

ACTIVITY

# MYSTERY ITEM OF THE WEEK

Daily clues, weekly reveal, and  
plenty of staff fun.

A fun, ready-to-use staff activity where leaders share daily clues and staff submit guesses to uncover the weekly "Mystery Item."

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**CLUE THREE**

I take you from  
class to somewhere  
else.

**— CLUE FOUR**

You might see  
on your desk in  
morning.

①

**— CLUE TWO**

My favorite color  
is pink.

# MYSTERY MATCH-UP

## Purpose:

Give your team something lighthearted to look forward to each week with a playful guessing game. You provide daily clues about a "mystery item" (school supply, pop culture reference, seasonal treat—anything goes!), and staff submit their guesses for a chance to win a small prize.

## Leader Tips for Success:

- **Mix It Up:** Alternate between school-related and fun pop culture or seasonal picks.
- **Add Visuals:** Include an image hint for the final clue to boost participation.
- **Get Staff Involved:** Let staff take turns choosing the mystery item and writing clues.
- **Keep Prizes Small but Fun:** Coffee gift cards, snack baskets, or school swag work great.



**Pro Tip:** Start the year with an easy, inside-joke mystery item to get everyone hooked (like "the lounge microwave" or "Mr. Lee's famous stapler").

# ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS

**Pick Your Mystery Item:** Choose something recognizable but not too obvious.

**Create 4–5 Clues:** Start with the most challenging clue on Monday, then get more obvious each day.

**Share the Clues:** Post in the staff lounge, send via email, or add to daily announcements.

**Collect Guesses:** Have a “Guess the Mystery Item” box in the lounge or use an online form. Limit staff to one guess per day.

**End of Week Reveal & Winner:** Announce the correct answer at the end of the week and draw a winner from correct guesses.

## IDEAS TO CELEBRATE WINNERS

- **Prize Draw:** Pull one correct slip during Friday announcements for a small treat.
- **Mystery Bag:** Winner picks blindly from a grab bag of fun prizes.
- **Traveling Trophy:** Pass along a silly trophy (mascot, mug, etc.) for the week.



# ANSWER KEY

1. Coffee Mug
2. Post-it Notes
3. Whiteboard Marker
4. The Copier
5. Principal's Walkie-Talkie
6. Laminator
7. Hall Pass
8. Stapler
9. The Gym Whistle
10. Mascot Costume
11. Barbie
12. Baby Yoda / Grogu
13. Taylor Swift
14. The Office (TV Show)
15. Minions
16. Candy Cane
17. Pumpkin Spice Latte
18. Sunglasses
19. Flip-Flops
20. Snow Shovel
21. Backpack
22. Dry Erase Board
23. School Bus
24. Lunchbox
25. Smartboard
26. Report Card
27. Water Bottle
28. Pencil Sharpener
29. Calculator
30. Globe



**Pro Tip:** Let staff suggest future "mystery items" and use their ideas—it boosts buy-in and keeps the game fresh.

# Activity Printables



# — CLUE ONE —

I often hold  
something that  
wakes you up.



# — CLUE TWO —

**I'm reusable and  
sometimes covered  
in funny sayings.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**I'm happiest when  
full of something  
warm.**





# — CLUE FOUR —

**You might see me  
on your desk in the  
morning.**



— ANSWER —

Coffee Mug

①



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm colorful, but I'm  
not candy.**



# — CLUE TWO —

I like to stick around  
—but not forever.



# — CLUE THREE —

**I'm square, but fun.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**Teachers use me for  
reminders and  
quick notes.**



— ANSWER —

Post-it Notes



# — CLUE ONE —

I'm capped for  
safety.





# — CLUE TWO —

**I'm temporary but  
make a big  
impression.**



# — CLUE THREE —

I live in classrooms.



# — CLUE FOUR —

**You erase me after  
class.**



— ANSWER —

Whiteboard  
Marker



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm busy before  
school starts.**



# — CLUE TWO —

I make multiples in  
seconds.



# — CLUE THREE —

**I sometimes jam  
and cause stress.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

I live in the  
workroom.





— ANSWER —

The Copier



# — CLUE ONE —

**I help you talk  
without being in the  
same room.**



# — CLUE TWO —

I often say "copy  
that."



# — CLUE THREE —

I live on the  
principal's hip.



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I'm essential for  
recess and field  
trips.**



# — ANSWER —

**Principal's  
Walkie-Talkie**



# — CLUE ONE —

I make things last  
longer.



# — CLUE TWO —

**I use heat but I'm  
not an oven.**





# — CLUE THREE —

**Teachers love me  
for protecting  
papers.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**You'll find me in the  
workroom.**



— ANSWER —

Laminator



# — CLUE ONE —

I give you  
permission.



# — CLUE TWO —

**I often hang near  
the door.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**I take you from  
class to somewhere  
else.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**Students carry me  
in the hallway.**



— ANSWER —

Hall Pass





# — CLUE ONE —

I keep things  
together.



# — CLUE TWO —

**I work best with  
metal.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**You push down to  
make me work.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I live on desks and  
in supply drawers.**



— ANSWER —

Stapler



# — CLUE ONE —

**I make a loud noise  
without electricity.**



# — CLUE TWO —

I'm usually silver or  
plastic.



# — CLUE THREE —

Coaches love me.





# — CLUE FOUR —

**I control games and  
gym activities.**



— ANSWER —

A Whistle



# — CLUE ONE —

I'm big and fluffy.



# — CLUE TWO —

**I'm a school spirit  
booster.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**Only a few people  
know who's inside.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

I appear at pep  
rallies and games.



— ANSWER —

Mascot  
Costume



# — CLUE ONE —

**I've had hundreds  
of careers.**





# — CLUE TWO —

**My favorite color  
is pink.**



# — CLUE THREE —

I'm a doll, but also a  
movie star.



# — CLUE FOUR —

I live in a dream  
house.



— ANSWER —

Barbie



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm small and  
green.**



# — CLUE TWO —

**I travel with a  
bounty hunter.**



# — CLUE THREE —

I love frogs.



# — CLUE FOUR —

**Fans know me as  
Grogu.**





— ANSWER —

Baby Yoda



# — CLUE ONE —

**I started as a  
country singer.**



# — CLUE TWO —

**I write all my own  
songs.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**My fans are called  
Swifties.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I'm recently was  
on tour.**



— ANSWER —

Taylor Swift



# — CLUE ONE —

I take place in  
Pennsylvania.



# — CLUE TWO —

**I'm set in a paper  
company.**





# — CLUE THREE —

**Michael Scott is  
my boss.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I'm a popular  
mockumentary  
comedy.**



# — ANSWER —

**The Office**  
(TV Show)



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm wear overalls.**



# — CLUE TWO —

I speak in gibberish.



# — CLUE THREE —

**I love bananas.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I work for Gru.**



— ANSWER —

Minions





# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm sweet but not  
chocolate.**



# — CLUE TWO —

I'm red and white.



# — CLUE THREE —

**I show up in  
December.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

I'm peppermint-flavored.



— ANSWER —

Candy Cane



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm seasonal.**



# — CLUE TWO —

**I'm cozy and warm.**



# — CLUE THREE —

I taste like fall.





# — CLUE FOUR —

**Starbucks made me  
famous.**



— ANSWER —

Pumpkin  
Spice Latte



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm best on sunny  
days.**



# — CLUE TWO —

**I protect you from  
something you  
can't see.**



# — CLUE THREE —

I go on your face.



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I'm stylish and  
practical.**



— ANSWER —

Sunglasses



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm lightweight and  
casual.**





# — CLUE TWO —

I'm perfect for the  
beach.



# — CLUE THREE —

**You can hear me  
when you walk.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

I go on your feet.



— ANSWER —

Flip-Flops



# — CLUE ONE —

**I only work in  
certain seasons.**



# — CLUE TWO —

I help clear a path.



# — CLUE THREE —

I'm long-handed.



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I move snow.**





— ANSWER —

**Snow Shovel**



# — CLUE ONE —

**I carry a heavy load.**



# — CLUE TWO —

**I have straps but  
I'm not a seatbelt.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**I'm filled with  
supplies, snacks,  
and books.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**Students bring me  
to school every day.**



— ANSWER —

Backpack



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm a surface, but  
not a desk.**



# — CLUE TWO —

**I can be written on  
and wiped clean.**





# — CLUE THREE —

**Teachers use me for  
lessons.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

I hang at the front  
of the classroom.



— ANSWER —

Dry Erase  
Board



# — CLUE ONE —

I'm big and yellow.



# — CLUE TWO —

I make lots of stops.



# — CLUE THREE —

**I carry precious  
cargo.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I take students to  
and from school.**



— ANSWER —

School Bus





# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm portable and  
often colorful.**



# — CLUE TWO —

I keep things fresh.



# — CLUE THREE —

**I sometimes come  
with a matching  
thermos.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**Students open me  
at lunchtime.**



— ANSWER —

Lunchbox



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm modern and  
interactive.**



# — CLUE TWO —

**I combine tech and  
teaching.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**You can touch me  
to make things  
move.**





# — CLUE FOUR —

**I'm the high-tech  
cousin of the  
whiteboard.**



— ANSWER —

Smartboard



# — CLUE ONE —

I come at the end of  
a period.



# — CLUE TWO —

**I communicate  
progress.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**Families like to  
see me.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I show grades for  
each subject.**



— ANSWER —

Report Card



# — CLUE ONE —

**I help you stay  
hydrated.**





# — CLUE TWO —

**I'm refillable but  
sometimes  
disposable.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**I travel everywhere  
with students and  
teachers.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**You sip from me  
during the day.**



— ANSWER —

Water Bottle



# — CLUE ONE —

**I make a mess, but  
only with shavings.**



# — CLUE TWO —

I'm usually loud.



# — CLUE THREE —

I bring pencils back  
to life.



# — CLUE FOUR —

**You use me when  
the point breaks.**





— ANSWER —

Pencil  
Sharpener



# — CLUE ONE —

**I solve problems  
quickly.**



# — CLUE TWO —

**I'm powered by  
batteries or solar.**



# — CLUE THREE —

**Math teachers love  
me.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

I help with  
equations.



— ANSWER —

Calculator



# — CLUE ONE —

**I'm round but not  
a ball.**



# — CLUE TWO —

**I'm full of countries.**





# — CLUE THREE —

**I sit in classrooms.**



# — CLUE FOUR —

**I show the whole  
world.**



— ANSWER —

Globe



# — CLUE ONE —



# — CLUE TWO —



# — CLUE THREE —



# — CLUE FOUR —



— **ANSWER** —





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