Celebrate Grandparent’s Day in your classroom

October 3rd 2015
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Celebrate Grandparent’s Day
October 3rd

"Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children."

Alex Haley (Author of the 1976 book Roots: The Saga of an American Family)

Picture Books to share, songs to sing and morning tea for Grandparents

Grandparent’s Day Poem

Grandmas and Grandpas are everything nice. Like presents and candy and raspberry ice.

And chocolate fudge sundaes, with cherries on top.
And popcorn and peanuts and grape soda pop.

In winter or summer, in rain or in sun,
Grandmas and Grandpas are wonderful fun!!!

- Unknown Author
Picture Books to Share
Reviewed by Amazon

**Grandpa and Thomas** by Pamela Allen

‘With each new title, Pamela Allen still manages to come up with something special for her infant readers; Grandpa and Thomas is one of her best.’ Magpies

‘Thomas and Grandpa go to the beach. It is an Australian summer. The sun is shining, the gulls are screeching and the sea is singing. Together they build a sandcastle, they have a picnic and they splash in the water. Then at the end of the day, Grandpa takes a sleepy Thomas home. In this lovely picture book for the very young, Pamela Allen gently unfolds the special relationship between grandchild and grandfather.’

Click on the picture for links through to associated activities on pinterest.

**Grandpa and Thomas and the Green Umbrella** by Pamela Allen

‘The sun is shining and the sea is singing. Grandpa and Thomas go to the beach.

But all of a sudden, the sun goes, the wind blows and the green umbrella flies bowling and bobbing away.’

Another delightful picture book with Thomas and Grandpa from the best-selling, award-winning Pamela Allen.

Click on the picture for links through to associated activities

**The Grandma Book** by Todd Parr (Little Brown, 2006)

1 year and up

"Some grandmas have a lot of cats, some grandmas have a lot of purses. Some grandmas give advice ... others help their neighbours." So Todd Parr introduces the many kinds of grandmas in the world. And while every grandma is unique, "All grandmas like to hear from you," and "All grandmas like to give you lots of kisses."

Click on the picture to listen to the story on YouTube
Whopper Cake by Karma Wilson

'Today is Grandma’s birthday, and Granddad has an ichin’, to bake a WHOPPER chocolate cake and traumatize the kitchen! Join the madcap frenzy of making the biggest cake in the world! And the biggest...mess!

Click on the picture to pinterest for ideas on making a 'Whopper Cake'

The Imaginary Garden by Andrew Larsen

'Grandpa used to have an awesome garden he and his granddaughter worked in, but when he moved into an apartment building they had to get creative. Representative of the special bond, often creative in nature that grandparents and grandchildren share

Click on the picture for follow-up art activity

Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion (Knuffle Bunny Series) by Mo Willems

'This book, in which Trixie, her parents and of course Knuffle Bunny travel to visit her grandparents in Holland, is best read after the other two in the trilogy (Knuffle Bunny, Knuffle Bunny Too) to get the full impact, but also sweet on its own. Wonderful tale of the fun of visiting far-away grandparents.

Click on the picture for links through to follow-up activities on pinterest
My Grandpa's Briefcase: by P. Hanson

'Full of interesting things to look at, flip through, remove and replace - great for hands-on kids.'

Grandma and Me: A Lift-the-Flap Book (Karen Katz Lift-the-Flap Books) by Karen Katz

'We love Karen Katz's books - the colours, patterns, and expressions are so vibrant - and I love that she has made books about Grandmas and one about Grandpas.'

Grandpa and Me: (Karen Katz Lift-the-Flap Books) by Karen Katz

'Making pizza with Grandpa - perfect!'

My Dadima Wears a Sari: by Kashmira Sheth

'What a lovely book about a cultural tradition passed from grandmothers to mothers to daughters. Plus it teaches those of us not Indian about saris. At the end is an author’s note about her own family tradition of saris and a photo step-by-step guide to tying a sari.'

These picture books are available through www.amazon.co.uk
Songs to sing to celebrate Grandparent’s Day

A Song for Grandma and Grandpa

A great song to teach your class to sing to their Grandparents. Catchy tune and easy to learn lyrics.

"Grandma's Got a Little Yellow Car" -

Kindergarten Preschool Kids Learn Colours

As well as reinforcing colours the little ones will enjoy singing this song.

These are Grandma’s Glasses

Well known action rhyme that children love to perform and grandparents would love to listen to.
Shared morning tea: invite the children’s grandparents or an elderly friend into school

The children will enjoy being involved in the preparation of the food. Some simple recipes to try - blueberry muffins, chocolate fridge cake and fruit kebabs. Maybe enlist the help of some Mums and Dads to make these with the children - lots of stirring, mixing and chopping to be done!

Blueberries Muffins with a dollop of crème fraiche -

Ingredients

110g/4oz plain flour
110g/4oz butter
65g/2½oz caster sugar
2 free-range eggs
1½ tsp baking powder
125g/4½oz blueberries, or equivalent in frozen blueberries
pinch nutmeg
crème fraiche to serve

Preparation method

Cream the butter and sugar together then slowly add the eggs, mix for three minutes. Add the flour, baking powder and nutmeg, stir to combine, then refrigerate for at least an hour, or leave overnight. Place a spoonful of muffin mixture into each muffin case, filling each to just over half way. Stud each muffin with about eight blueberries.

Bake in an oven set at 200C/400F/Gas 6 for 20 minutes, or until golden on top. Serve with crème fraiche.
Chocolate Fridge Cake
Annabel Karmel’s chocolate fridge cake
Fun for children to make
Easy recipe with step by step illustrated instructions

Fruit Kebabs
3 or 4 different kinds of fruit

Skewers
Choose from - berries, bananas, pineapple, melon, apples, pear, kiwi, grapes, oranges, papaya, mango. The choice is endless although a soft kind of fruit is easier for little hands to chop - strawberries, kiwi fruit, bananas, melon etc.

Before you start, soak the skewers in water so they don’t splinter when threading with fruit.
Children will enjoy washing or peeling the fruit, cutting it into chunks and threading it on to the skewers.

Prepare the fruit: wash, peel and cut into medium chunks (not too small or they will break when threaded)

Once the fruit is cut into medium chunks and set in a bowl, squeeze over fresh lemon juice and sprinkle with a little castor sugar.

Thread on to the skewers.

NB - Check for allergies in your class
Have the tea making facilities supervised and out of the reach of little hands.

Provide water or juice in cartons for the children
Visiting a local Nursing Home - If it is not possible to arrange for Grandparents to visit school how about organising a visit for the children to a local day care centre where the senior citizens may go for lunch or visit a local nursing home. The children will brighten up their day no end – sing a couple of songs, recite a poem and the children could make cards to give to everyone.

Click on the picture above to read about a Preschool that has opened inside A Nursing Home transforming both children and residents' lives in Seattle, Washington.
Lots of writing experience for this special day…..

Grandparents Day A4 page borders and Grandparents Day display banner

Available to download from:

http://www.sparklebox.co.uk/4761-4770/sb4767.html#.VWYK3s9VhBc
http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/grandparents-day
http://coloring.com.co/national-grandparents-day-printable-banner/
http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/grandparents/

The children could make invitations to invite their Grandparents or an elderly friend to school:

Add to the writing table - brightly coloured card, washable marker pens, children's safety scissors, tape, glue sticks, glitter pens, sequins etc. and add to the word wall associated words such as:

Grandpa   Grandma   school   please   come

Grandparent’s Day Printable Books for children to decorate and write in.

click on the picture to follow the link.
How about this to stimulate conversation in your classroom and encourage writing as well as any number of mini craft projects -

**Granny’s Teeth**

I have just come across Alistair’s Blog [alistair@abcdoes.com](mailto:alistair@abcdoes.com) - lots of great ideas but was intrigued by the heading ‘Granny’s Teeth’.

Read about Granny’s Teeth which were secreted in a box and left on a sink in the children’s bathroom at - Mowden Primary Federation School.

Click on the picture to follow the link - you too could have Granny’s Teeth posted to your school! They have delighted and horrified children in schools in UK and have visited schools in Brunei and Germany (where they became Grandpa’s teeth).

From Mowden Primary:

‘While we were all sharing ideas we had also sent two boys off to do some 'investigations' around school to see if they could find who the teeth belonged to. They asked all around and other staff told us later how amusing it was to be shouted at to “Open your mouth we need to see if you’ve lost your teeth!” by any reception child they encountered during the day!’

Lots of fun to be had with this great idea!
A giraffe themed card for Grandparents!

Variation on the theme from: https://www.pinterest.com/explore/giraffe-crafts/

I thought this would make a fun, easy, attractive picture for a card. The giraffe on the right is more detailed, the details the children could add if they wish with a fine black/brown felt-tipped pen once the giraffe is completely dry.

Hand-print

Giraffe

Materials: white construction paper, thin card in a contrasting background colour, washable paint in yellow, orange and brown, black/brown fine tipped marker pen, paintbrush, plastic tray, plastic lid

Method: Squeeze some yellow paint into the tray and squeeze a little orange and brown paint onto the plastic lid.

Child to keep their hand flat with fingers and thumb well-spaced out and place it in the tray. Press down their paint covered palm and fingers onto a piece of white construction paper leaving their hand print. Wash their hands before using the paint brush to add a neck to the giraffe. Next have the child dip their thumb into the yellow paint and press down at the top of the neck to form the giraffe’s head. When the giraffe is dry dip their little finger into the orange/brown paint and dab spots over their giraffe. Wash hands.

Leave giraffe again to dry before using the marker pen to add an eye and other details - eyelashes, nose etc. Mount onto thin card and attach with ribbon a card underneath -love you Grandma/Grandpa
Or if you can collect enough yellow and brown buttons make a
Button Giraffe Card
See giraffe template below to cut out

Love you
Grandma and
Grandpa XX
If you’ve ever turned to your parents or your partner’s parents for help and support with child-rearing, you know how wonderful grandparents can be. Although physical distance and parenting differences can come between grandparents, their children, and their grandchildren, encouraging a close relationship can benefit everyone involved.

What's in this article? Click on the picture to follow the link

- Bonding Benefits
- Tips for Staying in Touch
- Safety Away From Home

Have a Happy grandparents day