

Ways to Celebrate Pride

SOGI 1 2 3 partners believe that all schools should be inclusive places where students feel safe, accepted, respected, and welcome. Pride festivals, parades, and events are celebrations of the progress the 2SLGBTQ+ community has made, but also a time to recognize how far we still have to go to achieve true equality and inclusion. Pride month is in June and commemorates the Stonewall Riots that occurred in June 1969. The catalyst for early Pride celebrations was the need for equal rights to be extended to all 2SLGBTQ+ people. This call for a world without discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is the reason we continue to celebrate Pride today.

Here are some activities and resources that will support your ongoing conversations about the significance of Pride and SOGI-inclusive education in your school community.

Host a Flag Raising Ceremony

Hold a flag-raising ceremony to show the significance of the rainbow flag and share what the values of diversity and inclusion mean for your school!

Things to consider:

- The ceremony could be combined with other outdoor activities over a noon hour, which could lead to greater participation and attendance.
 - Examples:
 - Host a rainbow bake sale with your food studies department and/or student clubs.
 - Sell rainbow snow cones or slurpees.
 - Create a human rainbow with students in 6 different coloured t-shirts to represent the pride flag.
 - Bring in a guest speaker from the local 2SLGBTQ+ community to talk about the importance of pride.
 - Take pictures of the events and post around the school (monitors, newsletter, bulletin board, etc.) to have the visual reminder & build more capacity for future events. Consider documenting this in the school yearbook.
- Consider a communication plan to invite community members and 2SLGBTQ+ organizations to the flag raising and other activities.
- Sample itinerary:
 - Welcome Message - School Administration & GSA Leader(s)
 - Territorial Acknowledgement
 - Importance of Pride and Why it is in June
 - Year of Note: 50 years since Stonewall Riots (1969/2019)
 - Flag Raising (Educate about what each of the 6 colours mean)

Pride Parade or Walk

Host your own pride parade with a walk around your school!

Examples:

- Hand out construction paper in pride colours - carry their flag during the walk. Talk about each of the colours and how each colour has a specific meaning.
- Create a human pride flag by assigning students a colour shirt to wear that is part of the pride flag.
- Invite youth and community groups to have a resource table as part of your pride celebration.



Rainbow Foods

Get your bake on with these creative ideas to celebrate pride in your school!

Examples:

- Host a rainbow pancake event with school staff, parents, and community members.
- Have a multicoloured bake sale (i.e., Rainbow cookies, squares, donuts, and cakes). Consider partnering with a local bakery or specialty donut store.

Proceeds could go to purchase of SOGI-inclusive library books for your school library or feeder schools. Have students write messages of support inside each of the donated books.

Identify Inclusive Spaces

Have students identify inclusive spaces in their school and community!

Examples:

- Locate and create signage for gender-inclusive washrooms in your school.
- Have students speak to local businesses and deliver a sticker / small business card size graphic that notes this business is an inclusive safe space (Spaces could include, local cafe, convenience store, etc.).
- Ask staff to identify their classroom as a safe space with posters and stickers.



Ally Activity

Help students talk about and celebrate what it means to be an ally who stands up and supports the rights and well-being of others!

Examples:

- Create a large “ALLY” visual in rainbow colours and invite students and staff to add comments on, “What does it mean to be ally?”
- Create a rainbow wings mural and invite students to take pictures and/or write statements around the wings about “Why I am an ally”.

Rainbow Art

Make your school come alive with the colours of pride!

Examples:

- Use multi-coloured chalk to make your own rainbow in front of your school.
- Have your GSA and/or staff write positive affirmations on your school sidewalks. Statements like “You belong,” “You matter,” and “Everyone deserves to be happy” can be powerful messages of inclusion.
- Work with your art department and have students design or paint a rainbow or pride-inspired mural.
- Hold a classroom door or bulletin board decorating contest and give out a prize for the best pride-inspired design.



Rainbow Read-In

Work with your school or public library to create a pride-themed display of SOGI-inclusive books and resources!

Examples:

- Consider hosting a “read in” by inviting local LGBTQ2S+ community leaders to read picture books (or other materials) to your classes. For example, many public libraries have host successful “Drag Queen Storytime” events.
- Host a rainbow bingo event or jeopardy contest filled with pride related trivia.

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Learn more at SOGIeducation.org

