

ACTIVITY

MASCOT PASS

A Recognition Activity for Joy & Belonging

Pass your school mascot each week to celebrate staff, share shout-outs, and spread school spirit.

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MASCOT MAGIC IN MOTION



Recognition doesn't have to be complicated to be powerful. Passing your school mascot gives staff a playful, visible way to lift each other up. It creates a chain of appreciation that everyone can see, sparks joy in weekly handoffs, and provides positive stories to share with families and your community.

This simple tradition strengthens connections, boosts morale, and reminds staff that their efforts matter.

QUICK TIPS:

- Print the Mascot Tracker to track who has received the mascot and the reason, so no one is overlooked. [Here's an editable version!](#)
- Pair the mascot with a small token (snack, note, gift card) for extra joy.
- Use Canva to create a branded "Mascot Spotlight" template for social posts to keep the look consistent.

DIRECTIONS

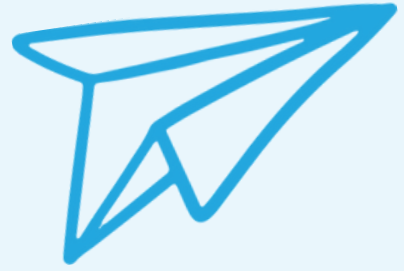
Here are the steps to try out this activity with your team.

- 1. Pick Your Mascot:** Choose or purchase a stuffed version of your school mascot (or another meaningful symbol).
- 2. Launch the Tradition:** Introduce the tradition at a staff meeting, explaining that the mascot will be passed weekly to recognize a colleague.
- 3. Pass with Purpose:** Each week, the recipient shares who they're passing it to and why.
- 4. Capture & Share:** Snap a photo of the handoff and share it on social media or newsletters to highlight your team. Afterward, read the recognition during announcements so students can celebrate their teachers too.
- 5. Keep It Going:** Keep it going all year for an easy, visible culture booster!

ACTIVITY VARIATIONS

- **Monthly Mascot:** Instead of weekly, pass the mascot once a month for a bigger celebration.
- **Team Mascot:** Let grade-level or department teams pass the mascot together.
- **Student Connection:** Occasionally let students nominate staff for mascot recognition.

EMAIL EXAMPLE



Here's an example of an email you can share with your staff.

Hi Team,

I'm excited to share a new tradition we're starting: the Mascot Pass. Each week, our school mascot will be passed from one staff member to another as a way to recognize the great work and support happening all around us.

Here's how it works:

- Each week, the mascot will be given to a staff member who has made a positive impact.
- That person will then choose who to pass it to the following week, along with a short reason why.
- We'll snap a photo of the handoff and share it on our school social media to highlight the amazing things our staff are doing.

This is a simple, fun way to celebrate one another and show our community the spirit and care that makes our school special.

Let's make the Mascot Pass a meaningful chain of appreciation that keeps moving all year long!

Thank you for all you do,
[Principal Name]



SOCIAL MEDIA IDEAS

Here's a sample post you can share each week to celebrate your staff.

Mascot Pass Spotlight

Name: [Staff Member's Name]

Nominated by: [Colleague's Name]

Reason: "[Short quote or explanation about why they were recognized]"

Join us in celebrating [Name] for making our school a better place every day!



NAME IDEAS TO TRY:

Give your tradition a fun, school-spirited name that ties to your mascot. This makes the activity more memorable and builds pride when you share it with staff and families. Here are some ideas:

GENERAL NAMES

- Mascot Spotlight
- Pass the Pride
- Spirit Spotlight
- Staff Shout-Out with [Mascot]
- [Mascot] in Motion
- Mascot of the Week
- Hall of Mascot Fame
- Pride in Action
- Celebrating Our Team

MASCOT-SPECIFIC

- Eagle Excellence Award
- Tiger Tribute
- Bulldog Boost
- Panther Pride Pass
- Husky High-Five
- Lion's Share of Thanks
- Bearcat Bravo
- Cardinal Kudos
- Cougar Celebrate & Share
- Wildcat Wow

MASCOT PASS TRACKER



STAFF NAME	NOMINATED BY	DATE

ACTIVITY PRINTABLES



ACTIVITY EXAMPLES



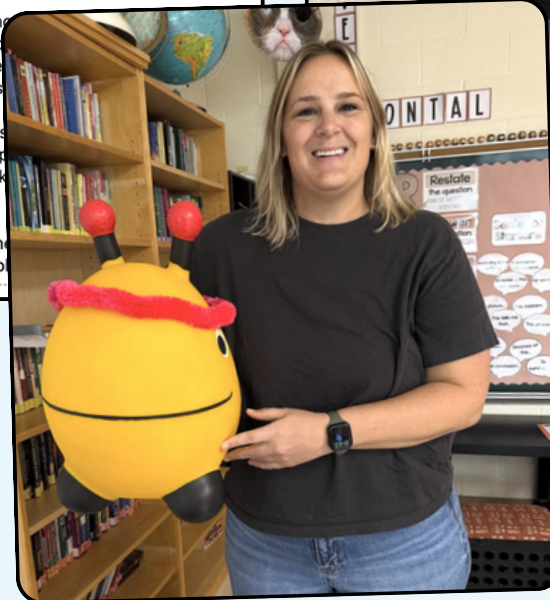
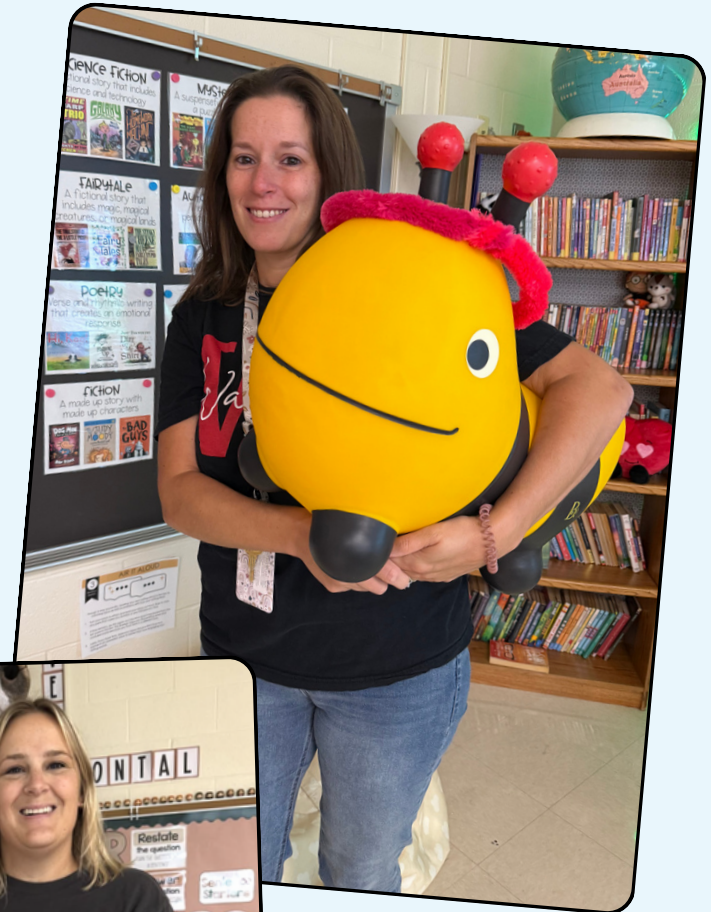
johnbonfieldelementary This week's nominee for Bonnie the Bee was Mrs. Post. We are shining the spotlight on someone who makes a huge difference in our school—our amazing gym teacher, Mrs. Post. Every single day Mrs. Post makes it her mission to learn more about each student who walks into her gym. She takes the time to get to know their strengths, challenges, and interests, so she can help them grow not only as active learners, but as people. Mrs. Post is compassionate, understanding, and dedicated to making sure everyone feels seen, supported, and valued.

She makes gym a place where everyone feels included, encouraged, and challenged to do their best. Whether it's cheering on a student who just learned a new skill, finding creative ways to make activities fun, or simply offering a smile and a kind word, Mrs. Post shows us every day what it means to genuinely care for others.

We also want to give a special shoutout to Mrs. Post because she has welcomed our newest Bee mascot and is doing an outstanding job helping them feel like they belong and excited to be part of something special.

And beyond the gym, Mrs. Post is always there wherever she's needed. She supports our students in the same positivity and teamwork in all of our classes.

Thank you, Mrs. Post, for your endless dedication and the difference you make in our school. We are so lucky to have you!



Thank you to Amy Balsbaugh at Warwick School District for sharing these examples with us.



COLLABORATION

BUILT BY EDUCATORS, FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

This resource was created in collaboration with dedicated educators and school leaders who brought their experience, insight, and heart to every step of the process.

Special thanks to Amy Balsbaugh at Warwick School District, whose creative mascot recognition tradition inspired this idea. Amy models how simple, joyful practices can strengthen staff culture, spotlight everyday wins, and remind us that recognition is most powerful when it's shared peer to peer.



Amy Balsbaugh

Principal at John R. Bonfield
Elementary School

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Thanks for downloading this resource—at [Alpaca](#), we're on a mission to **make school the happiest place to work**.



Tried an activity?

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Got an idea brewing?

We love co-creating with school leaders—[drop us a line](#) with any resource ideas you'd love to see next.



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