



Kites in the Classroom

If you want to inject some friendly competitiveness into your Kite Day, hold a kite contest. Done with humour and inclusion, a kite contest can be both fun and motivating. It works better if you have a category for every student, or bronze, silver and gold awards in each category so everyone is noted for something. Here are some pointers and a few rule ideas to make your contest go smoothly:

Every kite contest requires judges. Use two or three judges. Ask another teacher, a principal, or a parent. Arrange for prizes or ribbons and organize a display the winning kites in the class or in the school. Have the in-house newspaper interview fliers. Ask the media to your kite day. Everybody likes taking pictures of kites in flight!

The Neatest	Judge for clean surfaces, symmetry, neat knots, accurate bridle holes, a neatly wound kite line, and a neatly rolled up kite at the end of the event.
The Most Beautiful	Judge while holding the kite and while in flight. What is beautiful is very subjective, but we have found that there is often a single kite that really stands out to the whole group.
The Most Unique	Now and then we see kite designs and drawings that show out-of-the-box thinking. It's always good to note unconventional creativity.
The Most Efficient Flier	Efficiency in flight is directly related to how well the kite is assembled and how carefully the student raises the kite in the field. A carefully launched kite in a normal wind will rise almost straight above the kiter. Some side-by-side lift off contests will be a challenge for some.



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Charlie Brown Award	Charlie Brown Award Kites love to rest in trees. No, trees love kites, especially in the spring. Feeding trees is a noble endeavour!
The Steadiest Flier	Which kite seems to be anchored to the rock of Gibraltar up there? A kite that won't stay up unless the kiter is running is not a kite because it is not powered by the wind.
Altitude Sprint	Give flyers a set amount of time (say 30s to 2 min) to launch their kite and let out line. When the time is up judges decide which kite is flying the highest.
Bird Nest Award	No kite fest is possible without someone tangling the kite line into a knot. Most knots can be removed, but there are some real experts in producing unwanted knots.
Best New Rules Award	How do your students want to be judged? Reach agreement on the rules and implement their wishes. Honor the student who formulated the most fair rules.
Total Kiting Award	Initiate a contest that judges the whole process of kiting: (1) Proper choice on the field, (2) time required to fully launch the kite, (3) the kite must stay up and remain steady for at least five minutes, perhaps three (4) order the retrieval of the kite and measure the time taken to wind up the line (5) judge how well the line is wound up again - no loose ends, no knots in the line (6) contestants gather at a given place with their kites wound up neatly.