**Celebrate National Parent Involvement Day on November 21**

National Parent Involvement Day provides a yearly opportunity for schools to welcome, honor, and highlight the powerful contributions parents and caregivers provide at school and home to support student success. However, celebrating parental involvement shouldn’t be confined to just one day – it should be emphasized all year long. Below are some ideas on how you can celebrate parents and get them involved in student learning on parental involvement day, or any day of the year.

1. **Communicate to parents how important they are!** Below are a few resources that you can share with parents and staff.
   * Distribute the attached article **“Involved Parents: The hidden resource in their children’s education”** to your parents when they walk into school, or as they pick up their children.
   * Post the PTO Today **Parent Involvement Matters!** Video ([English](http://www.ptotoday.com/video/13-more-videos/detail/211-parent-involvement-matters)/[español](http://www.ptotoday.com/video/13-more-videos/detail/212-la-participacion-de-los-padres-es-clave)) on your website or screen at your next schoolwide meeting.
2. **Recruit new members to the school's PTA/PTO or create interest for building a new parent organization**. Contact Family and Community Engagement Specialist Scott Bounds for more information [sbounds@houstonisd.org](mailto:sbounds@houstonisd.org).
3. **Host an event to make parents feel welcome and emphasize how they can help their children learn at home.** Below are some ideas to attract parents to your school:
   * **Celebrity Reading Night (elementary schools)**: Invite local celebrities to the school to show students that people they admire enjoy reading and have favorite books. Approach local news anchors, college basketball and football players, judges, DJs, pastors, and team mascots. While celebrities read to students, teachers can give parents a short workshop on how to help children read at home.
   * **Open Mic Poetry Night (secondary schools):** Transform a classroom into apoetry café with a stage and decorations. Invite students to come and read their poetry or short stories and invite their parents. This event can be combined with a book fair.
   * **Math Carnival (elementary schools):** Host a school carnival with activities that include learning activities.
     + **Ring Toss:** Participants toss three rings and get them on two pegs and then multiply the numbers posted on the pegs.
     + **Fish Pond**: Participants catch magnetic fish with a fishing pole. Each fish has a math problem that the students have to solve.
     + **Book Walk:** Students design posters highlighting the plots of their favorite books, which are placed on chairs for a musical chair-like game. When the book’s name was called, the child in the chair wins the book!
   * **Family Math Night (elementary and secondary schools):** Set up math games at tables manned by teachers in your school, and have parents and kids walk around to the various booths to play the games. In elementary schools, children will learn math concepts while parents get ideas on how to practice math at home with the kids. In secondary schools, parents and students can compete on math concepts such as multiplication, geometric shapes, probability and estimation.
   * **Science Night (elementary and secondary schools):** Set up stations on various topics in science for parents and students to visit:
     + Star and galaxy gazing
     + The water cycle
     + Electricity
     + The weather
     + Sound
     + Flowers and plants

Stress hands-on experiences and ask staff and community members to help man the stations. Each station can give parents suggested activities on how to follow-up with their children on what they learned at home.

**Social Media Labs:** Host sessions at convenient times for parents to get acquainted with the special features of your school website and your Facebook and Twitter accounts. As HISD expands its digital transformation, helping parents understand and use these tools will increasingly become part of engaging them to stay in touch with everything from emergency alerts and important campus reminders to immediate glimpses into what’s going on in their children’s classrooms.

Source: National Network of Partnership Schools