

Special Persons Recognition Day

Principal Mark Heagle and the teachers of Walker Station Elementary School in Grand Rapids, Michigan, hold a **Special Persons Recognition Day** each year that has become very popular in their community. Invitations are extended by the students to people who are special in their lives—parents, neighbors, grandparents, friends. These guests come to school for a couple of hours on Recognition Day. The ceremony begins with a gathering in the gym where refreshments are served. Then, the guests visit the classroom of their host children where the children and teachers have planned activities that are enjoyed together. Some of the activities included:

- A map quest where the children and guests used state maps to follow directions to mysterious destinations.
- A recycling activity where children and guests created animals made of recycled boxes, cans, bottles, etc.
- Activities where children interviewed their guests and recorded the history on paper.
- Pictures of the children and their guests taken in the gym.
- An Alphabet Fair where students were assigned a letter of the alphabet. Each student was responsible for bringing 25 of the same item to represent that letter. Students were given paper bags and a list of the items. They paraded around a large display of the items that were placed in plastic bins. Each child and guest got to collect one of each of the items. (See the picture below of samples.)



A sample of kindergarten teacher Jody Ringnalda's
Alphabet Fair for Kindergarten
P = pretzels, F = flags, X = X-Rays, H = hearts (stickers).