

KID PRESIDENT:

are we there yet?

EPISODE 3: BIRTHDAYS

Kid President Team Visits Families Battling Cancer

Learning Target:

- Students will understand that joy is something we live, breathe, and give each other.

[Kid President Team Visits Families Battling Cancer](#) | [Kid President Travel Show E3](#) reminds us how important it is to celebrate and find joy in each day. Joy is also an important part of classroom culture. Michelle C. Hughes writes, “Infusing joy with purpose can decrease student and teacher stress, foster community, and help students feel a greater sense of belonging” (Hughes, 2018). Furthermore, brain research shows that the brain is more open to learning in a joyful classroom (Costa & Kallick, 2014).

Below, we offer six “recipes” for joy that can be used after your students have watched the video. These activities are designed to infuse joy into your classroom. They can be used as station activities during one joy-filled day, or they can be utilized one at a time throughout the school year.

How do you fill your classroom with joy? Share your ideas in our Facebook Community: [Kid President in the Classroom](#)

References

Costa, A. L. & Kallick, B. (2014). *Dispositions: Reframing teaching and learning*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

Hughes, M.C. (2018, October). Three ideas for infusing joy in the classroom [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://www.amle.org/BrowsebyTopic/WhatsNew/WNDet/TabId/270/ArtMID/888/ArticleID/990/Three-Ideas-for-Infusing-Joy-in-the-Classroom.aspx>

Anchor Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.6

Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

ISTE Standards for Students

Standard 3-Knowledge Constructor:

Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts, and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

Standard 6- Creative Communicator:

Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

RECIPE FOR JOY #1: MAKING JOY

*"...I dreamed of a karaoke backpack and then, I learned how to put it together...
Dreams come true."*

Ingredients

- Paper
- Pencils
- Maker Materials (A list of possible materials is linked here: [Maker Materials](#))

Directions

1. Students work in small groups to brainstorm a list of inventions that have brought joy to their lives, like the karaoke backpack brought to Brad.
2. The group collaborates on something new to invent that will bring joy to others and creates a sketch of their invention.
3. Each group makes a prototype using the materials provided.
4. Groups share their creations with each other.

Pairs Well with These Extension Activities:

- Explore [what it means to be a maker](#).
- Allow students to work through the [Engineering Design Process](#) as they design their invention.

RECIPE FOR JOY #2: DAILY CELEBRATIONS

"No matter what's going on, no matter where you are, there's so many reasons to throw a party right now. You just gotta be paying attention."

Students will create banners to commemorate what makes each day special as a reminder that there is a reason to celebrate every single day.

Ingredients

- Butcher paper
- Art supplies (markers, crayons, paint, etc.)

Directions

1. Form small groups and assign each group a random day of the week, month, or year.
2. Each group decides on a reason to celebrate their assigned day. Ideas may come from their own creativity, or they may use inspiration from this article of [important and not-so-important holidays](#).
3. Groups create banners to commemorate what makes their day special.
4. On the appropriate day, display banners in the classroom or school to remind students to find the joy in each day.

RECIPE FOR JOY #3: SUPERLATIVE AWARDS

*"We matter to each other. Joy is something much deeper than being happy.
Joy is something we live and breathe and give each other"*

Students will create and share superlative awards to celebrate members of the school community.

Ingredients

- Cardstock
- Art Supplies (markers, crayons, string, ribbon, etc.)
- Recycled Materials

Directions

1. Each student writes their name on a piece of paper, then balls up the paper and throws it.
2. Students pick up another student's paper ball to determine who will receive their award.
3. Create a superlative award to celebrate the chosen classmate. Award can be a simple paper certificate, or use recycled materials and art supplies to create a trophy or award.

Pairs Well with These Extension Activities:

- Spread even more joy! Create awards for other members of the school community.
- Host an awards ceremony where students can pass out their superlatives. Consider inviting families and administration to be a part of the celebration.

RECIPE FOR JOY #4: PARTNERS IN JOY

*"There were no worries, no fear, no judgements.
Just joy, just friends cheering each other on."*

Students will work to be lighthouses for each other by considering how they can support each other in joy.

Ingredients

- Paper
- Pencil
- We are Lighthouses Worksheet

Directions

1. During large group discussion, discuss different ways students can be a lighthouse for a friend.
2. Students work with a partner to complete the We are Lighthouses Worksheet.
3. Students share their plan for being a lighthouse with the large group.

Pairs Well with These Extension Activities:

- Each partner group creates a video explaining their joyful goals and how they will support their friend. (Looking for a quick and easy video creation tool? Try [Flipgrid!](#))

RECIPE FOR JOY #5: JOY JOURNALING

"And there's always a reason to dance, if you're looking for it."

Students will "take brain pictures" by recording small moments that capture joyful times throughout the day.

Ingredients

- Writing Journals
- Pencils
- Drawing Tools

Directions

1. Create a space for students to record joyful moments - This might be individual journals for each student, or one collaborative class journal.
2. Encourage students to write and draw about moments that bring them joy. This is an excellent opportunity to practice small moment/detail writing.
3. Periodically take time to share, discuss, and celebrate moments from journals.

Pairs Well with These Extension Activities:

- Use technology to record and share joyful moments throughout the year. [Edublogs](#), [Office 365](#), and [Google](#) tools are excellent for collaborative writing.

RECIPE FOR JOY #6: UNBIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

"It's one thing to celebrate people on their birthday, but there's something extra special about celebrating about on a normal day. Just to say, 'We're really glad you're here.'"

Students will each be honored and celebrated by their classmates on their chosen UNbirthday.

Ingredients

- Calendar
- Paper
- Pencil

Directions

1. Invite each student to select one day to be their UNbirthday. Record each student's day on a class calendar.
2. Give students time to write about what would make them feel celebrated.
3. On each students' UNbirthday, the rest of the class works to celebrate them in big and small ways.

Pairs Well with These Extension Activities:

- Start your own classroom traditions for how you will celebrate students on their UNbirthday (Examples: Decorate their desk or locker, choose where to sit in the classroom, be given special leadership opportunities, eat a special snack, positive phone call home, make cards, words of affirmation)

WE ARE LIGHTHOUSES

"We can be lighthouses for each other, always reminding each other that there's joy."

Today we are going to set a goal to bring more joy to our lives.
When we know each other's goals, we can help each other reach them.

ME	MY FRIEND
What brings me joy?	What brings my friend joy?
What is my goal to bring more joy to my life?	What is my friend's goal to bring more joy to their life?
What can my partner do to help me achieve my joy?	What can I do to help my friend achieve their joy?