



Family Celebration/S4 Open House (Superheroes)

An S4 family celebration is a great way to get your school community together to build a sense of togetherness, to introduce families to student work, share learnings, creating common language and shared vision for the whole school community.

As part of your S4 family celebration/open house, you decide what your event looks like; whether you incorporate it as part of your school open house, your year-end celebration, sports day, or other celebration where families come together at your school.

The purpose of this outline is to share ideas around how you might choose to set up your family celebration, and to share an example of a school celebration for students and families.

Superheroes

The celebration began with a theme of Superheroes. The idea around the concept is that we all have internal powers and strengths to make us helpful members of our community. The superheroes theme compliments the learning that students experience around what internal qualities they possess that make them superheroes in their communities.

Strengths

Children might label their internal strengths as things like: good listener, helpful, good friend, confident, patient. The idea is that we all have something special to offer others – and that we could all be considered “superheroes”. Students might also identify themselves as community helpers that are superheroes for the environment – promoting taking care of the earth by recycling and walking or biking instead of driving. Students might have also identified themselves as peace agents in the school – someone who promotes peace, conflict resolution, and healthy communication among peers (a concept that is promoted in the S4 school connection lessons).

Getting Ready to Plan Your Event

This is where planners of this event can get really creative. You could set up a variety of stations for children and families to participate in each reflecting certain aspects of the cornerstones to practice skills in the areas of Significance, Success, Self-Awareness and Service to create safe and caring communities. We’ll outline some of our ideas for a superhero event below.



Things to do Ahead of Time:

- ✓ Send out personal invitations to families for the event. You may have teachers make time in their classes for students to make invitations for their families (figure 1).
- ✓ Decide what stations you would like to offer as part of the event (how many, where they will be held, will there be a rotation schedule for participants to follow, etc.)
- ✓ Determine whether you will be asking students to bring any materials prior to the event (like a donation for the superhero city).
- ✓ Will students and families be asked to participate in dressing up for the theme? Be sure to notify parents long before the event so that they can prepare with children with their dress attire.
- ✓ Invite special guests to participate in your event (ie: School Education Officer, Community Health Nurse, Community Resource Officer/Workers, etc)

Recommended Time: There are a few options for this type of event. You might choose a weeknight evening; for two to three hours or if your parent population is available, a morning or afternoon during the school day.

Recommended Location: Multiple areas at the school. For this event, you might choose many locations throughout the school like: the gym, the library, outside on the playground (weather permitting), in classrooms, etc.

Materials:

- ✓ Sign-in sheet
- ✓ Nametags
- ✓ Non-perishable foods
- ✓ Art supplies
- ✓ Sports equipment (optional - cooperative games)
- ✓ Snacks and refreshments (optional)
- ✓ Camera

Set-up:

- ✓ Depending on which stations you choose, set up prior to the event will be varied.
- ✓ As families come in, provide each person with a name tag and ask them what one of their strengths is. Write that strength on the name tag alongside the person's name.
- ✓ Before the event starts, have everyone meet in the gym (or common area) to break into station groups.
- ✓ Make sure to leave time at the end for families to mingle with each other, and for parents to speak individually with the teacher if they wish.



Possible Stations:

Refreshment Station

Offering food is always a nice way to thank participants for attending your event. Depending on the time of day, you determine what could be the best option for refreshments for your event (figure 2.). It's also a great way to incorporate some information about healthy choices (incorporate your Community Health Nurse!)

Art/S4 Activity Showcase

Use this as an opportunity to create a visual display for parents to see what the students have been learning as part of S4. You might choose to display some art or activities the students have completed (figure 3.)

Superhero City

The students brought items to donate to the food bank and created a superhero city out of the food donations as a creative art project (figure 4.)

Superhero portrait

Take the opportunity to capture the event with a photo. Have students take a photo with their family or friends to capture the fun and learning (figure 5.) Or if you'd prefer to have students and families do a creative art project, provide arts and crafts supplies for them to creatively design their own superhero family.

Community Helpers

Everyone plays a role in keeping the community safe. Invite some special guest to take part in your event and create a station where participants can ask questions and learn more about ways we can work together to keep the community safe. Some ideas for special guests might be your School Education Officer (SEO), fire fighter, community health nurse, an emergency medical responder, technician, or paramedic. You might consider inviting other family serving agencies to the event where they set up booths with information for parents on programs and services offered to the community (figure 6 & 7.)

Graffiti Wall

At this station, participants have the opportunity to reflect upon what the S4 cornerstones signify to them. Have participants choose one area in the framework (significance, success, service, self-awareness) and describe what one of that cornerstone means to them. Together, collaboratively, the tiles can be used to build a community wall outlining the framework, as a visual reminder of how each one of us is a contributor to the significance, success, self-awareness service and safety components of the school and community (figure 8 & 9.)

Cooperative Games

Participants practice skills around team building, and working together to solve challenges. Choice of game is open – depending on the size of your group. Have a couple options for younger children as well as older children to make sure everyone has fun (figure 10.)

Figure 1



Figure 2

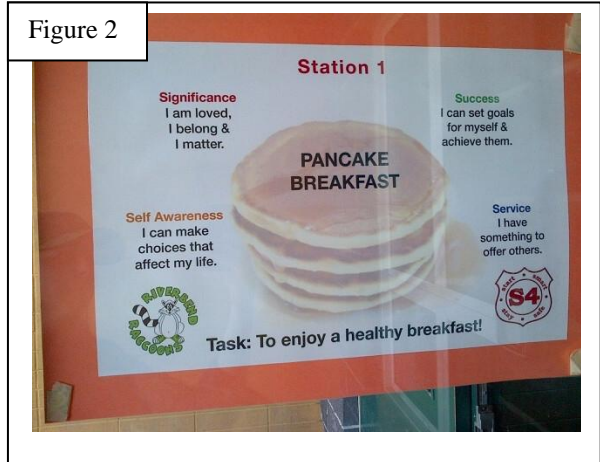


Figure 3

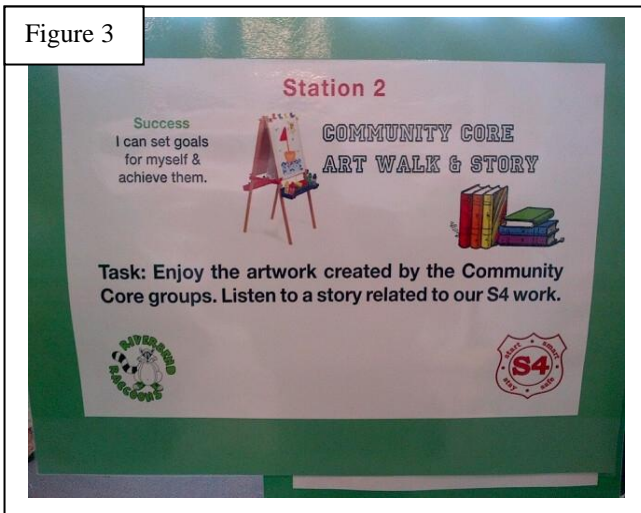


Figure 4

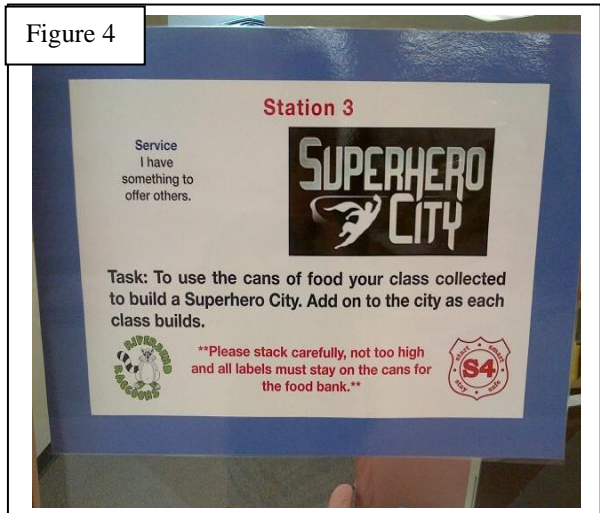


Figure 5

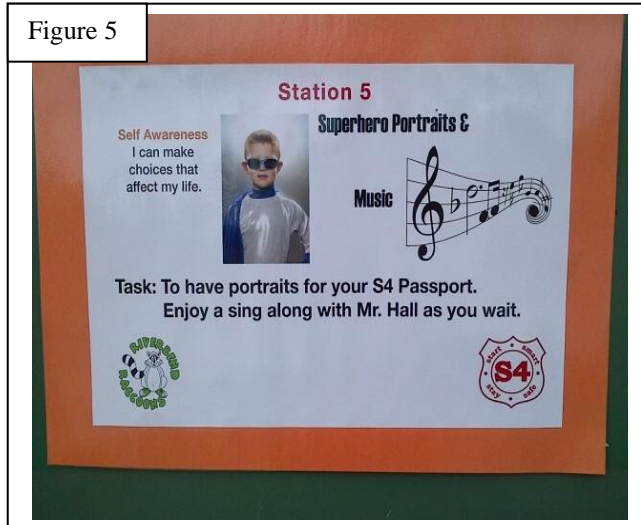


Figure 6



Figure 7

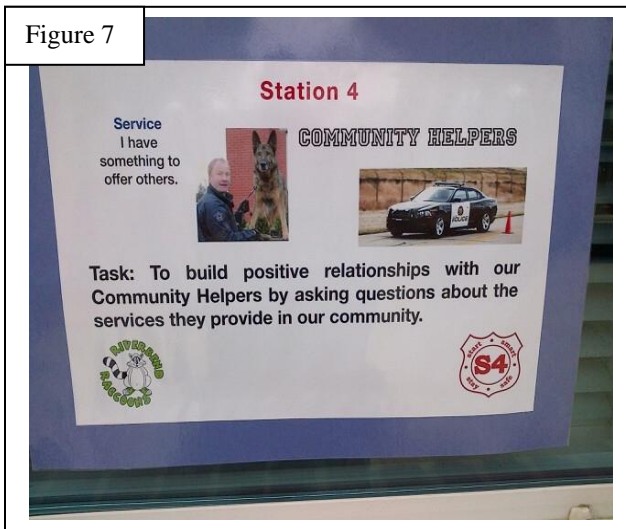


Figure 8

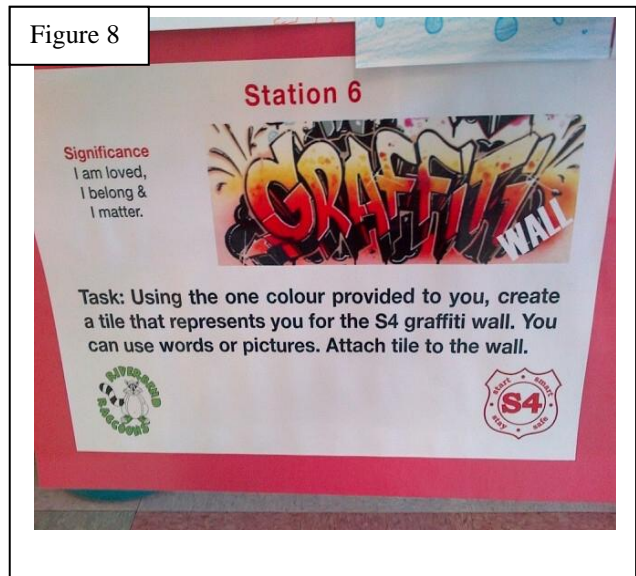
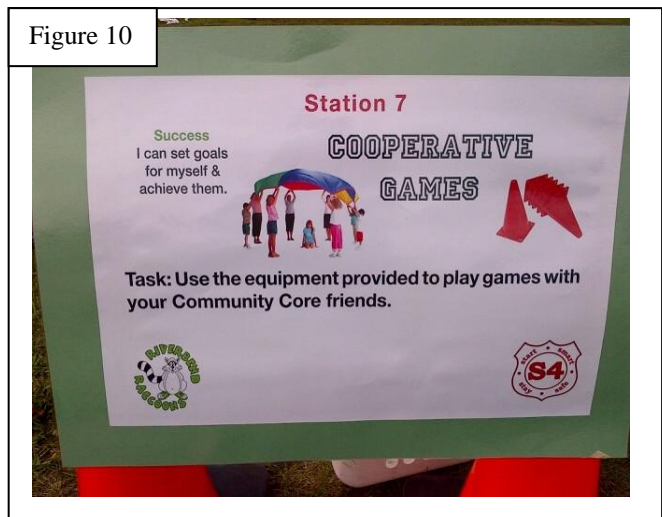


Figure 9



Figure 10



*This is a really neat way to invite your SEO to a whole school family focused event!
Remember, at your school, you decide what this event might look like for families.
You could liaise with your SEO to determine a meaningful role for he/she could engage in as part of a potential future S4 event (2 per year).*