



Canadian

K-6

Patterns and Bulletin Board Ideas



Interactive Bulletin Board Ideas

Background: Take lined chart paper and laminate it. This will provide a re-useable base to create an interactive bulletin board. Cover the bulletin board using the laminated lined chart paper.

Border: Use different colours of construction paper strips and the fringe the ends to create an interesting border.

Idea 1

Explain Your Thinking!

At the top of the board, use a washable or dry erase mark, to write a common proverb or saying. Encourage students to write their thoughts about what they think it means and to explain their thinking on the bulletin board in their free time. Once all students have responded, use the ideas on the bulletin board as a springboard for discussion.

Common Proverbs and Sayings

- Actions speak louder than words.
- A fool and his money are soon parted.
- All good things must come to an end.
- All is not gold that glitters.
- An apple a day, keeps the doctor away.
- An elephant never forgets.
- As you make your bed, so you must lie in it.
- The bark is worse than the bite.
- Beauty is only skin deep.
- Better safe than sorry.
- Business before pleasure.
- Do not bite off more than you can chew.
- Don't put your eggs all in one basket.
- Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
- Don't cut off your nose to spite your face.
- Finders keepers.
- Forgive and forget.
- Good news travels fast.
- Have a place for everything, and everything has a place.
- Honesty is the best policy.
- It's easier said than done.
- Knowledge is power.
- Last but not least.
- Let bygones be bygones.
- Look before you leap.
- Out of the frying pan and into the fire.
- A penny saved is a penny earned.
- Birds of a feather flock together.

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4

Includes:

- Reproducible Templates
- Seasonal Ideas
- Ideas to Showcase Student Work

Canadian Wildlife Patterns



Moose

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25

A Must-Have Resource!

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Table of Contents

Bulletin Board Tips.....	2	Canadian Flag Pattern.....	40
Back to School Bulletin Board Ideas.....	3	Canada Map	41
Incentive Bulletin Board Ideas	4	Canada's Coat of Arms	42
Inspirational Quotes for Bulletin Boards	5	Canadian Flower Patterns	43
Interactive Bulletin Board Ideas.....	6	Rocket Pattern	47
Whole Group Data Survey Questions.....	8	Coat of Arms Pattern.....	48
100 th Day Interactive Board.....	9	Puzzle Piece Pattern.....	49
Special Day Bulletin Board Ideas.....	10	Stamp Pattern	53
Remembrance Day Bulletin Board Ideas	13	Star Pattern	54
Canada Themed Bulletin Board Ideas	14	Award Badge Pattern	55
Canadian Wildlife.....	15	Thanksgiving Patterns	56
Canada's Early Settlers Themed Bulletin Board Ideas	17	Halloween Patterns	57
Aboriginal Peoples Bulletin Board Ideas	19	Remembrance Day Patterns.....	58
Canadian Money Bulletin Board Ideas	20	Peace Dove Pattern	59
Canadian Wildlife Patterns	21	Christmas Patterns.....	60
Beaver Mascot Pattern.....	28	Easter Patterns	62
Totem Pole Pattern	29	Chanukah Patterns.....	63
Inukshuk Pattern	30	St. Patrick's Day Patterns	64
Canadian Coin Patterns	31	Kwanzaa Pattern.....	65
Canadian Bill Patterns	35	Alphabet Patterns.....	66
Loonie Pattern	37	Number Patterns.....	74
\$100 Bill Pattern.....	38	Certificates	77
Maple Leaf Pattern.....	39		

Bulletin Board Tips

Bulletin Board Background Ideas

There are many inexpensive materials available to create interesting and unique bulletin board backgrounds. Here are some suggestions:

- wallpaper
- newspaper
- paper bags
- magazine pages
- construction paper
- felt
- butcher paper
- post cards
- plastic table cloth
- wrapping paper
- plastic bubble wrap
- fabric
- garbage bags
- greeting cards
- aluminum foil

Bulletin Border Ideas

Create your own bulletin borders using long strips of paper as a base. Then as a class art lesson have students practice different art techniques. For example have students colour the strips of paper or blackline masters:

- on different surfaces such as sand paper to create interesting texture alternating heavy and light strokes
- using different shades of the same colour
- using only primary colours
- using only secondary colours
- using pastels
- with different colours of chalk and setting it with hair spray
- creating line patterns
- using watercolours
- cotton swab dots

More Bulletin Border Ideas

- wall paper strips
- puzzle pieces
- foil cups
- egg cartons
- tulle
- cotton balls

Back to School Bulletin Board Ideas

Caption: **Putting The Pieces Together! We all fit in grade _____!**

Background: Cover the background of the bulletin board using any colour.

Border: Combine old puzzle pieces and paste them onto long strips of construction paper to create a border.

Design a giant class puzzle bulletin board! Give each student a puzzle piece pattern to create something to add to a giant class puzzle composition. Each puzzle piece is a “get to know you” about a student. Have students draw or paste pictures, or words that represent the student. Later on in the year, use the puzzle pieces to create another giant puzzle bulletin board to complement a theme. Some ideas include:

- each puzzle piece is a picture that fits into a class theme.
- each puzzle piece is a research report on the same topic.
- each puzzle piece is a poem to create a class anthology.

Caption: **Stepping Into Grade _____!**

Background: Cover the top third of the bulletin board with blue paper. Cover the bottom two thirds with green. Using grey construction paper cut out a road or path and post it on the green paper. Add other elements to the background such as, trees, buildings etc.

Border: Create a border using black construction paper strips.

Start off the year by encouraging students to put their best foot forward by doing an observational drawing of their shoe. Instruct students to draw a 3/4 view of the shoe, as it allows a side view, while still including a view of the laces or fastening. Remind students to make their drawings life-sized and detailed. Next, give each student a paper strip to decorate with their name on it. Post each student’s name by their shoe.

Caption: **Ready To Blast Off Into Grade _____!**

Background: Cover the background of the bulletin board with black paper.

Border: Create a border using strips of aluminum foil.

Get students excited about blasting off into a new school year. Use an overhead projector to enlarge the rocket pattern and trace on paper. Colour/paint, cut out and post the rocket on the bulletin board. Duplicate the star patterns for students. Have students print their name on their star and decorate using markers, crayons etc. Add a sparkle effect by outlining each star with glue and dipping it into glitter.

Incentive Bulletin Board Ideas

Caption: Star Students!

Background: Cover the background of the bulletin board with dark blue paper.

Border: Celebrate students' accomplishments! Use an overhead projector to enlarge the star pattern, then colour, cut out and post onto the bulletin board. Inside the star, write the focus of the accomplishment for example; "Super Spelling Stars", "Great Work Starring..." or "Super Math Stars". Copy the star pattern for each student in the class. As students, meet the criteria to be a "star" student, post their star on the bulletin board along with a sample of their work.

Caption: Celebrating Students

Background: Cover the background of the bulletin board with red paper.

Border: Copy several of the award ribbon patterns. Using permanent marker, write positive phrases inside the space of each award ribbon such as: "Way to go!", "Top Notch!", or "Super Job!" Sponge paint the award ribbons in different colours and post them as a border around the bulletin board.

Acknowledge and celebrate students' accomplishments and positive qualities on an ongoing basis! Devote a bulletin board to display the various certificates provided in this book to deserving students. Keep track of which certificates have been handed out to whom in order to watch out for certain behaviors or accomplishments for certain students. Certificates can be given out in the moment, or the teacher may wish to hold a regular class meeting to recognize students and to post their certificates.

Caption: Student Of The Week

Background: Cover the background of the bulletin board with white paper.

Border: Have students colour strips of paper with different colours of chalk and setting it with hair spray.

Student of the Week is not only a great way to promote self-esteem and to instill pride, but will encourage students to learn more about their classmates and to create a community. At the beginning of the school year, have families choose the week that their child will be Student of the Week. In preparation for that week ask families to send in special photos such as baby photos to display, and a bag of items that the student would like to share. Dedicate a bulletin board display with the student's information, pictures and school work. The teacher may also wish to include written notes from the other students that compliment or recognize the student chosen for student of the week.

Inspirational Quotes for Bulletin Boards

- **Winners never quit, and quitters never win. - Author Unknown**
- **Don't let what you can't do interfere with what you can do.
- Author Unknown**
- **Things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought. Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together. - Vincent Van Gogh**
- **Once you choose hope, anything's possible. - Christopher Reeve**
- **You always pass failure on the way to success. - Mickey Rooney**
- **Only surround yourself with people who will lift you higher.
- Oprah Winfrey**
- **Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.
- Chinese Proverb**
- **We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. - Aristotle**
- **It's fun to do the impossible. - Walt Disney**
- **The road to success is always under construction. - Author Unknown**
- **Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.
- Robert Collier**
- **Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or the same way.
- George Evans**
- **There is no I in Teamwork! - Author Unknown**
- **Shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you'll land amongst the stars."
- Les Brown**
- **I take nothing for granted. I now have only good days, or great days."
- Lance Armstrong**

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Interactive Bulletin Board Ideas

Idea 2

Caption: **Thesaurus Fun**

Extend students' vocabulary through a stimulating interactive bulletin board. Each day, list five words on the laminated surface of the bulletin board using a dry erase or washable marker. Then encourage students to find synonyms for those words using a thesaurus. Students then write and add the words to the bulletin board. At the end of the day, challenge students to use the new words into a sentence. Variation: have students look up the words in a dictionary and write a sentence to add to the bulletin board.

Idea 3

Caption: **Marvelous Morning Message**

Morning messages are an excellent way to provide students with interesting facts about a class theme they are studying while also arranging teachable moments in the use of punctuation. Write the morning message in a letter format. The teacher may wish to leave in grammar and spelling "bugs" for students to find and to correct as a whole group. Use the morning message as a springboard for class discussions.

Idea 4

Caption: **Daily Groovy Graphing**

Reinforce data management skills by designing an interactive graphing bulletin board. Before laminating the chart paper and posting it on the bulletin board, create graph outlines to be used for bar graphs or line graphs. Also make a table outline where students can do a tally vote on various survey questions. Keep washable or dry erase markers accessible for students. Use the data management class survey questions provided in this book for ideas. The teacher may wish to put a group of students in charge each day to interpret the results of the graph and to write a paragraph about it on the board. See if students agree or disagree.

Whole Group Data Survey Questions

What is your favourite _____ ?

- pet
- colour
- fruit
- home activity
- snack
- season
- winter activity
- summer activity
- sport
- recess activity
- pizza topping
- ice cream flavour
- dessert
- restaurant
- meal
- day of the week
- superhero
- author
- reading genre
- music genre
- school subject
- holiday
- cereal
- breakfast meal
- game
- coin
- cartoon
- lunch meal
- vegetable
- time of day
- farm animal
- dinner meal
- fast food
- movie genre
- candy
- month of the year
- weather
- community helper
- zoo animal
- transportation

Make your own questions related to what is going on in your classroom:

- What do you prefer?
- What do you like best?
- What is your estimation?
- What is your prediction?

More ideas:

- How many family members are in your family?
- What colour hair do you have?
- How many teeth have you lost?
- Is your pet a mammal, reptile, bird, or fish?
- Where would you rather go on vacation?
- Would you rather live in the country or in the city?
- What colour eyes do you have?
- How many pets do you have?
- How many letters are there in your first name?
- How many hours of TV do you watch a day?
- What would you like to be when you grow up?
- What is your birthday month?

Questions to pose about a graph:

- What was the most?
- What was the least?
- How many more votes does _____ have than _____?
- How many fewer votes does _____ have than _____?
- How many altogether in two categories?
- How many people were asked in this survey?
- How many votes were there for _____?

100th Day Interactive Board

For younger children counting toward a 100th day of school celebration can be fun and exciting. As part of the class daily routine or calendar time, incorporate counting the number of days in school. By counting to 100 using a variety of methods, students will have consistent opportunities to reinforce important counting and place value concepts. Place value is a keystone math concept providing the foundation for learning to add and subtract double digit numbers.

Here are some activities for counting towards the 100th day of school.

Create a Number Line:

Note each day of school by displaying the number. Perhaps create a hundred chart or display the numbers above the chalkboard to make a number line around the classroom. Encourage students to estimate where the 100th day mark will be in the classroom.

For Example:

Number Of Days	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Trade Up To 100 Using Coins

Trading up to 100 using coins is an excellent way to introduce coin values and to review them in a meaningful way. On the first day, start with a penny, then add a penny each subsequent day until the fifth day. Then trade up to a nickel. After 10 days, trade up to dime, then to a quarter etc, until the class reaches a loonie to represent the 100th day. Place magnetic strips on the back of real coins and display them on the chalkboard.

Bundle Popsicle Sticks Or Straws

Help students understand the concept of the 1's, 10's and 100's place by bundling popsicle sticks or straws to represent each place value. Set up three empty cans and label them, 1's, 10's and 100's. Each day add a popsicle stick or straw to the 1's can. Once you reach ten, bundle the popsicle sticks or straws and place the "10's bundle" to demonstrate one group of ten in the 10's can. For example, for day 36, there would be six popsicle sticks or straws in the 1's can and three "10's" bundles of popsicle sticks or straws in the 10's can.

100 Chart

On a 100 chart, practice skip counting to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's. Challenge students to find numbers on the 100 chart using math language. For example, find all the numbers with the number 8 in the ones place.

Tally Chart

Keep a running tally on the chalkboard of how many days you have been in school. In addition, the teacher may wish to challenge students to predict the date of the 100th day of school.

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