



CHALLENGE



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A Herff Jones IMPACT Resource for Students

Fun with Olympic-Style Activities

The world's attention will be focused on Vancouver next month as the Winter Olympics get underway. A great way to build on the excitement of the Olympic games is to incorporate them into your winter spirit week or Snowcoming activities. Consider some of the following Olympic-themed events as you make your plans.

■ **Olympic rings mixer.** Find or create a large picture of the Olympic rings, then draw a pattern on it to create a jigsaw puzzle with many pieces. Duplicate the picture as many times as needed for the number of students in your school. Glue each picture onto a different colored sheet of construction paper, then cut the pictures into pieces and distribute one piece to every student in the school. Offer a prize to the first five groups to piece all the pieces together into a complete image.

■ **Parade of athletes.** During a pep rally to recognize athletes from the winter sports teams, have the athletes parade in uniform through the gym doors and around the gym floor while the Olympic fanfare music is

playing. Have each team carry a banner or flag that represents their team and has all the players signatures on it.

■ **Clubs on parade.** Similar to the above idea, but for this one you recognize the clubs on campus instead of teams. Have each club create a flag to represent it and have club members parade into the pep rally while an emcee reads a bit about the club and its activities. After the rally, hang the club flags in the school lobby or cafeteria.

■ **Olympic torch maze.** Have a relay race through a maze with participants carrying a paper torch made to look like the Olympic torch that they pass from one person to the next.

■ **Mascot madness.** Make copies of the Winter Olympics mascot and hide some around school. Offer prizes to those who find the hidden mascots.

■ **Olympic rings.** Use hula

hoops in your school colors to do a version of the Olympic rings to hang on campus.

■ **Curriculum infusion.** Invite the different curricular areas in the school to get in on the fun with assignments that relate to the Olympics.

■ **Warm fuzzy drive.** Collect warm clothing items—hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, sweaters, and coats—during the Olympics and donate them to a shelter in your community.

■ **Skate night.** Sponsor a skate night at a local ice skating rink as a social event during the Olympics.

■ **Movie night.** Sponsor a showing of *Cool Runnings*, the story of the Jamaican bobsled team, *Miracle*, the story of the 1980 U.S. Olympic men's ice hockey victory over the heavily favored team from the U.S.S.R., or some other Olympic-themed movie as a social event.

■ **Three-legged broom hockey.** Organize an after-school



intramural tournament where teams of 10 play hockey with brooms and a Nerf soccer ball. Have team members pair up and tie their ankles together—one person's left ankle tied to their partner's right ankle. Watching them maneuver and try to score is sure to be very entertaining!

■ **Class competitions.** Create some fun class competition activities by adapting Olympic events into something that can be done at a pep rally or noon-time event. Create gold, silver, and bronze medals (spray paint CDs and put a ribbon through the middle, or buy inexpensive ones from a carnival supply store) to award to participants. Keep track of the medal count for each class on a giant poster in the cafeteria. Ideas include:

- Figure skating—students wear pillow cases on their feet and choreograph a routine that includes at least one spin and one jump to a song that lasts two minutes. Costumes optional. Have judges rate the routines to determine a winner.
- Curling—use tape to designate a lane on the gym floor and use bean bags and brooms to simulate curling.

- Speed skating—have students wear socks or paper skates to race around a designated course on the gym floor.
 - Ice hockey—use field hockey sticks or brooms with a bean bag “puck” and have players wear socks or paper skates.
 - Skeleton—set out a course with red safety cones; players navigate through the course laying on their stomach on a scooter borrowed from the PE department or two skateboards.
 - Bobsleigh—have teams of four students sit on the gym floor facing in the same direction, in a single file line. Students hook their legs around the person in front of them to create their “bobsleigh,” then scoot on their bottoms to navigate a designated course.
 - Luge—one student sits on a snow saucer while another student pulls the saucer through a designated course.
 - Cross country skiing—students stand on the long dust mops custodians use and navigate a course laid out on the gym floor.
- **Olympic ring toss.** Create a ring-toss game using rings in the Olympic colors. Have students compete at lunch to

see who can toss the most rings onto a peg five feet away in a minute.

■ **Snowman race**—For a pep rally event, have a member of each class wrap a classmate in a roll or two of toilet paper, then that person has to race to the other end of the gym and back.

■ **Concession sales.** Sell snow cones and popcorn balls as an after-school fundraiser.

■ **Academic pep rally.** Have the senior valedictorian candidates each run a lap around the gym with a torch to light a “lamp of knowledge” at an academic pep rally. Recognize outstanding students from each academic department. Create an oath similar to the Olympic oath that students can use to pledge to be better students.

■ **Wacky Olympics.** Conduct a wacky Olympics event with games that are fun and silly. This can be done as an all-school event with homerooms competing against each other, similar to a field day. Set up stations in the gym and around school for students to compete in events that challenge different types of skills—or no skills at all—so that all students can participate.