



Homespun Community Dancing



FAMILY DANCE EVENING (For the School Contact)

One of our most popular offerings, the Family Dance, is a school-wide community celebration that involves everyone. Students, parents, siblings, teachers and administrators spend an evening dancing in time-honored traditions from around the world. If the evening is presented as the culminating activity after a school residency, students will be able to help teach their parents, other relatives, and younger and older students the dances they learned during the residency. Many school principals have told us that our family dance evening is their favorite parent/child activity. More information about the Family Dance can be found at www.homespun.biz/familydanceeve.htm

The Family Dance doesn't need a theme, but here are some very successful events we've participated in:

- Harvest Dance • Multicultural Dinner and Dance • Cabin Fever Dance
- Turn Off Your TV Week Dance • Parents as Reading Partners
- Spring Fling • Welcome to the New School Year (or Orientation) Dance

GUIDELINES FOR THE FAMILY DANCE

- The Family Dance is usually 60 to 75 minutes. Most schools like to start at 6:30.
- In most cases, the school provides a sound system, 2 six foot tables, and 3 armless chairs (*see room & technical setup handout*).
- We would like to perform from the stage – if there is one!
- We encourage as many people as possible to participate in the dancing, so we recommend setting up only 20 – 25 chairs.
- A flyer or notice should be sent home to parents about 4 to 7 days before the dance inviting their whole family (you may use our flyer templates on our website). Emphasize that the family dance is a participatory event and not a performance. Attendees – school staff, students and parents – will be invited to join in.
- It is helpful to have the event organizers and school staff participate in the dancing, and encourage parents to join in early in the evening.
- The most important refreshment for participants is water. Homemade baked goods, fresh fruit, apple cider, and fruit juice are also popular.
- We like to have a school staff member be responsible for behavior issues and to announce that loud conversations need to happen outside the dance room.
- We have CDs and books for sale at the dance. The CD includes calls for many dances that we lead at the family dance, and the book has instructions, sheet music, and historical information. If you sell them for us at your table, we will donate \$2 from each sale to the PTA.

