

Book-Themed Parties Report

Your party theme: Harry Potter

Your name: Rachel Carnes

Date of the event: August 14, 2007

Short summary of the event:

As the children came in they received buttons with the various house crests on them. They moved around between “Hogwarts classes” and “Hogsmeade shops” which had a variety of activities. Meanwhile, there were trivia questions and a costume contest for kids who got done early or were restless. At the end of the hour they got their snacks and settled down to watch Prisoner of Azkaban.

How much time and how many staff were needed to:

	# hours	# staff
Plan & prepare activities	10	1
Set up	1	2
During the event (not including movie)	1	5
Clean up	1	2

What were your favorite aspects?

I enjoyed dressing up in my Tonks costume—it was nice to have another chance to use it after the Book 7 release earlier in the summer. But the best thing was seeing all the kids so excited about celebrating Harry Potter.

What would you do differently if you did this party again?

I would narrow down my ideas a little sooner, and spend less time total with more time to prepare. On the whole, though, everything went very well and cost little money.

Details and instructions for specific activities, crafts, etc.: (Attach copies of activity pages, handouts, etc.)

Hogwarts Classes:

Astronomy—connect the dot coloring sheets of constellations that members of the Black family were named for

Care of Magical Creatures—this was just for decoration; all our stuffed animals and puppets that had vaguely wizardly connotations were arranged on one of the tables

Defense Against the Dark Arts—“dark spell spotter” word search with definitions of spells

Divination—various fortunes written on slips of paper to draw out of a fish bowl
Transfiguration—“magic sponge” animals in capsules which dissolve in water

Hogsmeade Shops:

Dervish & Banges—magical equipment store at which we made “Weasley clocks”

Gladrags—wizarding clothing store where the kids decorated black construction paper wizard hats with paint pens and stickers

Honeydukes—candy shop with licorice wands (Twizzlers) and Bertie Botts jelly beans to sample

Scrivenshafts—quill shop; this was set up at the entrance and had “quills” (feathers glued to pencils) for the children to use on their activity sheets; it also featured a “traveling book display from Flourish & Blotts”

The Three Broomsticks—wizarding pub at which we had treacle tarts (ordered through Brits in Lawrence) and pumpkin juice (orange drink) to snack on during the movie

Trivia Questions: I was set up in the middle of the room with a list of trivia questions, and kids could drift in and out, winning a lemon drop (Dumbledore’s favorite candy) for each question they answered correctly

Costume Contest: we observed costumes throughout the party, then at the end had every kid who had dressed up come to the front, and we passed out prizes for most creative, best resembling a character, best acting like a character, etc.; we had some sort of prize for every kid in costume

Useful resources (websites, books, etc.):

www.potterparties.com—a useful site with many recipes and decoration and activity ideas

www.hp-lexicon.org—an encyclopedic website of all things Potter: useful for coming up with trivia questions

<http://www.parade.com/features/harry-potter-quiz/>—Parade Magazine’s Harry Potter quiz which I used as a source of trivia questions

And, of course, the Harry Potter books themselves!