

GUIDE

# **Hands On Heritage: A School Celebration of Belonging and Community**

**Celebrate what makes us unique—and what brings us together.**

This guide helps school leaders plan a joyful, inclusive celebration that honors student and family cultures, builds connection, and ends the year with heart.





# Sharing Traditions, Building Community

Culture Connect celebrates what makes each of us unique—and what brings us together. In schools rich with diversity, it's vital that every voice feels heard, every story honored, and every culture celebrated. This event creates a joyful space where students and families can proudly say: This is who I am, and I belong here.

It's more than a celebration—it's a chance to build connection through shared experiences, elevate underrepresented voices, and foster true inclusion. Whether you're spotlighting traditions, languages, foods, or family stories, every moment becomes an opportunity to learn and love more deeply.

Timed near World Day for Cultural Diversity (May 21), Culture Connect is a meaningful way to close the year with intention—and memories that last.

**Plan with care. Center students and families. And capture the magic along the way.**

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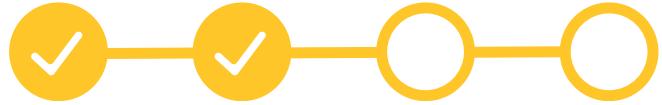


## Who's Involved:

- Students (all grade levels)
- Families and caregivers
- School staff
- Community members
- Anyone who makes up the fabric of your school



# DIRECTIONS



## Preparation

Choose your event date (recommended: during the last two weeks of the school year).

## How to Run the Event

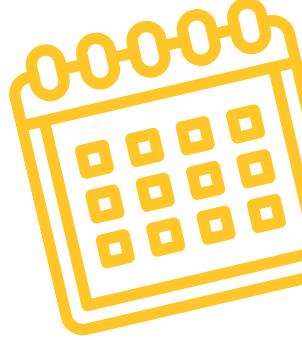
Follow the suggested planning timeline.

**Recommended Timeframe:** Plan for 10–12 weeks to organize, coordinate, and host the event. Choose your event date (recommended: during the last two weeks of the school year).

## How to Celebrate

- Print and sign thank-you cards for participants.
- Share highlights on school social media.
- Send photos to district leaders and communications teams.

# SUGGESTED TIMELINE



A step-by-step guide to bring your cultural celebration to life. Keep in mind these dates are only suggested and can be flexible to your school's needs.

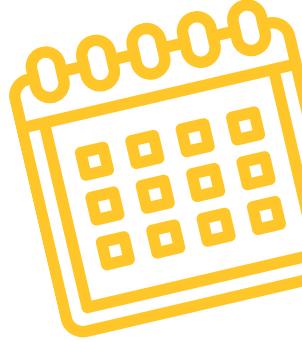
## 10–12 Weeks Before: Build the Vision & Team

- Meet with key staff and admin to align on goals and set the date (consider around May 21 for World Day for Cultural Diversity).
- Form a small planning team (teachers, parents, staff, and student reps if possible).
- Choose your event location: gym, cafeteria, outdoor space, or hallways.

## 8-10 Weeks Before: Draft the Details & Invite Participation

- Decide on the structure: cultural booths, performances, art displays, food tastings, student showcases, etc.
- Consider accessibility and language support.
- Share the Presentation Application with students, staff, and families.
- Promote the event: flyers, announcements, and save-the-dates in multiple languages.
- Post on the school website, newsletters, and social media.

## 6 Weeks Before: Plan Logistics & Support Contributors



- Reserve tables, display boards, microphones or speakers, and confirm setup with custodial/facilities teams.
- Begin collecting decorations (flags, banners, globe signs, etc.).
- Confirm participants and what they plan to share or present.
- Create a rough map of booths, displays, and performances.
- Offer support—especially to families new to this kind of event.

## 4 Weeks Before: Finalize Performances & Support Engagement

- Confirm performances (music, dance, poetry, etc.).
- Draft a simple emcee script or event schedule.
- Optional: Host a family night to help create posters or displays.

## 3 Weeks Before: Confirm & Communicate

- Send reminders to participants.
- Share food safety guidelines if needed.
- Assign someone to take photos and collect quotes.
- Optional: Create a "Why Culture Connect Matters" board with student and family reflections.

## 1–2 Weeks Before: Add Final Touches

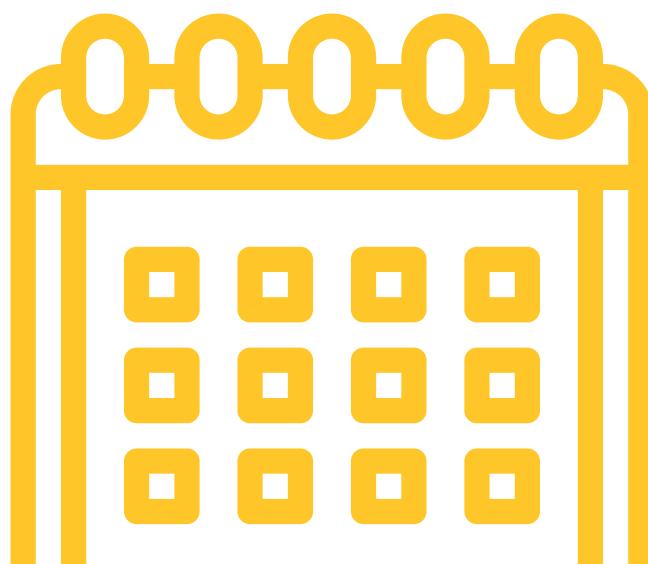
- Print signage, maps, name tags, and any event info sheets.
- Decorate hallways or entrances to build excitement.
- Confirm volunteers for setup, greeters, and cleanup.

## Day of the Event: Celebrate Together

- Welcome guests warmly with music, signs, and student greeters.
- Keep the atmosphere joyful and inclusive.
- Make space for conversation, curiosity, and connection.

## After the Event: Reflect & Share

- Post photos and highlights in a school newsletter or on a bulletin board.
- Thank families, students, and staff who contributed.
- Collect feedback to grow next year's Culture Connect even bigger and better.



# Suggested Supplies

Supplies to Bring Culture Connect to Life

- Poster board
- Tri-folds
- Poster markers
- Copy machine
- Sound System or speakers
- Tape, scissors, etc.
- Table cloths
- Paper plates, cups,  
plasticware, napkins



# **FAMILY PARTICIPATION FORM**



# Hands On Heritage: A Celebration of Us

## Family Participation Form

We're excited to invite you to be part of our end-of-year Culture Connect celebration! This special event highlights the rich diversity of our school through food, music, art, stories, and traditions from around the world. Whether you'd like to host a table, share a performance, or help behind the scenes—we'd love your involvement. **Please fill out this short form to let us know how you'd like to participate!**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student(s) Name & Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Culture or Country You'd Like to Share:**

How would you like to participate? (You can check more than one!)

- Host a culture table (share items, photos, artifacts, or activities)
- Bring food samples (homemade or store-bought)
- Share a performance (music, dance, poetry, etc.)
- Lead a craft or activity for kids

### **Best Way to Contact You:**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Anything else you'd like us to know?**

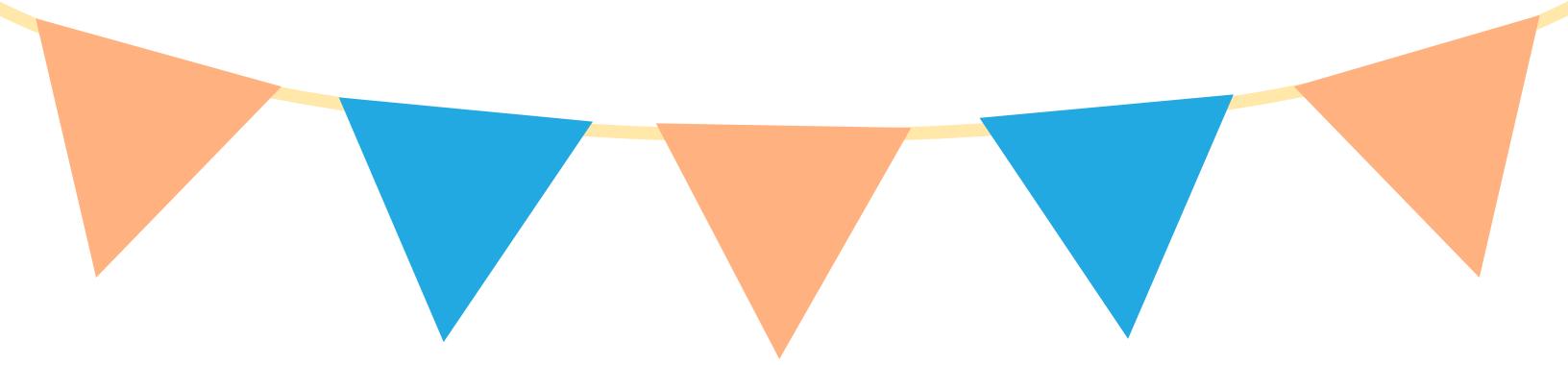
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**We can't wait to celebrate with you!** Please return this form by:

**Questions? Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

# CULTURE CONNECT PRINTABLES

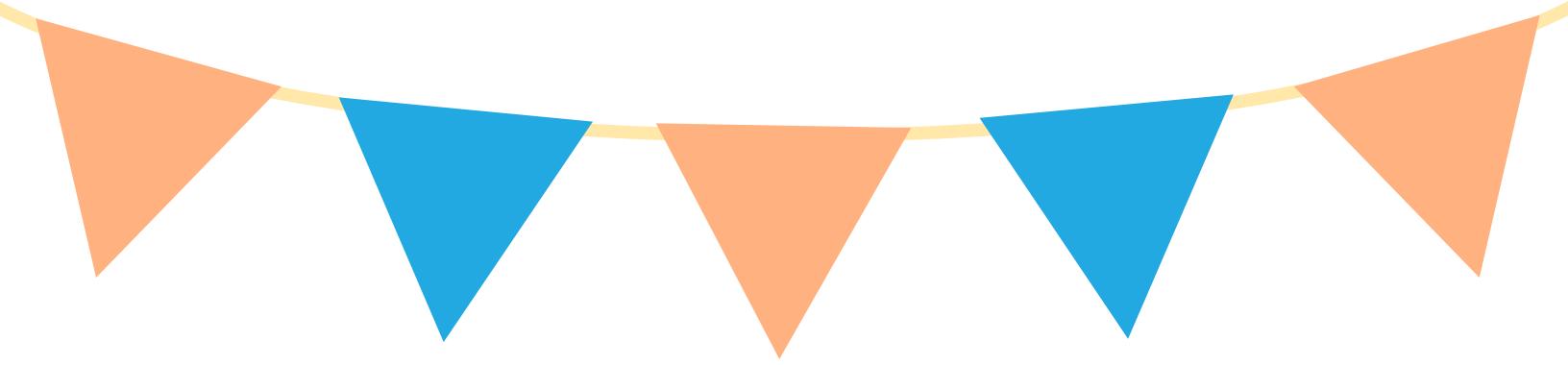




# **SOUNDS OF CULTURE**

**Listen, move, and celebrate through  
global rhythms.**

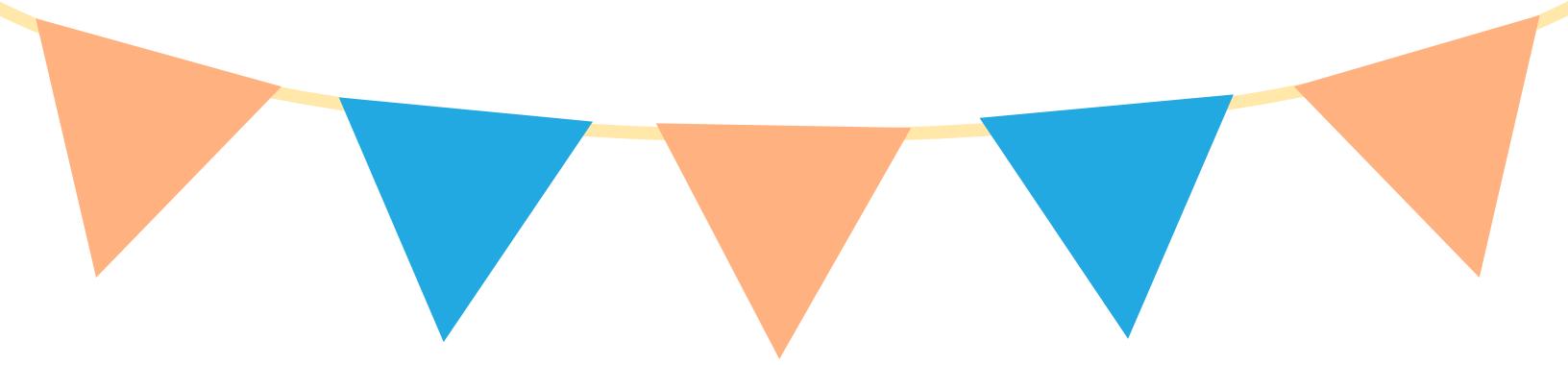




# ART FROM THE HEART

Explore traditional crafts and creative  
works from around the world.

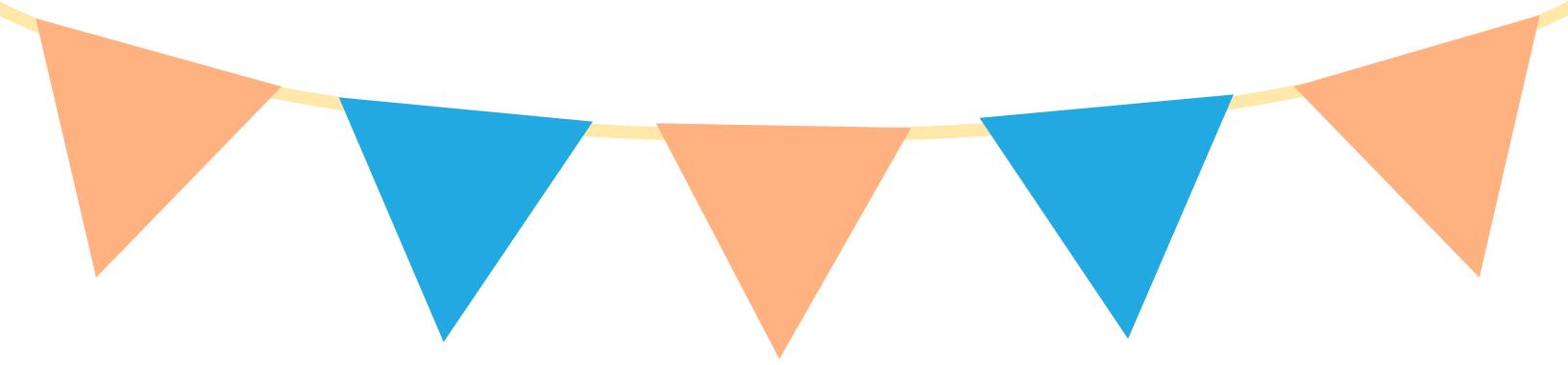




# HISTORY & HERITAGE

Celebrate the histories that shape who we  
are today.

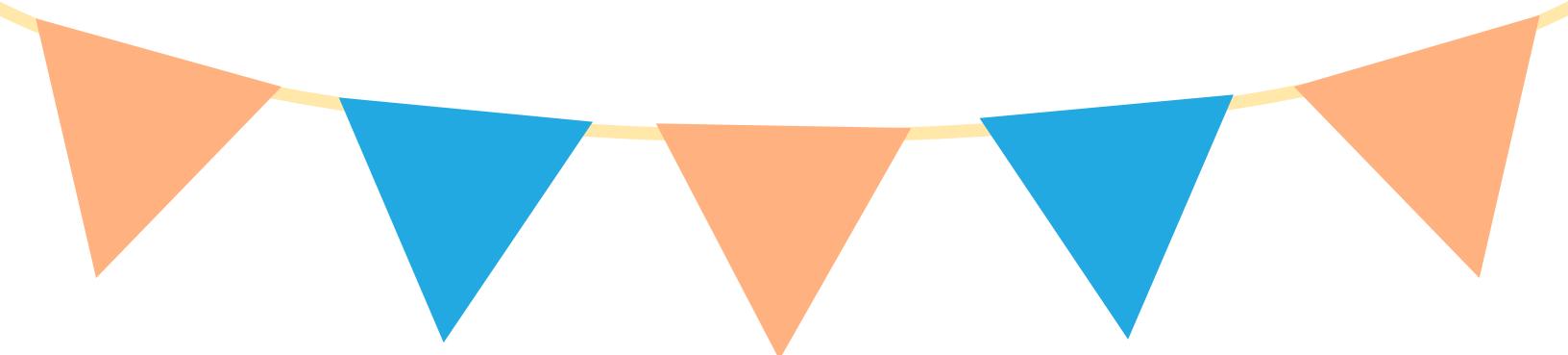




# CREATE & CELEBRATE

**Explore hands-on activities inspired by  
global traditions.**

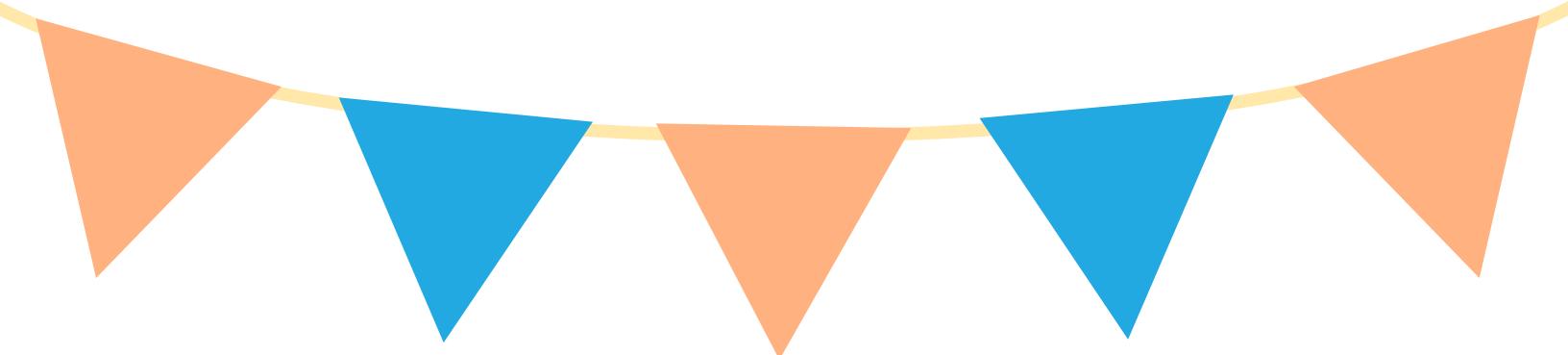




# **TASTES OF THE WORLD**

**Taste the flavors that represent our school  
community!**





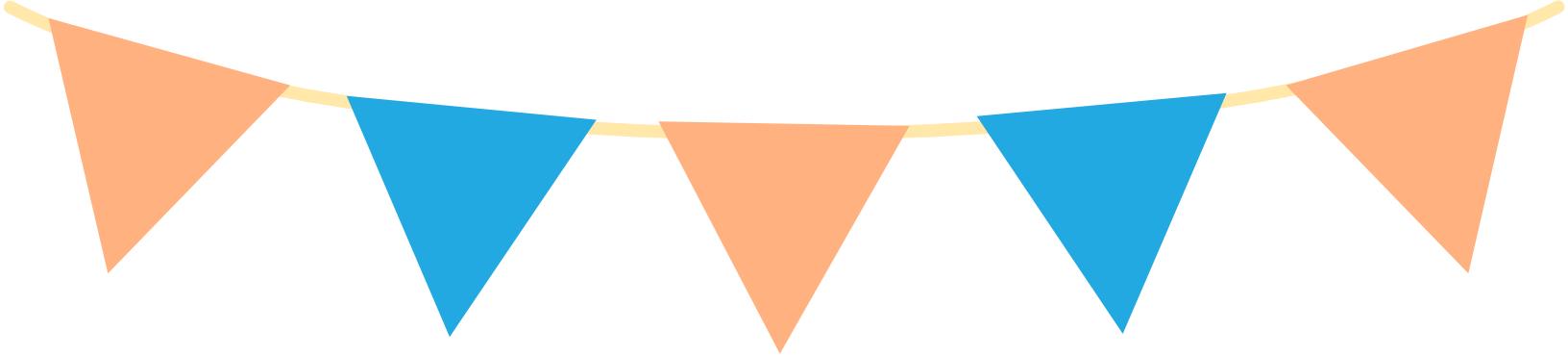
# WORDS WORDS

**Enjoy different cultures!**



# MARKETING TEMPLATES





# **Hands On Heritage: A Celebration of Us**

**A chance to listen, learn, and celebrate  
what makes each of us unique and what  
brings us together.**



# THANK YOU CARDS



# THANK YOU



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# THANK YOU



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# THANK YOU



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# THANK YOU



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# TABLE TENTS

**Print, fold, and create a table tent to  
pair with the signs!**



# THE TASTES OF WORLD

**Family name:**

**Dish:**

E

**Culture:**

# CELEBRATE CREATE AND

**Family name:**

**Dish:**

E

**Culture:**

# HERITAGE HISTORY

**Family name:**

**Dish:**

E

**Culture:**

# ART FROM THE HEART

**Family name:**

**Dish:**

E

**Culture:**

# CULTURE SOUNDS OF

**Family name:**

**Dish:**

E

**Culture:**

## COLLABORATION

# BUILT BY EDUCATORS, FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

This resource was created in collaboration with dedicated educators and school leaders who brought their experience, ideas, and insight to every step of the process. We're grateful for their partnership in building tools that truly make a difference in schools.



**Kim Roepke**

Kindergarten Teacher  
Omaha, NE



**Janon Tufte**

Gifted & Talented Teacher  
Omaha, NE

# 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?

Send a photo or a staff testimonial to our team, and we'll send you a coffee on us!



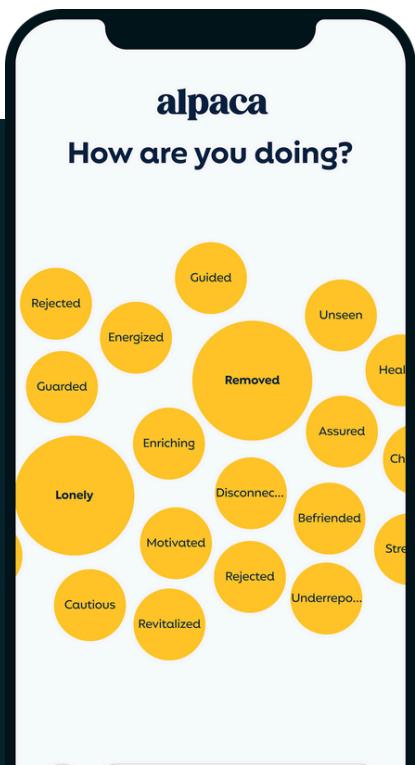
## Got an idea brewing?

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



## Explore more!

Check out our full resource library for creative, ready-to-use tools to support you and your team.



## SEE HOW ALPACA WORKS

Beautiful surveys, delightful care packages, and real insights on teacher wellbeing—everything you need to lead with confidence, all in one simple solution. Book a quick demo!