

Family Time

Children love drawing. It's fun and inexpensive. Drawing expresses feelings and experiences that the child might be having but doesn't have the right words for.

Many educators talk about how important it is for children to draw because it is the beginning of reading and writing or literacy. There are many ways that children can work on their literacy skills through drawing at school and at home.

1. Pick one of the Club Amick books that your child has brought home. Read it together. On a piece of paper draw the story together with your own artwork but with no words. Now you can have your child tell you the story that you have both created.
2. Ask the grandparents or aunts and uncles to tell stories. Now ask your little ones to draw that story and tell it back to the story teller.
3. Make a book. One easy way to do this is to cut up an empty cereal box, pop case, or diaper box into squares and staple the squares together into a book shape. Now your child can draw a book or even practise their writing skills. Children love to do this and have you "read" their book back to them.

Keep encouraging your child to draw. Some educators have their students participate in a "daily draw", just a few minutes of silent drawing. If you had a daily draw once a day for a few days then you could have an art show at the end. Imagine how proud your little ones will be to have everyone in the house admiring their art!

Sign It, It's Yours!

There is a bookplate on your book for you to put your name on. The book belongs to you to read in a quiet place alone, or share it with your family, friends and class.

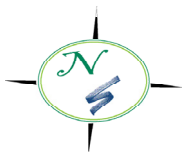


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CLUB AMICK NEWS



Happy Birch by Jonathon Munz

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Dear Reader,

This is the year we have our very first river festival right here on the Kawinogans River. One of the ducks flew over a nearby town and saw a festival happening. She came back and told us all about it. Boy did we ever get excited so we decided to have our own festival.

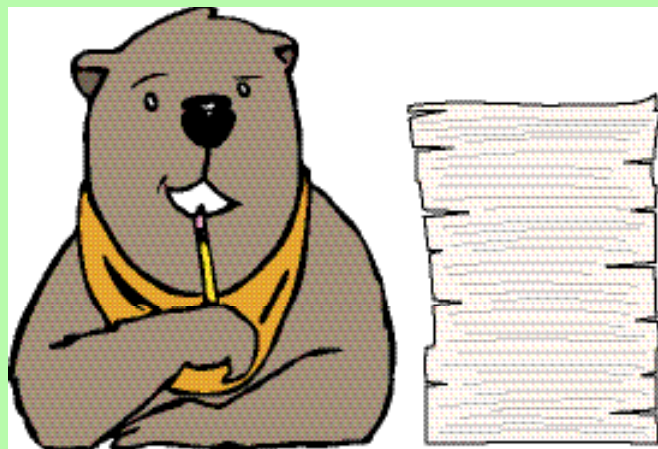
We had a meeting for everyone to start planning the festival, which we decided to call it the K River Celebration. We all have jobs to do to get ready for the festival. My job is to find out some of the activities you can do at festivals. So I called my uncle Ben who lives on the French River. He's been all over Canada travelling and working on dams so I figured he would have been to a few festivals in different places. I was right! He said the most interesting festivals he has attended have been the Elvis festival in Collingwood, Ontario, and the festival du Voyageur in Manitoba. That festival celebrates the fur traders who founded the Red River Colony. He said that he also liked attending the Just for Laughs festival in Montreal. We beavers like a good joke.

Do you have any festivals in your community? What is your favourite thing about festivals? We are planning contests and meals and games for everyone. It's going to be in the summer when the water is a bit warmer. I can't wait! Do you think you can come?

Signing off,



Amick



Plastic Bottle Flowers



1. Here is what you will need to gather:

- empty water or pop bottles
- scissors
- permanent markers
- glue, glitter, stickers, or beads

2. Cut the top off of the plastic bottle about 2 inches down the bottle. Ask an adult for help with the cutting.

3. Once you have cut the top off, cut 5 slits up the plastic towards the cap.

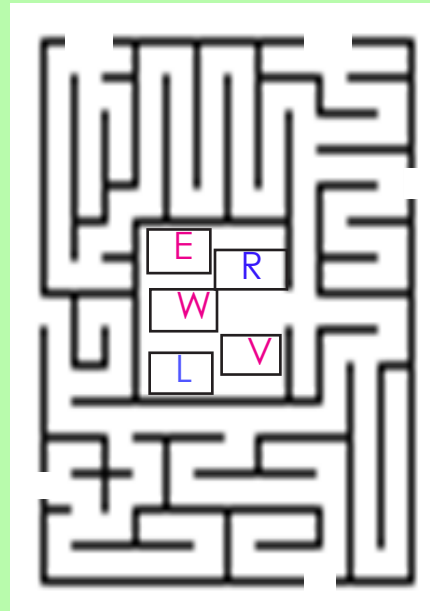


4. Bend down the pieces of plastic and using the scissors, round out the pieces which are now the petals of your flowers!

Find Your Way to the Festival

Drive the van to pick up the letters and use them to solve the secret message below!

_EA_N E_ERY_H_RE



We're Going to the Festival

I grab my mom and dad and kokum too
We head down to the schoolyard
And look at all the things to do!

We buy tickets at a booth
I ride a pony and eat a beaver tail
My brother sits on the dunk tank
And gets soaked by water in a pail.

It's so much fun at the festival
We play games and run a race.
Mom and dad visit friends
And we all line up for paint on our face!

I pick a tiger
My best friend Mary picks a cat
Even my dad gets his face painted
I can't believe he picked a bat!

We celebrate our community
Everyone comes and has such fun
The festival happens once a year
And I'm so sad when it is done.

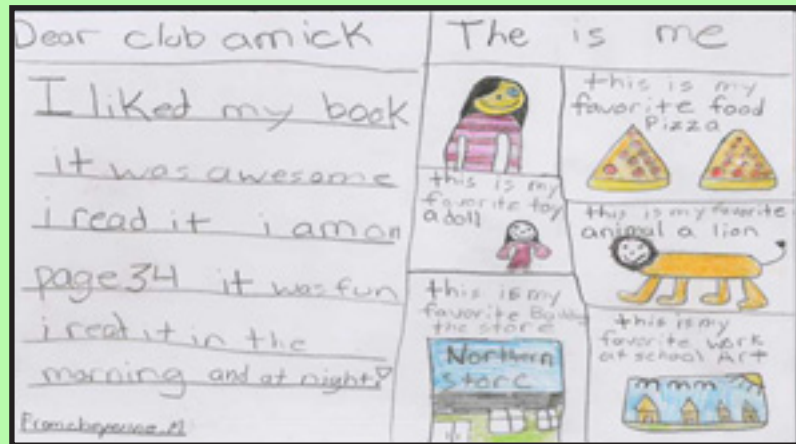
To: Amick



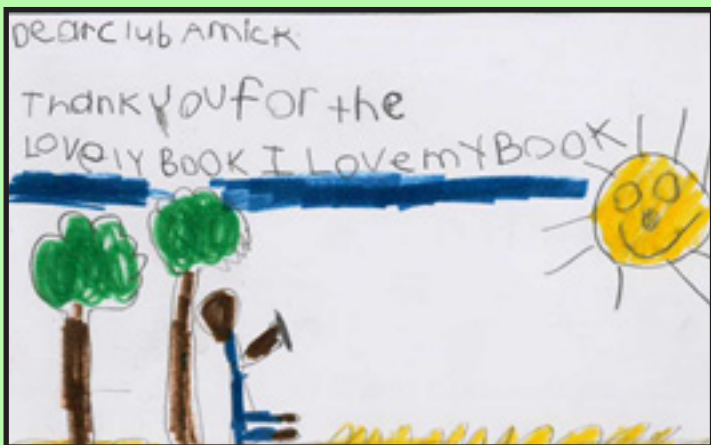
Nola, Deer Lake



Kaitlynn



Cheyenne, Attawapiskat



OJ, Attawapiskat



Adrian

Send Amick a postcard!
Mail it to:
Dear Amick
c/o Southern Ontario Library Service
#1504 1 Yonge Street,
Toronto, ON
M5E 1E5

From: You

Festivals Around The World



Credit James McNamara Irish Mirror

There is a small island off the coast of Scotland where every January the people celebrate their Viking heritage by dressing as Vikings and parading down the street carrying fire lit torches. At the end of the parade the lit torches are tossed into a galley. A galley is a Viking boat rowed by many men with long oars. A new galley is built each year for the festival because the boat goes up in flames when torches are tossed into it. This festival of fire is called the Up Helly Aa. It's one way to warm up a long cold winter.



Credit David Gifford

Another impressive winter festival takes place in Sapporo Japan. This snow festival began in 1950, when high school students built six snow sculptures in a park. Now about two million people come to Sapporo to see the many snow and ice sculptures. Teams from around the world compete in a snow sculpture contest. The festival runs for seven days in February each year.

Of course there are lots of summer festivals. In England there is a cheese rolling festival. Some cheeses are made in the shape of a round wheel, so participants in the festival toss a round of cheese down a very steep hill and fling themselves after it. The challenge is to be the first to make it to the bottom of hill without you or your cheese round falling over. Canadians in British Columbia thought



that this was such a good idea they started a cheese rolling festival too.

In the United States, the Gathering of Nations festival takes place every April in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is an event where indigenous people from all over the world come together to celebrate and share culture. It is of great appeal and intrigue to young people interested in learning more about their own tribal traditions. The greatest thing about the Gathering of Nations is the respect that is shown to all indigenous people of the world. It has grown from an early, simple dream to one of the world's most recognized annual festivals.



The festival represents a way of life and its teachings are provided and handed down from the elders to the younger generations. The Gathering of Nations experience does not end when you leave and head home, but it continues in your heart and mind, remains with you down the road to the next event and perhaps even your own family gathering.

It has been said by many that the Gathering of Nations festival is the mecca of Indian Country while others have said that there is a magic about it. Many people from around the world have made the event their travel destination.

But perhaps the most beautiful festivals are the hot air balloon festivals which are held around the world each year.

