Ten things schools can do to create great family-school partnerships

1. Host a “Welcoming School Walk-Through” with teachers, school leaders, parents, and community members to help school staff see their school the way parents and visitors see it.

2. Give families tools to support their children’s learning.

3. Create a comfortable family resource room inside the school building where families can meet, get to know each other, and discuss their interests and concerns.

4. Design two “family engagement” activities each term to help families participate more effectively in improving their children’s learning.

5. Exhibit student work in school and throughout the community to share student learning with families.

6. Reach out to all families, especially those who are typically underrepresented (through social, economic and/or language barriers) to learn what they have to offer the school.

7. Using surveys, visits, and conversations, find out what parents’ goals are for their children.

8. Organise tours of the community for school staff to get to know families and neighbourhoods better.

9. Develop monthly family contact logs for teachers with families’ telephone numbers, so teachers can be in touch with parents at least once a month.

10. Hold literacy sessions for parents and teachers to support student learning outcomes.