

Cocoa & Conversations: Celebrating Family Traditions



Cocoa & Conversations

Celebrating Family Traditions allows families and students to come together in a warm, welcoming environment to share and learn about each other's unique traditions. Hosting this event fosters empathy, cooperation, and connection by allowing students to appreciate the various backgrounds and practices within their classroom community. It also strengthens family engagement and promotes a sense of belonging and significance.

Family Invitation Template



Subject Line (for email or print flyer)

Join Us for Cocoa & Conversations! A Special Morning with Families

Header

You're Invited!

Come share a cozy cup of cocoa and meaningful conversations about family traditions.

Body Text

Dear Families,

We warmly invite you to join us for a special classroom gathering:

Date: [Insert date here]

Time: [Insert time, e.g., 8:30–9:15 a.m.]

Location: [Classroom or school location]

At this event, students and families will come together to:

- Share and learn about different traditions celebrated in December.
- Connect through guided conversations that celebrate our classroom community.
- Enjoy hot cocoa and a cozy start to the day

Your presence will help us build understanding and appreciation for one another's experiences. You are welcome to bring a small item, photo, or story that represents one of your family's traditions (optional).

We look forward to celebrating with you!

[Teacher Name]

[Grade/Class Name]



Event Outline for Teachers

Before the Event

- Send the invitation 2–3 weeks in advance.
- Prepare a cocoa station (coordinate with admin or PTO if needed).
- Set up discussion tables with simple conversation starters and student-made place cards.
- Display Fly Five language—e.g., Emotions or anchor charts on Empathy and Cooperation.
- Invite students to prepare questions or reflections ahead of time (e.g., “One tradition I love is…”).

During the Event (approx. 45 minutes)

1. Welcome & Warm-Up (5–10 minutes)

- Greet families as they arrive.
- Offer cocoa and light snacks (if applicable).
- Display a welcome message and soft music. I love is…”).

2. Community Circle or Class Welcome (5 minutes)

- The teacher or student greeters welcome everyone.
- Brief explanation: “This morning, we’re celebrating how we each bring something special to our classroom through our family traditions.”

3. Conversation Time (20–25 minutes)

- Families sit with students and other families.
- Use table tents or printed cards with conversation starters such as:
 - “What’s a special tradition your family enjoys in December?”
 - “Is there a food, story, or song that’s important to your family this time of year?”
 - “What does kindness look like in your family?”
- Encourage students to ask questions and listen for similarities/differences.

4. Optional Sharing Circle (5–10 minutes)

- Invite 2–3 volunteers to share something they learned or enjoyed.
- Emphasize the Fly Five connection: “Today, we practiced empathy by listening to and appreciating each other’s stories.”

After the Event

- Send a thank-you message to families.
- Invite students to reflect in writing or drawings about what they learned.
- Add photos or quotes (with permission) to a hallway or classroom display celebrating “Traditions & Togetherness.”

