

December

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2021

ParentsEngagedInEducation.ca

PARENTS ENGAGED IN EDUCATION



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 63

HAPPY HOLIDAYS PARENTS, STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, ADMINISTRATORS

As we look back at 2021, it has been like no other that we have known. The challenges have been huge for everyone, especially for our children. Whether they are very young or teens, it has been a year of having to adapt to change in their learning style and trying to understand the enormity of what this pandemic has meant to their world.

I hope that everyone takes the opportunity, no matter which specific day you will celebrate, to find the joy of the season and make it special for your children. Whether you are able to give gifts this year, you can still make this a very happy season by baking cookies together, colouring or painting together, watching a fun movie on television or playing a game as a family. This year we should just enjoy being with the people we love and who love us back. That is enough for any of us after this challenging year.

Parents Engaged in Education have worked hard in 2021, opening CANADA'S FIRST EDUCATION BANK which provides free school supplies, curriculum support, mental health resources, fun activities, lunch bags full of food and technology for students from Pre-K to Grade 12 who are in need. While the work has been hard, the joy of seeing kids have equal opportunity to succeed has made it all worth it.

We look forward to bringing new virtual sessions in 2022 and at some point getting back to our annual conferences that so many of you have attended in the past.

I want to congratulate every parent who has volunteered at their school or by participating in your school council. This effort by each of you has never been so important and more difficult during this pandemic as we try to both support our kids and their schools, while many worked as well.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2022!! The best is yet to come.

Stay Safe,

Theresa Pastore
Executive Director,
Parents Engaged in Education



PARENT COUNCIL TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES

By Parents Engaged In Education

DECEMBER IS GREAT MONTH TO CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY. MANY CULTURES CELEBRATE IN A VARIETY OF WONDERFUL WAYS DURING THE MONTH OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE “HOLIDAY SEASON”.

In this month's Parent council topics and activities, we discuss the value of having a school event celebrating your school communities diversity. Taking advantage of not having a formal meeting scheduled this month. And lastly recognizing organizations with a thank you.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

December is a fantastic month to consider having a virtual school event. Take this opportunity to feature a virtual event that celebrates your school communities diversity. Create a virtual event demonstrating how they celebrate this holiday season. In order to support

this event, the school council could ask parents for feedback and ideas on putting together a celebration of each cultures diversity. Ideas for celebrating the event could include oral histories of the various different celebrations and how they are celebrated today. It is also a good idea for parent council to prepare a slideshow or video. Remember to share this material out with all parents regardless if they can attend or not.

For some interesting information on the various ways holiday celebrations take place around the world we encourage you to read our November Newsletter.

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

A school council could use this activity to recruit parents from the various ethnic groups to participate on the school council. It is really important that all cultures are represented on school council. Remember their voice is important in providing input and planning. It is important to make all cultures feel welcome and included in our schools. If your school is struggling to build a multi-cultural school council, we encourage you to read our blog.

December has other benefits as well! Use this month to socialize!

Since many councils may not have a formal meeting in December, consider hosting an informal virtual social. This is a wonderful way to connect with volunteers and your school community in an informal setting. This is also an amazing chance to build good relationships with the educators and other parents in your school community and share your struggles and successes over the last couple of months.

DON'T FORGET TO SAY THANK YOU

If your school council is partnered with any organizations, December is a good time to recognize their value. Sending an e-card or putting together a video message that includes all members of the council will go a long way.



Parents Engaged in Education have designed a **"DREAM TREE"** banner. This vinyl banner is 5' x 6.5' with hundreds of blank leaves for parents and students to write their dreams.

This is a wonderful example of positive messages which will inspire the entire school community all year round.

**GREAT FOR CURRICULUM OR
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEW NIGHTS!!**

Our aim is to raise enough funds this year to offer priority schools in challenged communities a **"DREAM TREE"** to encourage their communities to strive for the best they can be.

While we work on this program, if your school would like to purchase a **"DREAM TREE"** for your community you may do so by contacting Theresa.pastore@parentsengagedineducation.ca.

The cost is \$200.00 plus shipping

(This is cost recovery only,
we do not charge in excess of our cost)



PARENTS ENGAGED
IN EDUCATION



FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE

FEATURING
CANADA'S FIRST
EDUCATION BANK



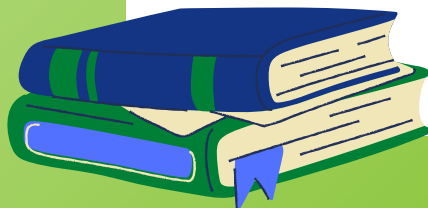
*A diverse, inclusive
and safe space for
ALL*

THE FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE IS LOCATED AT
857 MILNER AVE. UNIT 104, SCARBOROUGH, ON M1B 5N6

Our Hours of Operation Are:

Monday, Tuesday & Saturday 10am - 3pm
Wednesday & Thursday 12:30pm - 7pm
Friday & Sunday Closed

**DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, FAMILIES MUST MAKE
AN APPOINTMENT TO COME INTO THE FAMILY SERVICE
CENTRE/EDUCATION BANK BY CALLING: 416-546-1467**



www.educationbank.ca

Christmas Around the World Word Search

Find the following Christmas words in the puzzle.


Q	E	U	E	S	T	S	T	L	R	B	G	E	T	S
S	E	I	K	O	O	C	E	O	T	I	E	D	J	C
W	R	R	R	G	H	H	X	L	N	D	R	A	S	U
C	T	R	Q	F	R	S	P	G	D	A	W	R	L	J
N	A	R	R	U	E	A	E	B	T	N	Z	A	Z	T
C	N	P	E	H	W	R	A	S	P	Z	A	P	Z	U
A	A	Y	S	L	B	Z	G	G	G	I	P	C	M	F
N	L	E	U	R	V	S	P	I	E	U	N	F	T	S
D	F	G	E	Z	N	A	I	F	G	I	S	A	G	F
L	Q	A	L	O	R	A	C	T	I	O	W	L	T	J
E	D	L	X	O	I	T	L	S	R	X	N	U	B	A
S	N	H	L	I	Y	Y	M	U	S	F	B	C	Z	L
W	P	Z	Z	U	I	I	J	H	W	W	O	U	R	V
A	R	N	I	T	W	R	E	A	T	H	D	J	B	W
W	H	J	Y	E	W	D	G	H	N	Q	P	A	K	Y

CANDLES
CAROL
COOKIES

GIFTS
GINGERBREAD
PARADE

PAROL
PINATA
SHOE

STAR
TREE
WREATH



Sometimes you have to be your own **SUPERHERO**

Draw yourself as a superhero. Label your super powers.



DRAW A PLACE WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE AN ADVENTURE.



Be the reason someone smiles today

Write about an act of kindness to surprise a friend or family member.

Christmas song EMOJI TRIVIA

1. 🎸 🔁 🎄

2. ❄️ 🧊

3. 😬 🌙

4. 🔔 🔔

5. 🔵 🎄

6. 👁️ 🐝 🏠 🎄

7. 👑 👑 👑

8. 😊 📱 🌐

9. ☁️ ☁️ ☁️

10. 🎅 🧒

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Get Writing this Holiday Season!



As we approach the Holidays, children all over the world are beginning to think about gift giving, family time, and writing their wish lists! Encouraging your child to write this Holiday season is a great way to help them improve their writing skills - and also gets them in the Holiday spirit!

Here are some ideas to get them writing!

Pick Some of Your Favorite Writing Tools. Help your child choose awesome writing tools to get them in the spirit - select some nice, lined or even colorful paper - and a pen or pencil. You could even use some colored highlighters, to make it really festive!

Create a Holiday Wish List. Try to keep your list short, and focus on what is really important. Remember, the holidays are not just about gifts.

Write Out Holiday Cards. Whether sending Christmas, Hanukkah or New Year's cards, be sure to let family and friends know you are thinking about them. If there is any extra room, encourage your child to draw a picture at the bottom of the card!

Write a Letter to Santa Claus. Encourage your child to write a letter to Santa! As a start, perhaps they can tell Santa a bit about themselves - where they go to school and what they like to do. It is also important to tell Santa how good they have been this year and make sure to include examples, like the time they helped their little brother/sister tie their shoes, or how they helped mom clean the house!

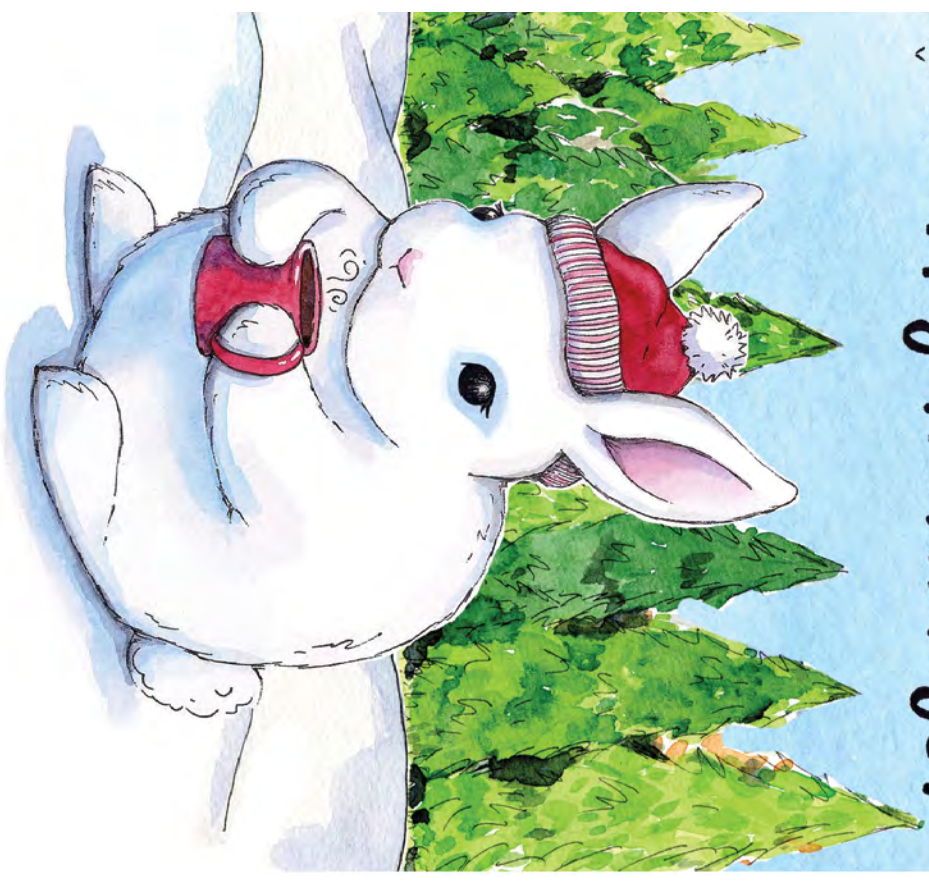
Create Place Cards for Holiday Dinner Seating. This fun activity will get even the younger writers excited!

Thank You Notes. This is an important time of year to be thankful for all the gifts your child will receive. Make sure they write thank you notes to show their appreciation!



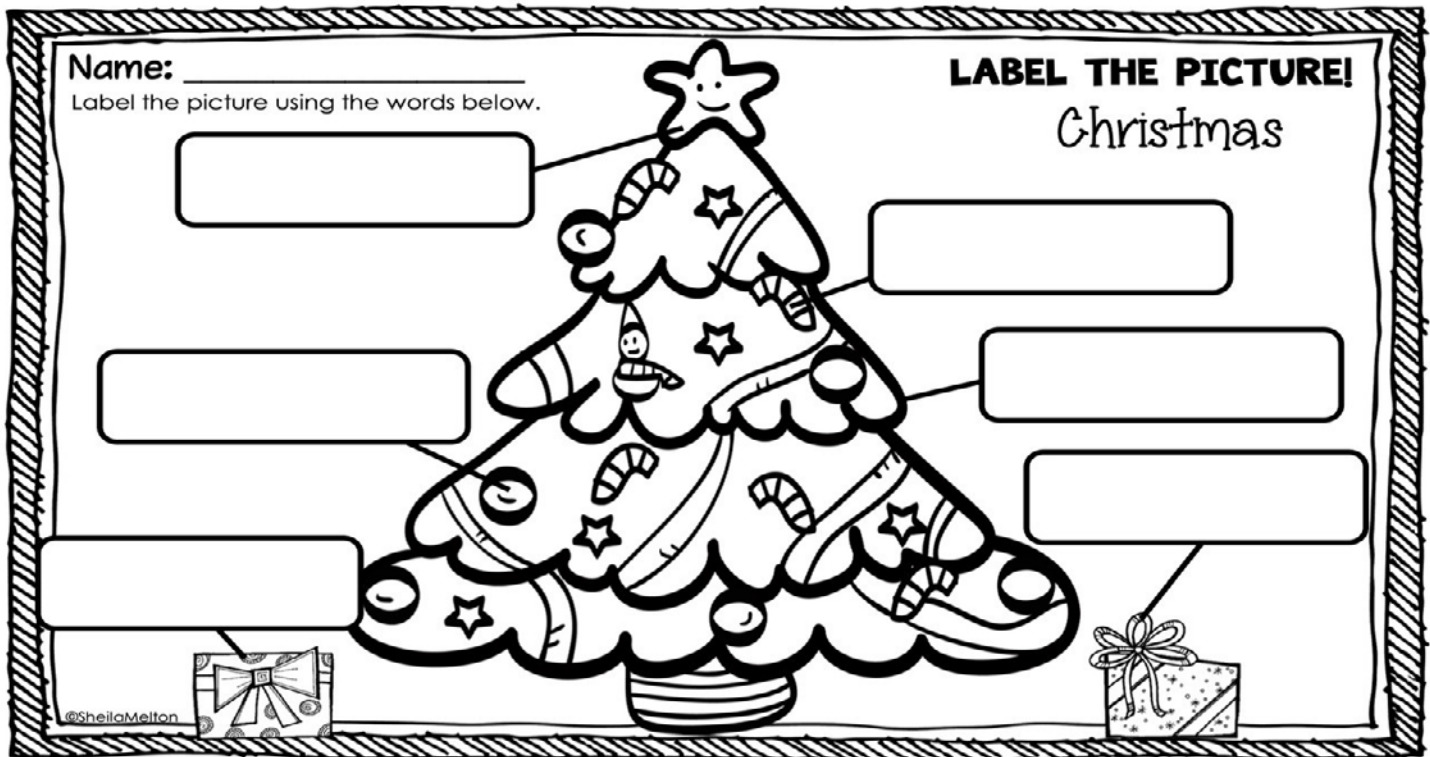
#BICFightForYourWrite

Happy Holidays!



STAY COZY.





star
tree

candy
present

light
bow

Name: _____

Order Up Some Fun!

Write the words in ABC order.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

- * elf
- * red
- * green
- * hat
- * jingle
- * bells
- * candy
- * gold
- * sparkle
- * fun

©SheilaMelton

Build the Sentence!

Name: _____



Cut the words out! Build the sentence! Glue!

Write the word:

cookies

Draw a picture about the sentence.

Write the sentence nice and neat.

©SheilaMelton

bake

cookies.

Christmas

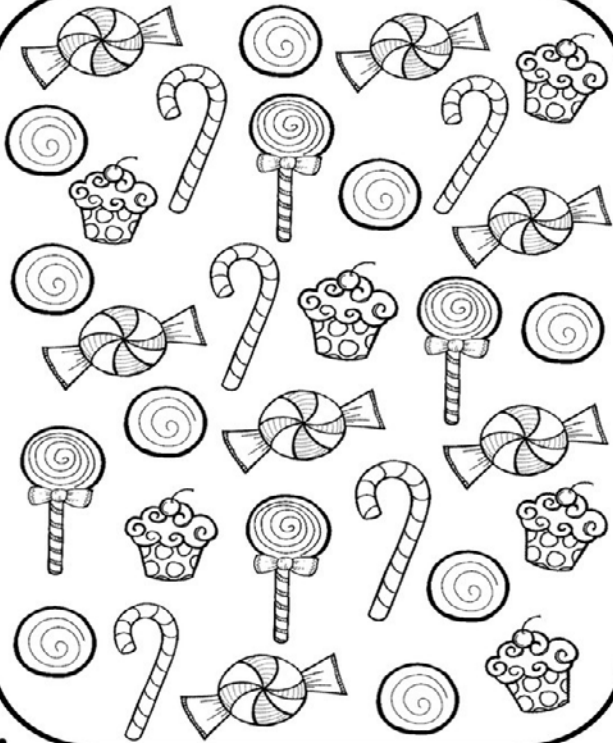
will

We

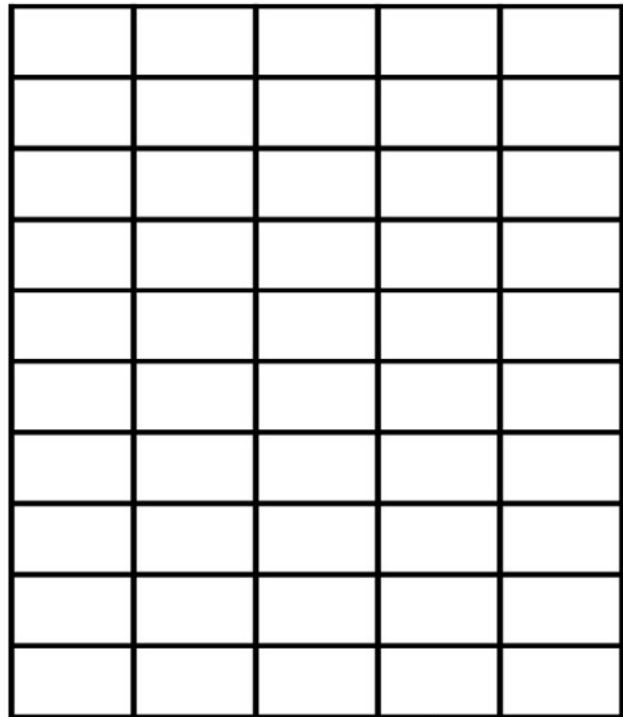
Name: _____

Graph It! Sweet Christmas!

Color the same pictures the same color, count them and graph it!



©SheilaMelton



10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1



Hanukkah is ...

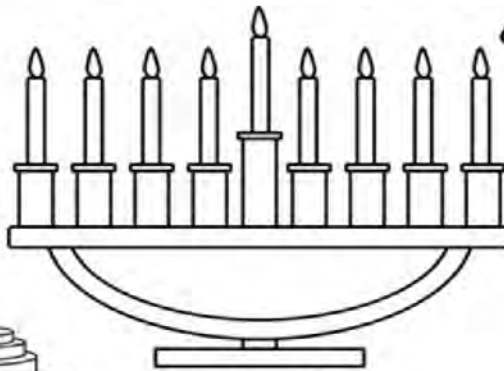
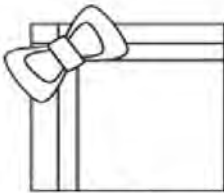
Latke



Star



Presents



Menorah



Dreidel

Gold Coins



Dance like a character from the NUTCRACKER BALLET

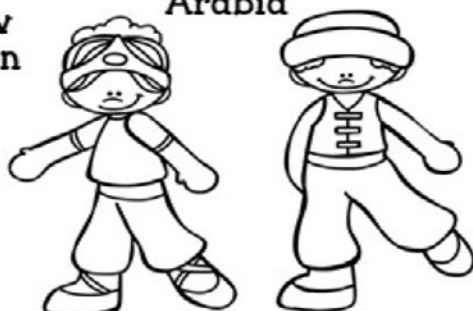
Russia



Snow Queen



Arabia



Flower Dancer



China



Spain



Celebrate Kwanzaa



Name _____ Date _____

Roll and Color
the Elf!



Roll two dice, count
the dots, then color
the number!

Name _____ Date _____

Roll and Color
the Presents!

7

6

2

4

3

7

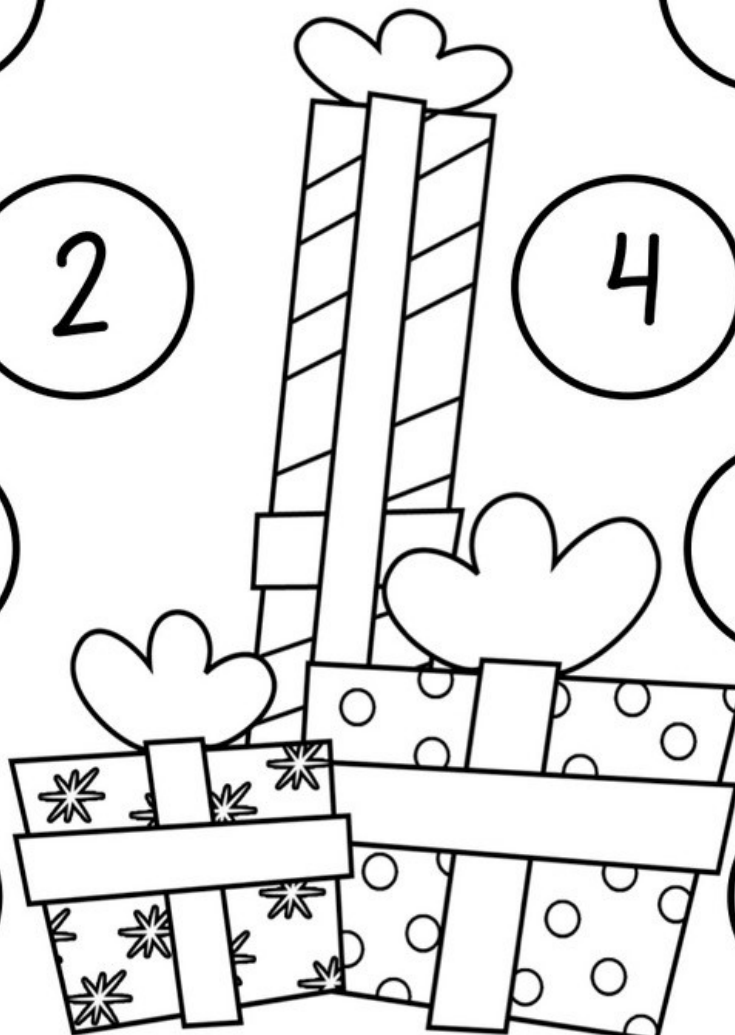
6

5

2

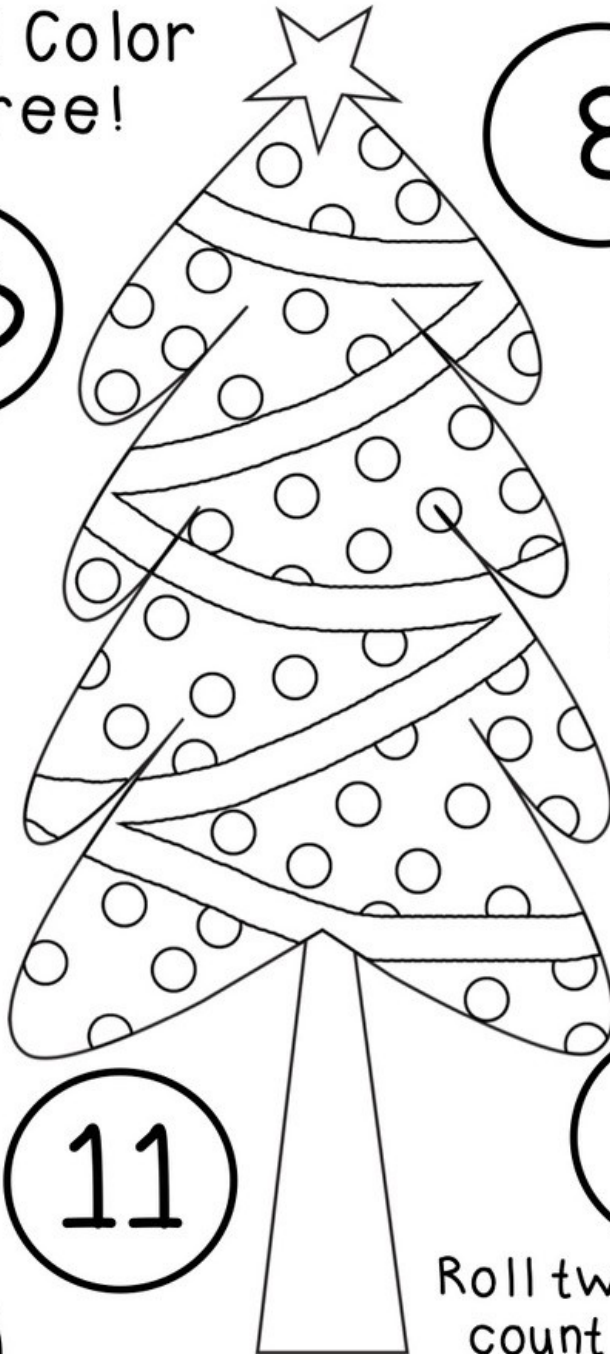
3

Roll one die,
add one, then
color the
number!



Name _____ Date _____

Roll and Color
the Tree!

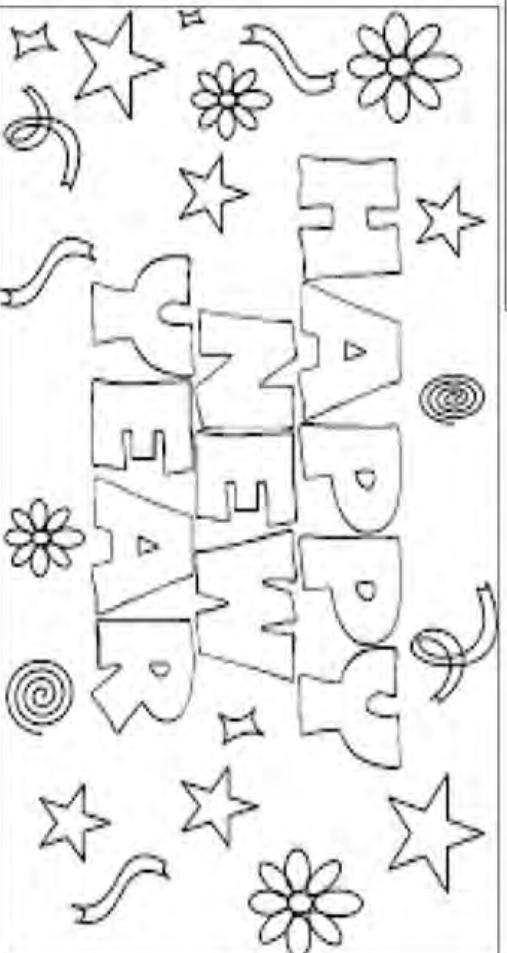


Roll two dice and
count the dots.
Add one, then
color the number!

ABC Order

1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

Color the
Picture



New Year's Vocabulary

New Year

Countdown

Celebration

Fireworks

Midnight

Ball Drop

Resolutions

Streamers

What is Your Dream?

Miss Jones tells her class they are going to learn about MLK. She asks the class what they know about him. Avery raises her hand. Avery says, "He wanted peace and equality for all people." Jack raises his hand and says, "He had a dream that all kids can be in the same room and play with one another." "Very good," Miss Jones says. Miss Jones passes out a piece of paper. On top, it says "What is Your Dream?"

1. Highlight all of the vocabulary words.

2. Who is the teacher?

3. If you were MLK, what would your dream be?

Beginning

--

Middle

--

End

--

Hidden Message

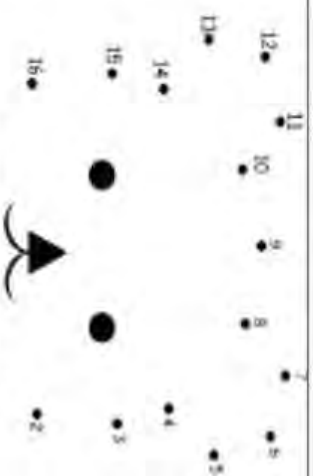
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
✕	●	≡	≡	▣	◐	▤	⌂	☐	💧	⚡	✳	♡

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
⚡	◊	■	◎	▽	⊗	★	△	▲	◯	☺	↑	◎

X X ■ ■ ↑
 / ▽ ▢ ▣ ⚡ ⌂

⚡ X ↑
 !

Connect the Dots



Happy Groundhog's Day!

Groundhog Day Vocabulary

Groundhog Day

Shadow

Cloud

Sun

Hibernate

Winter

Spring

Punxsutawney Phil

Word Search

T P T Y X V G T E T B T S F M A L H
 S P R I N G S W F S N N J H Z C T N
 L B U K V Q V I K G F R T R A O U Y
 H T F W H R W Z X C S P B S J D T P
 Z K C G N X Z P X F X U L R F Q O Y
 W I N T E R L N O Y U I N I S R C W
 Q E P Q L E C L O U D H C X S S H Y
 Q I Z T A Z N N E C K K U U W F D D
 Q P U N X S U T A W N E Y P H I L P
 M O S A C O Y W O F Q P V M B K Z J
 X J A X N D X H I B E R N A T E P O
 P Z G R O U N D H O G D A Y Z R S R

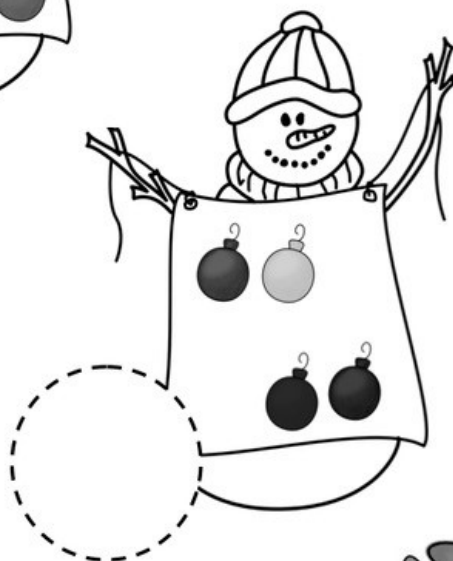
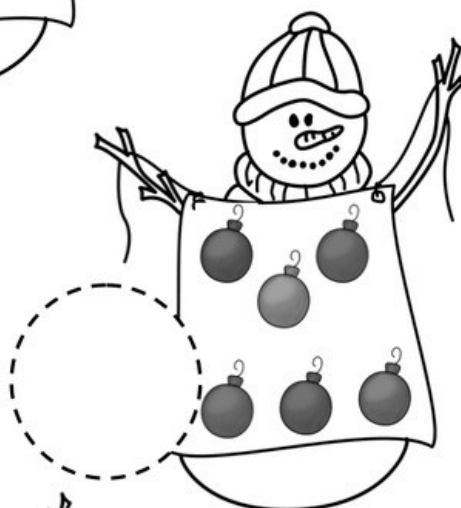
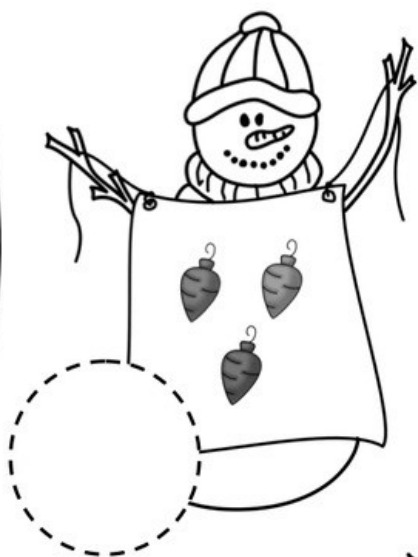
Cloud	Punxsutawney Phil	Sun
Groundhog Day	Shadow	Winter
Hibernate	Spring	

Draw a Picture



Name: _____ Date: _____

How many ornaments do you see? Write the number.



The Ontario College of Teachers puts student well-being at the heart of everything we do.

The new Sexual Abuse Prevention Program for Ontario
Certified Teachers will help make learning spaces even safer.

Learn more [here](#).



Ontario
College of
Teachers

Ordre des enseignantes
et des enseignants
de l'Ontario

Ontario's Teaching Regulator
L'organisme de réglementation
de l'enseignement en Ontario

ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT PARENT ENGAGEMENT
AND SCHOOL COUNCILS IN ONTARIO

ONTARIO ENGLISH
**Catholic
Teachers**
ASSOCIATION

**We're all
in this *together.***



**Stay strong,
stay safe.**



OSSTF/FEESO

Unity is our strength.
Education workers,
students, parents,
and families will
get through this
together.

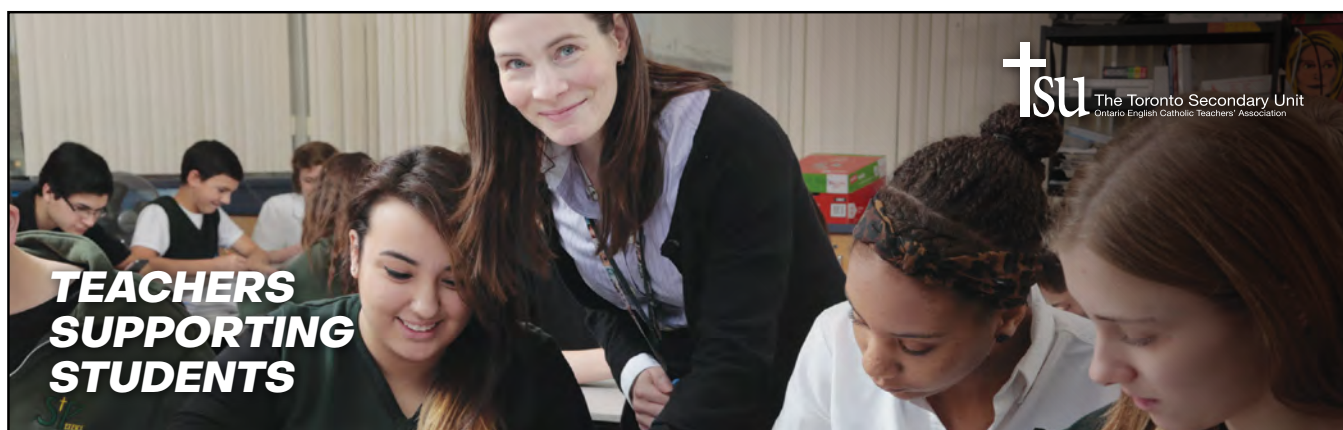
ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND SCHOOL COUNCILS IN ONTARIO



THANK YOU

To educators and parents for everything you are doing at home
We stand with you as your partners in learning

nelson.com/learningonline **NELSON**



Parents

ENGAGED IN EDUCATION

Parents Engaged in Education is a not-for-profit organization formed by experienced school council members to provide resources and skill building opportunities for parent leaders across the province.

www.parentsengagedineducation.ca
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Follow us on twitter  @parentengagcons