

RECIPE FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Eli Whitney School
Enfield, Connecticut

During the week of March 6, 1999, all of the schools in Enfield, Connecticut celebrated "In Enfield, Families Matter" Week with special activities. The district PIE Committee sponsored the event. Town-wide activities to celebrate families in Enfield took place each day during the week.

We, at Eli Whitney School, decided to have the students unite our families with a special project to celebrate "Families Matter" Week. Each family was asked to work together to submit a favorite family recipe to create an Eli Whitney Cookbook. The instructions were given as a homework assignment because our school believes that assigning interactive homework is another way to foster family involvement. Ninety percent of the students contributed a family recipe.

The student body was further involved in the creation of the cookbook. The upper grade students sorted the recipes by categories and art students created drawings for the index pages. The school held a contest for both the graphic and the title that appeared on the cover of the cookbook.

In our desire to involve the community, as well as families, a local computer firm was contacted about publishing the cookbook. We were fortunate to have the firm volunteer to type the recipes and publish the book as a community service project. Funds to cover the cost of materials were provided through our curriculum budget.

Each child received a copy of the cookbook at the conclusion of "In Enfield, Families Matter" Week. The students were very pleased to see their recipes and the recipes of their peers in print. The students were also able to see that, by sharing something from their own families, they created a wonderful keepsake celebrating the Eli Whitney family.

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