There was an old woman**

**Who lived in a shoe .....**

Cut out a large boot and have the children's names on girl and boy shapes around it. You could also have the children draw themselves and print their names to put around the boot house.

### Fun in the Tub

Do you have a large class? Cut out an old-fashioned bathtub and mount on the bulletin board. Each child creates his/her face on a paper plate (or just a drawing), adds yarn or crepe paper for hair, etc. All the heads are mounted above the tub. A poem to go with it - it can be sung to *Popeye the Sailor Man*:

There's too many kids in the tub,  
There's too many elbows to scrub,  
I've lost my knee, oh, where can it be,  
There's too many kids in the tub.



### Frogs

#### **Take a Leap Into Grade One!**

I covered the board in blue. I made a large frog, with my name on it, sitting on a lily pad and surrounded the large frog with small, die-cut frogs with the names of the children.

Or: *Toad-ally awesome students*

### Going Fishing!

#### **Fishing For a Great Class**

I covered the bulletin board to look like a pond and used brown paper to make a dock. I reproduced a child sitting and fishing and had each child's name on a fish.

### Off to School

You can use the poem  
Off to school  
We go together  
In September's  
Sunny weather!



Create a large school bus and put photos (or drawings) of your children's heads in the windows. Add your class name or the teacher's name to the side of the bus.

### Popcorn

#### ***Just Popping By* or *Look Who Popped In!***

Cut pieces of paper (one for each child) to look like popcorn and put a picture of each of your children's heads on kernel. Next make a popcorn popper and put it on the board.

### Dino-mite!

Put the names on dinosaurs:

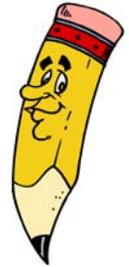
*Welcome to a dino-mite year* or *Welcome to a dino-mite class*

## Chicka Chicka

### *Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom - Look Who's in Our Room!*

I made a big palm tree (about as tall as my door) and taped it on. Then I made coconuts for each child (a brown oval then a smaller white oval glued in the centre of the brown one. I wrote their names on the white part and crushed up shredded wheat cereal and glued it to the outer brown part. That was a little messy but effective. I put the coconuts up on the tree as well as some under the tree or falling off.

Put the children's names on pencils: *Pencil us in for a great year!* or *Welcoming a sharp bunch of students!*



Put the names on award ribbons: *Award-winning Students!*

Print the names on feet or shoes: *We're starting off on the right foot!* or *Step into Grade Two*

Decorated T-shirts on a clothesline: *Grade Two suits us to a tee.* or *Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_'s line-up*

Using apples: *Bushels of fun in Grade Two* or *The apples of my eye!*

## The Right Foot!

"Have each student trace their bare foot. Then they can draw a picture on the foot with their name. Finally have the students cut out the feet. Place them on a bulletin board entitled, 'We are starting out on the RIGHT foot!'"

## A New Twist

"For a beginning of the year bulletin board, use the game board for a twister game as the background. Put the spinner on as well, with the words 'A new twist to a new year.' Add cut-out feet and hands with the students' names on them. It is very colourful!"

## Who's the Teacher?

"This bulletin board is about you, the teacher. Choose a background and border that represent your personality. Collect pictures, clip art, book covers, etc. that show your interests. Laminate them and post them on the bulletin board. Let your students ask you questions about the items on the board."

"Try backing your bulletin boards with fabric instead of paper. I use a fabric with small print, small polka dots or other small patterns. You can use a stapler to fasten it on. You can use cotton prints, burlap for texture, felt, painting drop-cloths, sheets, tablecloths, or shower curtains. You can also buy wrapping paper or wallpaper for bulletin board backgrounds. Try children's wallpaper borders for interest!"

### We'll Have a Picnic!

"I've used a red check tablecloth on one of my bulletin boards. It works great and it lasts for a long time. I put a picnic basket on it, an ant border, and the words *Grade Two is a Picnic!* It turns out very cute. I put plates on it with the names of subjects and the basket has plates and silverware sticking up out of it."

### Busy Bees

"My name begins with 'B', so I am going to do a bulletin board titled *Ms. B\_\_\_\_\_ 's \_\_\_\_\_ Bees*. I have a blue checked fabric and sunflowers for the bulletin board background. I photocopy a bee pattern and attach photos of children. Many words may be placed in the third spot: *Ms. B\_\_\_\_\_ 's Busy Bees*, or perhaps *Ms. B\_\_\_\_\_ 's Brilliant Bees* Bright Bees? Beautiful Bees? Best Bees? Big Bees?"



"We use bees for other classroom things - there is a bee behaviour chart with a hive of good behaviour and nametags with bees, etc. I also have some very cute fabric...with tiny bees and hives. There is a bulletin board *BEEattitudes* - Be kind, Be safe...and so forth. You will 'BEE' lucky with this name!"

*Note: Another teacher suggests: brightest, biggest, bravest, beautiful, brainy, borderline - (her husband was helping generate this list), breathtaking, boisterous (that would be her last years class), bold, bubbly, brilliant, bedazzling.....*

### Grade One Fits Me to a Tee!

"The first day I take a picture of each child standing by a little easel type chalkboard on which I write, 'My name is \_\_\_\_\_.'" Kids write in their names. There is a tee-shirt cut out of tagboard for each child. These tee-shirts are hanging on a clothesline on the bulletin board as the children come in the first day. On each shirt is a child's name inside a cloud like decoration. The children may add simple decorations and colour. The caption over the clothesline is, "Grade One Fits Me to a Tee!" The photograph goes under the completed tee-shirt. At the end of the year I put the pictures into their memory books."

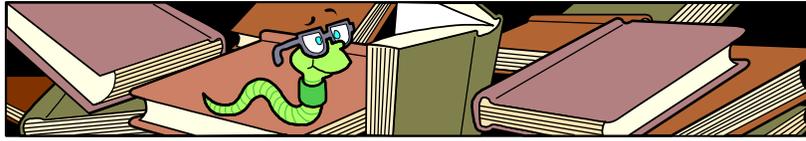
### You Are My Sunshine

"This year I'm thinking of using this simple little poem about sunflowers and have the kids make sunflower masks (their faces in the center) and take a picture of them singing the poem together and swaying. Then I'll turn the picture into a screen saver for the computer. After the picture taking, the children will draw their faces in the flower centers and they will go up on the bulletin board."



### The Bookworms!

"Another year I cut worm shapes out of wallpaper, and put a little face on each one and a child's name. Then I put a big book shape in the center of the door with a few corners missing and the bookworms all around. I labeled the book "*Mrs. Smith's Bookworms*".



I cut worm shapes out of wallpaper, and put a little face on each one and a child's name. Put a big book shape in the center of the door with a few corners missing and the bookworms all around. I labelled the book 'Mrs. Uckele's Bookworms'."

### Chicka Chicka Boom Boom - Welcome to Ms. \_\_\_\_\_'s Room!

"I drew a large coconut tree. I made the board to look like the cover of the book. I used the first letter of each child's name and had it going up the tree with a picture of the student attached to the letter. I had the rest of the alphabet in a pile beneath the tree. I did have some letters more than once because, of course some children's names begin with the same letter. It was very colourful!"

"I did a rainforest board last year and I bought very colourful rainforest fabric and covered my tackboard with it. It had lots of rainforest creatures on it. Then I put up a coconut tree and put the kids names on coconuts."

"I made a big palm tree about as tall as my door and taped it on. Then I made coconuts for each child (a brown oval then a smaller white oval glued in the center of the brown one. I wrote their names on the white part and crushed up shredded wheat cereal and glued it to the outer brown part. That was a little messy but effective. I put the coconuts up on the tree as well as some under the tree or falling off. The caption was 'Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom - Look who's in our room!'"

### Here We Are!

"This is my favourite bulletin board!. This bulletin board can 'grow' as you make it. In each stage it looks good. I have a large bulletin board at the back of my room. I put a bright coloured paper on it and the letters to spell "Here We Are!". The background paper can be decorated with the children's handprints. I fasten a piece of 18" x 24" coloured construction paper for each child to the bulletin board.

"I print the names of each child on lines on a paper 3 inches wide and about 12 long. (I print the names since I find Grade One children are not yet able to print in a consistent fashion. In grades other than one the child could print his/her own name, of course.) Each child follows the outline of their name with glitter, sequins or even with crayon or neon paint, if I don't have glitter. This strip is glued at the top of the construction paper. I take a photo of each child. Information about the child can be added. Fasten the items up in the child's spot under the glittered name."

"Write each child's name in big letters on a paper that's 6 x 18. The children glue the bits of worn out crayons onto the lines of their names. It makes a really interesting display."

"One year I made an apple tree on the wall outside my door and put each kid's name on an apple and made the heading 'Look who dropped into Room 6'. Some apples were on the tree, others falling down, and still others in a basket under the tree."

"How about huge sunflowers with children's handprints on each petal in various colours? My colleague did this and it is adorable."

"One year I made a big pot with a rainbow coming out of it. I put gold circles to look like coins in the pot and wrote each child's name on a coin. I labelled it 'Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_'s treasures'. It was fairly easy - you could save it and put new gold coins on for a different year."



"This is a really cute welcome back to school display that is easy. I made a big paintbrush using brown paper for the handle, black paper for the brush, and a little strip of aluminum foil for the part that attaches the brush to the handle. I used coloured paper to add to the very tip of the bristles to make it look like it had been dipped in paint. Then I cut out a bunch of paint blobs (even the MOST artistically challenged can do this!) and wrote each child's name on a blob. The caption was 'A Colourful Class'. A white background and lots of bright coloured paint blobs makes this really stand out. I think I will pull this one out again this year!"

"Find or make a crayon pattern and put it on different colours of paper. Then write the student's names on them and title it something like 'It's going to be a bright year' or 'Grade Ones are very bright' - something along those lines."

"Cover your door with bright blue paper to represent water. Then use light blue paper to make 'squiggles' that look like waves. Find a fish pattern and bright paper to make one with each student's name on it. Title it something like: 'Swim on into Grade One' or 'Welcome to our school' (a school of fish). You could also 'Leap into Grade One' using frogs sitting on lily pads."

"Make a paper quilt using two colours of triangles. Perhaps one colour could be for the girls (right side up), another for the boys (inverted). Each child writes his/her name on a triangle piece with a drawing in pencil crayon of a favorite activity. Title it 'Our Class - Each is an Important Part'."

"I am using 'We are WILD about Grade One!' I am using pictures of lions, hippos, giraffes, and zebras for their names. I made the word 'WILD' with different 'skin' prints."

"I take a picture of every bulletin board that I do and put it in a photo album that I leave in my classroom. That way I can refer back when I forget.... easily done because I change boards so often!"

### A Colourful Quilt

"I liked what I did on my largest bulletin board last year and will do again this coming year - 1)I made a 'quilt' of construction paper- 2) punched holes in each of the 4 corners and then 3) tied a bow of yarn from one square to the next. For my board I make it 5 sheets across and 4 sheets down (20 sheets in all). 4) Then I staple this big thing to the bulletin board. 5) Every month the children draw a seasonal picture to go with the month. We staple their picture right on one of the construction pages of the quilt. 6) The label "Our Grade One Quilt" stays up all year, as well as the construction paper quilt."

### Adventures of a Bright Bunch

"This is a great bulletin board which grows during the year - I make a road (yes, it is a yellow brick road) which goes up and across one of the walls in my classroom. Each year I use a theme for the class - this year it is "Adventures of a Bright Bunch". I got the large stickup paper light bulbs - 2 sets is enough for the year. As something special happens in the class we make a notation on the light bulb and hang it on the road. We include new kinds of learning, visits to our classroom, field trips, assemblies, etc., anything which the children or I deem important enough to add to the road. At the end of each month during Circle Time we talk about all the things we have done and learned. As each month goes by we add to the list. At the end of the year there are about 60 light bulbs up. On the last day we talk about our wonderful year."

### A Circus Board

"Have a ringmaster saying "Starring Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_'s Grade One Class!" Have those neon coloured photocopy papers cut into star shapes and put the child's picture or names on each star (add a little glitter!). Some circus animals would also complete the bulletin board. "



### Bees

"Use blue background paper. Sponge paint clouds, if you like. Put the bees on the board and use a marker to draw dashed lines behind the bees to show the 'flight patterns' (lines & loop-d-loops). Caption: 'Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Busy Bees'. Make a bee for each child. Use your computer to make fun-font name tags for each child (I would use a sheet of labels), and put it beside each bee. During the first day, get each child to tell something that they will be busy doing - i.e. 'I will be busy learning to read.' Write it on a white speech balloon, back-frame it with black paper, and put it on the board by the child's bee. An alternative would be to just use a few bees, but to post photos of each child. Make the speech balloons come from the photos!"

### Apples

"Last year I happened to have a large apple given out on one of our apple orchard trips. I laminated it with a small picture of me on it. Then I used cut-out of apples and put the children's names on them and my caption was...'The apples of my eye'. It looked cute."

- "For my main bulletin board I make a huge sun. On the rays of the sun I write the students' names. Then I cut out the letters, 'You Are My Sunshine!' to go about this display. The kids like seeing their names on the sun and parents seem to enjoy the message."

- "One of the cutest ones I've seen is a big dalmation with the words, 'Look who I've spotted in my class!'"

- "Make birds and 'We're off to a 'flying' start!'"

### **It's Autumn!**

"Make a maple tree. Use large butcher block paper and make big leaves of assorted fall colors. I make them stand out and look three-dimensional by placing tape on the back and puffing them in all directions. I place children's names on them and use the title:

EVERYTHING IS  
FALLING  
INTO PLACE!

It was perfect for the fall months. In October, there were falling leaves and we put Halloween decorations up on it."

### **Door Decorations**

1. Find or make a crayon pattern and put it on different colours of paper. Then write the students' names on them and title it something like 'It's going to be a bright year' or 'Grade Ones are very bright'.

2. Fish theme: Cover your door with bright blue paper to represent water. Then use light blue paper to make 'squiggles' that look like waves. Find a fish pattern and bright paper to make one with each student's name on it. Title it something like: 'Swim on into Grade One', maybe even 'Welcome to our school' (a school of fish).

3. For Halloween, I bought a cardboard witch at Wal-Mart and found a toad pattern and made one for each student. I titled the door, 'Enter at your own risk' as if the witch had turned all of the students into toads.

4. You could also, 'Leap into Grade One' using frogs. Add some lily pads.

5. Make a popcorn bag or see if a theatre will give you one. Put it up on your door with pieces of construction paper popcorn with the students' names on them. Title it, 'Pop on in!' Or....'See these 'pop'ular students'.



### And More.....

"I made a school bus and put the kids' pictures in each window and me as the driver. 'School is Cool' was on the side of the bus".

"One year I used lettuce heads with the children's names and pictures on them and said 'Lettuce' Welcome You to Grade One!"

"The easiest one I ever saw - last year another teacher went to the dollar store and bought paper plates with happy faces on them. 'We're happy to be in Grade One.....'. Another more economical one - someone I know once went to a grocery store and got cardboard grapes and pasted names on them.

### The Olympics!

The Olympic Games are coming! You can make one of these super bulletin boards to help celebrate.

**Winners!** Put a head photo of each child on a photocopy of an Olympic medal. All gold, of course!

**Carry the Torch for Canada** Use torches and the Canadian flag to decorate a bulletin board. The children can print a short description on each torch to introduce themselves.

**The Olympics** Use a picture of the 5 rings, symbolizing the continents - Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and the Americas. List the different events and the countries that participate from the different continents.



### Grade Two is a Picnic!

"Use a red-and-white checkered tablecloth or checkered fabric for the background. I used three paper plates to write 'Miss Carter's Class'. The children could draw their faces on small paper plates. Put a few black ants around the 'table!'"

**What-a-melon!** is the caption above a large slice of watermelon. The seeds are the children's names/photo.

**Blast Off!** Each child's picture is glued to a rocketship. Put cut-outs of various star sizes, along with the little star stickers all over the bulletin board. Caption reads - **Blast Off to Grade Two!** or **Grade Two is Out of This World!**

**Put Your Best Foot Forward** Have one big foot (or shoe) in the center, and then have the children trace their feet or draw their shoes, cut them out, put their names on them and decorate them.

**Author of the Month** Post a picture of the author of the month, photocopy book covers and add any writing, artwork, student comments on the author's work.

### And More Ideas:

Go Wild For Reading - Use jungle animals  
Read Anywhere - Use airplane or means of transportation  
Books Make Me Hoppy - Use frog  
Flip over Books - Dolphin  
Take Flight....Read - hot air balloon  
Warm up With a Good Book - Snow child  
I'm Buggy for Books - Ladybugs  
Chill Out and Read - Penguin  
Score Big With Reading - Basketball players  
All-Star Readers - Baseball player  
Chalk One Up for Reading - Chalkboard  
Jump Into a Good Book - Frog



### Summer Holiday Preserves

"Make a tracer that is in the basic shape of a canning jar. Have each student trace and cut out their own canning jar. Ask students to think about their best summer holiday memory and draw the scene on the canning jar. When displaying them on your bulletin board write out each student's name on a strip of paper and place them on their canning jar so looks like a lid."

"I'm going to cut out large white paper jars for the students to draw about their summer holidays. To make them look more like jars, after the drawing/writing is complete, I'll cover the glass jar part with a cut-out made of overheads (stiffer plastic film) to simulate the 'glass'. For the rim, I'm going to make paper lids to glue onto the 'overhead jar' piece, using gold wrapping paper pieces. Then I'll use my labels to attach each child's name onto their 'lid'."

### Using Fabric

"I have used material for years and use prints. If I wanted solids, I would use paper. I have up yellow gingham check. The check is not the smallest, and not the largest, somewhere in the middle. I use a double border on it. I have had sunflowers with a yellow sticking out from underneath the past two years. This year I bought a new flower border and will just have to see about the yellow underneath. I put white paper underneath the material to make the white look whiter. The board is blue underneath so makes the white look gray without it. I have the iron on hemming tape already on it so that it does not fray when I wash it."

"I have a friend who has a different holiday material for each month. Another has green and white checks with white border and a red and white check with a year round holiday border with matching calendar. They all look really pretty. My favourite is the Halloween (pumpkins and trick-or-treaters) material with black border and orange construction paper underneath the children's work. It always looks so cute."

## Ideas Galore!

**Grade Two is Unbelievable** - Give students a bee pattern and pipe cleaner. Have students write something on the bee that they expect to learn in grade two. Colour the bee and attach the pipe cleaner antenna. Add to bulletin board.

**The Shining Stars of Grade Two** - Each child illustrates special talents, hobbies, favourite things etc. on a star. Add name.

**Jump into Grade Two** - Frogs.

**Start off on the right foot in Mrs. \_\_'s class** - footprints.

**Look who buzzed into Grade Two** - bees

**Look who was spotted in Mrs. Miller's class** - with dalmations

"This year I am going with the latest fashion trend and using leopard, zebra, and tiger print - the names go on paws with **Take a walk on the wild side** or **Wild Thing.**"

"I make big sunflowers. I write a different kid's name on each petal with the heading **'What a Sun-sational class!'**"

"Make a theatre popcorn bag or see if the local theatre will give you one. Put it up on your door with pieces of construction paper popcorn with the student's names on them. Title it, **'Pop on in!'**

"One that is relatively easy and appealing is making the door a maple tree. The door is the trunk, and I use large butcher block paper and make big leaves of assorted fall colours. I made them three-dimensional by placing tape on the back and puffing them in all directions. I placed children's names on them and used the title:

### **EVERYTHING IS FALLING INTO PLACE!**

It was perfect for the fall months. In October, there were falling leaves and we put Halloween directions up on it. Bats, witches, ghosts, etc.

"Out of brown parcel wrapping paper make the branches and trunk of a tree just by tearing. Mount on a blue background. Each child dips their hand in their favourite fall colour using poster paint. Make handprints on the branches and some on the ground. When dry each child autographs one of their 'leaves'. The bulletin board is labeled **'What a Handsome Class!'**"

"I am making a window decoration for the one near my doorway. I bought border with cute feet in many colours and a pad of matching feet on which to write each child's name. I will title it **"Stepping into Grade Two'**. Last year I had toads and my title was **'Toadally Awesome Students'**."

