

School Heritage Fair, Nattilik Heritage Centre style:

This is a local adaptation of the Canada wide Heritage Fair programme, focusing specifically on the significance of material heritage and on involving families and community in the work.

More resources are available at <http://www.nunavuthistorica.com/>

Grades: All students in the community, elementary and high school.

Objectives:

- Engage students in searching out, exploring and sharing heritage objects that have importance to them and their families.
- Engage elders in the community in guiding students and sharing important cultural heritage.
- Engage community and school in exploring, sharing and celebrating shared heritage.

Resources provided:

- Object registration forms
- Heritage fair “books” from previous fairs for inspiration

PREPARATION:

- Students are invited to bring an old object from home for the day of the heritage fair.
- The community is invited to visit in afternoon of heritage fair day to see the displays.

Equipment needed:

- Access to comfortable space where fair can be held (e.g. gym)
- Tables to display objects on
- Registration forms and pencils
- Pieces of paper to write names on for photographs
- Place to photograph objects
- Prizes for students

PROGRAMME, DAY OF HERIAGE FAIR:

Morning:

- students bring an old object from home to school for the display
- we photograph the student and the object at school (I will bring cameras but will need helpers)
- students/ their relatives fill out object registration form with information about the object

Afternoon:

- We display all the objects on tables in the afternoon
- parents and community members are welcome to come look at everything and talk to the students about what they are presenting

- Prizes to some of the students who brought objects to the fair
- Students take objects home at the end of the afternoon.
- School and heritage keeps forms with information and make “book”

AFTER THE HERITAGE FAIR:

- The object forms are completed with the photos that were taken during the fair.
- The object forms are copied/ printed and placed in binders to make a “book”
- The book is presented to the school and a copy is kept in both the Nattilik Heritage Centre and at the school.

In this way we are building an archive of all the wonderful heritage objects that are kept and looked after by families in the community. This way of sharing lets the community see and share some of the richness of what they are looking after. At the same time, the objects stay with their owners, to be cared for and passed on to the next generation.