

# ENGAGING FAMILIES IN CLC COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## Why it's Important



## Family engagement practices in CLC schools

### Sense of belonging

Fostering a sense of belonging for parents is vital to creating a positive learning environment for students. Students also feel a sense of pride when they see their families volunteering in the school or taking part in activities.

### Responding to needs

Listening to what families need and finding ways to connect makes all the difference when trying to engage them: getting to know families at school functions and through local social media groups, partnering with volunteers and organizations to create an offer that responds to their needs.

### Building a social network of support

Family events help create a social network and mutual respect among school staff, families and community partners. These relationships build trust and provide a sense of safety for all who enter the school.

### Classroom benefits

Families are valued as collaborators in their child's education and contribute to pedagogy and social development.

*"We don't just want parents to come in when their kids are in trouble or it's report card time, so we try to have events and activities that include the families as much as possible."*

- CDA Jane Doddridge

### COMMUNITY NIGHTS

Community Nights provide a platform for family and community engagement with kiosks, babysitting, and dinner, breaking down barriers to participation. Community Nights have grown and now showcase school talent, attracting a large number of community members. (NFSB CLCs)

### LITERACY WEEK

A book is selected (i.e. Harry Potter, Treasure Island, Alice in Wonderland) and for one week, the entire school is dedicated to making that book come to life: decorating the halls, dressing up as characters, themes incorporated into different school subjects... The event culminates with a dinner for families to celebrate the book along with their children and school staff. (Valcartier CLC)

### FAMILY ART HIVE

Developed by two mothers for families in their community, and supported by the school's CDA, the family art hive runs twice a month on Saturdays at a local elementary school. Donations and financial contributions keep the art hive well-stocked and 40 + participants coming back to get creative every two weeks. (Seaway CLC)