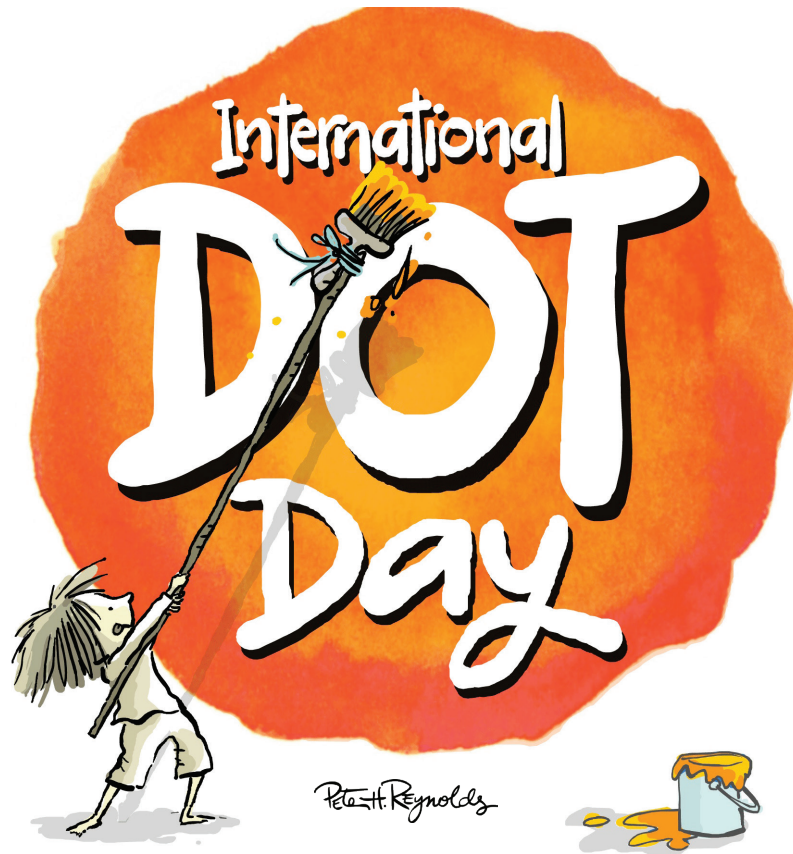


Peter H. Reynolds Presents  
THE EDUCATOR'S HANDBOOK FOR



SIGN UP FOR THIS YEAR'S DOT DAY AT:

[www.InternationalDotDay.org](http://www.InternationalDotDay.org)

**reynoldscenterTLC**  
for teaching, learning and creativity





# PETER H. REYNOLDS & THE REYNOLDS CENTER FOR TEACHING, LEARNING, & CREATIVITY PRESENT:

## THE EDUCATOR'S HANDBOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY

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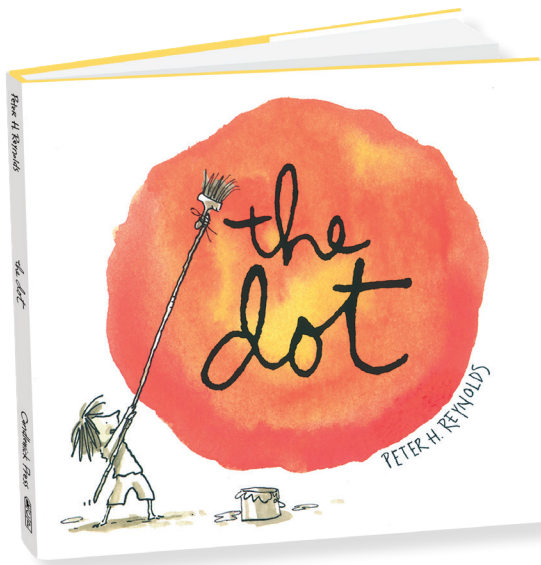
# PETER H. REYNOLDS, AUTHOR OF THE DOT, ON HOW TO CELEBRATE DOT DAY

## FRIENDS,

Welcome to our Educator's Guide for **International Dot Day**! It's my hope this guide will serve as a jumping off point for your adventures on **Dot Day** this year.

Keep in mind that the only real guideline for **Dot Day** is that folks read *The Dot* and then express themselves in any way they are inspired to, whether that means creating a dot — building a dot gallery — collaborating on a dot gallery with teachers/parents — animating a dot — writing a story about being brave and making your mark — going on a dot photo safari to find dot shapes in our world — writing a dot song — doing a dot-inspired dance — putting on a live performance of *The Dot*, or more! How you celebrate **Dot Day** is up to you — and your friends.

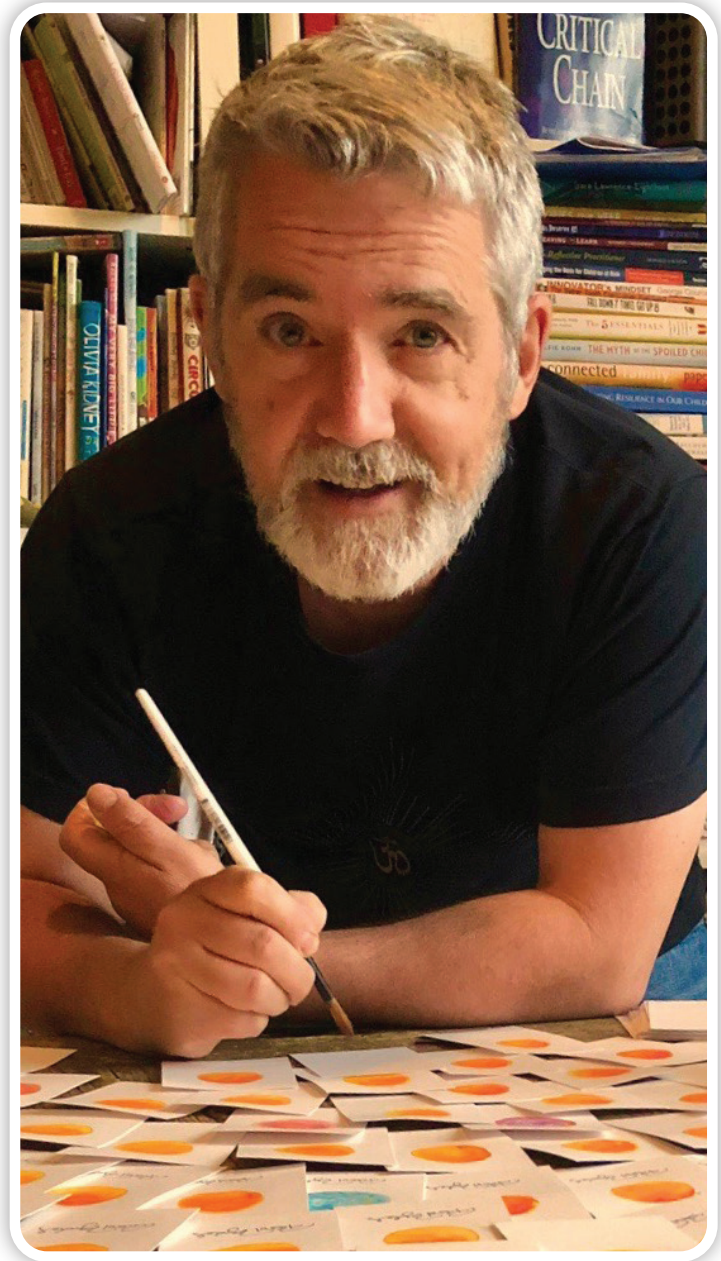
Just make a mark. . . and see where it takes you!



Peter H. Reynolds  
Author and Illustrator of *The Dot*  
Founder, FableVision, The Reynolds Center  
TLC

**P.S.** For helpful resources and links, and to connect up with like-minded educators on Facebook, visit the official **International Dot Day** website here:  
[www.InternationalDotDay.org](http://www.InternationalDotDay.org)

**P.P.S.** Let us know how you plan to celebrate! Be sure to sign up here:  
[www.InternationalDotDay.org](http://www.InternationalDotDay.org)



## The Educator's Handbook for International Dot Day

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# AN INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY

September 15th marks the anniversary of the publication of best-selling author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds' *The Dot*, a "story book for all ages."

Starting in 2009, a group of educators began celebrating this date as **International Dot Day** — a day for classes to explore the story's powerful themes: bravery, creativity, and self-expression.

"*The Dot* more than anything celebrates the power of creative teaching," Peter explains. "Despite the test-centric world we live in, creative teachers know how to find those aha moments — much the same way that my 7th grade math teacher Mr. Matson 'connected The Dots' between math and art, which changed my life." To honor that moment, Peter dedicated *The Dot* to Mr. Matson.

*The Dot* tells the story of a caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student in a remarkably creative way. In Peter's book, the teacher dares a very resistant Vashti to "make her mark." Vashti's breakthrough begins with a simple dot on a piece of paper. Encouraged by her teacher she sets off on a journey of self-discovery, letting her creativity bloom and, ultimately, inspire others.

Teacher Terry Shay believed so fully in the power of *The Dot* that he "made his mark" by declaring September 15th **International Dot Day**. He encouraged fellow teachers to read the book and then create their own dots. **Dot Day** caught on quickly. Since the first **Dot Day** in 2009, the numbers of participating educators and students around the globe have skyrocketed. More and more schools are joining in the fun every year.

One simply has to search **#DotDay** on Twitter to witness the enthusiasm of teachers gearing up for this year's **Dot Day**. Posts and links adorn the wall of the **International Dot Day** Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/InternationalDotDay](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalDotDay)).

How does Peter recommend celebrating? "Spread the word... On **International Dot Day**, read *The Dot*, wear dots, eat dots, draw dots, frame dots, connect The Dots, splurge on art supplies, try a new medium — a new instrument, write a poem, rearrange your furniture, reconnect The Dots with an old friend, make something, or make something with a friend. Share your creativity with the world."

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The First Dot Day Logo

MAKE YOUR MARK...



SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th-ish</sup>



# FIRST: SHARE THE STORY OF THE DOT! SOME POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO YOUR DOT DAY TOOLKIT...

## the dot

By Peter H. Reynolds

Beloved in classrooms around the world, *The Dot* tells the story of Vashti, a girl who begins a journey of self-discovery after she is challenged by her teacher to “make her mark.”

*The Dot* book has been translated into over 25 languages, including Braille. Among other awards, *The Dot* was honored with the *Irma S. and James H. Black Honor for Excellence in Children’s Literature Award* and the *Christopher Award*.

*The Dot* is part of the Creatrilogy which includes *Ish* and *Sky Color*, all with a 4Cs messages for teachers.

To purchase *The Dot* and other works by Peter H. Reynolds, visit his website:  
[www.TheDotCentral.com](http://www.TheDotCentral.com)



Students at Aldine ISD celebrate Dot Day 2018



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# BEFORE & AFTER DISCUSSIONS

## BEFORE READING/WATCHING: DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before reading or watching *The Dot*, have a discussion with your students. Here are some possible topics:

1. Ask students how they feel when they are starting something new.
2. Have students share how they feel when they're doing something that feels difficult. Encourage students to share a story about when they had a hard time learning something new.
3. Talk with students about whether there's something they really don't enjoy doing or don't think they're good at. Have students explain how they feel when they have to do that thing. Brainstorm ways that students can work through their challenges.
4. Ask how many students like to draw. Tell students *The Dot* is a story about a girl who doesn't think she is good at drawing, and then has a surprising discovery. Ask them to think about the similarities between themselves and Vashti while they listen to the story.

## AFTER READING/WATCHING: DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Ask students if they understand how Vashti felt at the beginning of the story. Ask if they have any ideas why she would not draw at first.
2. Have students explore reasons why Vashti's teacher might have framed her first dot painting and put it on the wall. How did it make Vashti feel when she saw her artwork there?
3. Ask students to tell the class about a specific person who has given them encouragement in their lives. Younger students and second language learners may need a definition of the word "encouragement." How did it feel to have that person supporting them?
4. Have students share a story about a time when they helped someone else get better at something. Or, ask them to think about how they might help someone they know develop a new skill.





# ACTIVITY 1: MAKE YOUR MARK AND FRAME IT

## Summary:

Students follow in Vashti's footsteps, creating their own dots. When finished, they frame their work, sign it, and proudly display it!

## Learning Objectives:

- Students learn to explore their creativity and express themselves.
- Students who are self-conscious about their artwork have a chance to make their mark without worrying about "getting it right."
- Students develop a sense of pride in their abilities and enjoy a feeling of ownership over their creations.

## What You'll Need:

Art materials of your choice. You can use paper, construction paper, pencils, paints, magazine clippings, glitter, photographs, and more — the sky's the limit!

## Instructions:

1. To get your class started, ask your students to draw their own dots. If you have students who are intimidated by a blank page, you can hand them the reproducible "Make Your Mark Easel" handout on the next page. Encourage students to be brave and make their mark, just like Vashti!
2. Give students free rein to color, paint, collage, add glitter, and otherwise change their dots as they wish. You'll be amazed by what they come up with!
3. Have students create a swirly gold (or any color) frame made of construction paper. Let them decorate the frames as they wish. If you want to keep things simple, you can hand out copies of the ready-made frame on page 10. If students want to color the frame, give them the outline version on page 11.



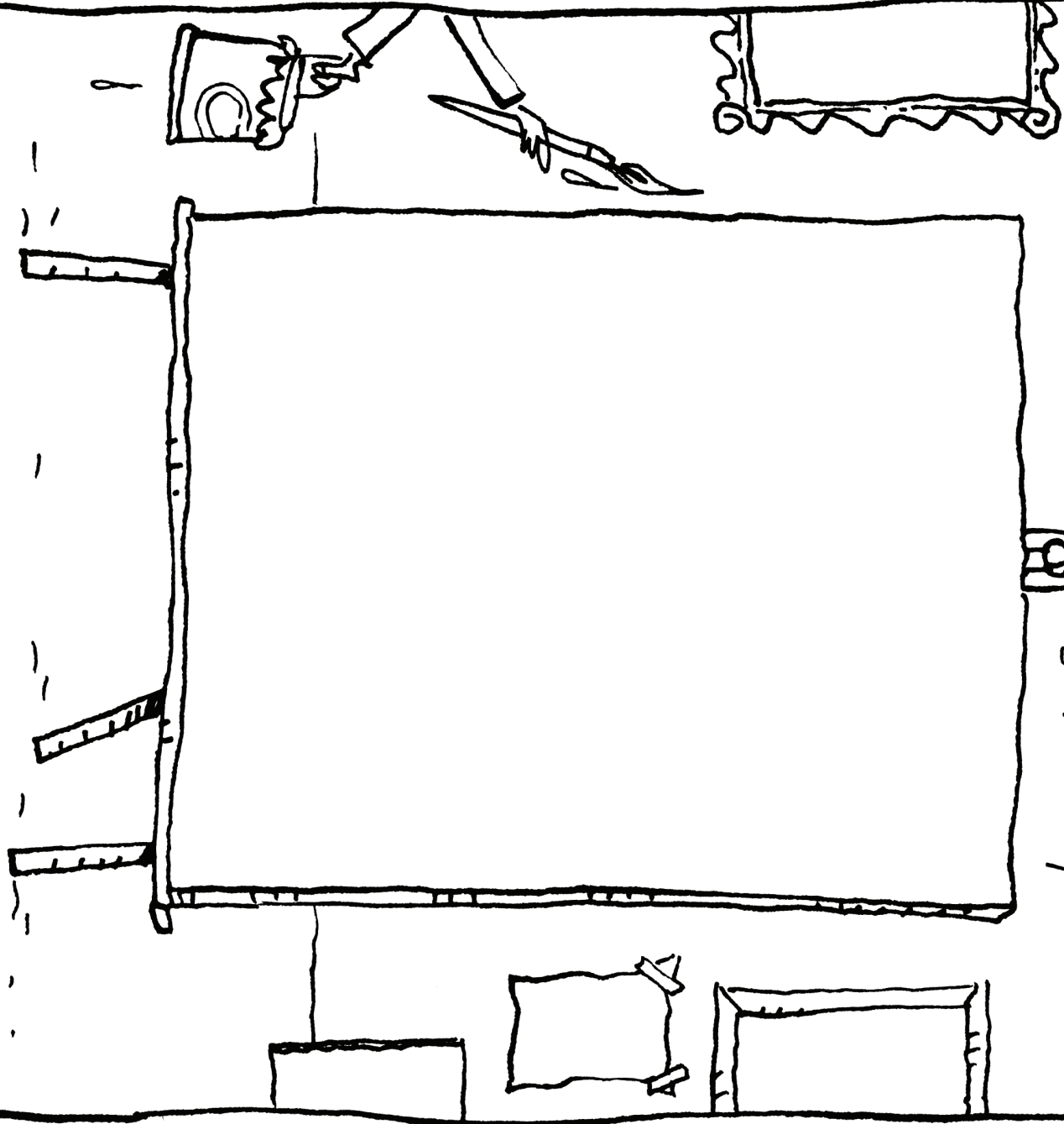
*Peter H. Reynolds*

4. When they're done, have students carefully cut out their dots and paste them into their frames. Or, they can cut out the center of the frame, and lay it over their art.
5. Remind students to sign their artwork inside the frame.
6. Have students hang up their dots around the classroom or in the hallway. You'll have an exquisite gallery to share with parents and the rest of the school.



Make your mark! Make your own dot!

(Big, little, many,  
few, colored,  
glittered—your choice!)



Be sure to sign and date your work! Peter



## ACTIVITY 2: A PLAN TO ENCOURAGE SOMEONE ELSE

### Summary:

Students think about times when they have helped someone in the past and create a new plan to help someone.

### Learning Objectives:

- Students learn to reflect on personal experiences.
- Students learn about goal setting and carrying out plans.

### What You'll Need:

Art materials of your choice. You can use paper, construction paper, pencils, paints, magazine clippings, glitter, photographs, and more — the sky's the limit!

### Instructions:

Large pieces of paper, sheets of colored paper, safety scissors, glue and tape, and a wide variety of art materials for decorating dots.

1. Ask students to think about times when they've encouraged or helped someone. What did your students do? How did helping that person make them feel? If students can't think of a time when they encouraged someone else, tell them the next part of the activity will be that much more special for them!
2. Hand out the "My Plan to Encourage Someone" reproducible on the next page. Have students fill in the blanks to create a plan for how they will support someone. Tell students their plan should be something that they can easily do within the next week. Help young students by writing down their ideas.
3. A few days after finishing the activity, ask students how their plans are going. Gently remind them to try out their plans. When everyone has completed the activity, ask them to tell the class what happened and how they felt afterwards.



You may find it helpful to give students an example. Here's a sample:

*My Plan to Encourage Amy This Week  
I am going to give this person encouragement about:  
Learning to ride a bike.  
Here is how I will help:*

*My sister is scared to ride a bike without training wheels. I can tell her that I was scared to ride a bike at first, but that it's not as hard as it looks. I'll go with her when she tries, and if she falls I'll have band-aids.*

**Tip: Your students will be excited and inspired if you draft up your own plan to encourage someone!**

## MY PLAN TO ENCOURAGE



---

(write person's name here)

## I AM GOING TO GIVE THIS PERSON ENCOURAGEMENT ABOUT:

---

## HERE IS HOW I WILL HELP:

---

---

---



# CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FROM THE CLASSROOM!

Here are just a few ways teachers around the globe have celebrated **Dot Day**. To share your ideas tag us on Twitter #InternationalDotDay and we will add your idea to the handbook.

## PLATE MONDRIAN

Have your class learn about the work of Piet Mondrian, an artist who took a simple line and made it art. Give each student a paper plate and have them explore using simple forms like lines and dots to create complex art, like Mondrian.

## ALL BUT A DOT

Give each student an 8x8" piece of paper with holes cut into it. Challenge them to still make art on this paper using the dots not as a hindrance but as a starting point to anchor their work.

## DIY DOT

Fill an envelope with paper scraps, sequins, beads, and one paper dot. Ask them to create a collage using all of these components to bring their dot to life in a totally unique way!

## DIPPIN' DOTS

Have a bowl of each color paint out, and circular shaped/textured objects. Have your students dip these objects in paint and stamp them onto a white canvas!

## CONNECTING THE DOTS

Have each student pick a famous painting (from the choices given) to make a 100 dot connect-the-dot of. Students will then swap with a buddy, complete the other student's puzzle, and then have them guess which painting it is of!

## DOT IN A DOT

Take a hula-hoop and fill it with cut-down toilet paper tubes. Ask students to bring in circular "dot-like" objects that can fit in these tubes. Sort out the objects to create a custom collage masterpiece!

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# CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FROM THE CLASSROOM!

## DOT IT UP FANCY

Create small puddles on paper with a wet paint brush. Dip your brush into color and tap it to the water dot. When dry, add doodles around your dots to make them into anything you could imagine!

## DUPLI-DOT

Have your students look at the work of Lea Anderson and discuss the use of unity in variety. Have students each create their own dots within analogous color groups, and assemble to create one large dot of that color group.

## SYMMETRICAL DOT ART

Place newspapers or mats on your work space, then set up a jar of water and large brush as well as a coffee filter and markers at each station. Fold the coffee filter in half and wet both sides. Draw on the coffee filter and then open it up to see the mirrored image!

## TWISTER

Get several Twister games and have the whole class play at the same time. See who can be the last person standing.

## GIVE THE MAKE YOUR MARK AWARD

Choose students, adults, or families from your school community who are making a difference in your school, neighborhood, or the world. Design a certificate and present it to them on **Dot Day**.

## MAKE GIANT 3D DOTS

Divide the class into small groups of about four. Make large, white paper circles with a diameter of about a meter. Use a roll of art paper or tape two strips of paper together to make the circles large enough. You will need two circles for each 3D dot. Have each group design one of the circles. Take two of The Dots and attach them. You can staple them or punch holes and sew them together with ribbon. Leave an opening at the top. Stuff them with newspaper, then close the top.

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# CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FROM THE CLASSROOM!

## GUEST DOT SIGN-IN

Have an easel and chart paper with a small basket of markers, crayons, etc., near the entrance to your classroom. Make sure anyone who comes to your classroom adds his or her own special dot to your Guest Dot Sign-In Page. Save the paper. It is nice to have one from each year and to display them on **Dot Day**.

## GOALS, INTERESTS, AND PRIDE

Have students create their own Dot picture that includes some of the things they are proud of, such as their goals, their interests, and their career goal.

## CONNECT VIRTUALLY WITH AUTHORS

Invite authors into your classroom through a virtual conference call. In the past, authors Erica Perl, author of *Dotty and Chicken Butt*, and Eric Wight, author of the *Frankie Pickle* series, visited our classes.

## SKETCHUP, SKYPE, AND WIKIS

Create Google SketchUp Candy Lands and Candy Lands created from DOT boxes, then connect with another school so the creators can present their projects. Afterwards, students can vote on their favorite Candy Land by using a Wiki.

## LIGHT PAINTING DOTS

In a darkened room, draw with flashlights. Their motions are captured on a digital camera set to a slow shutter speed. This combines performance art and drawing to create colorful, bright dots!

## GROUP DOT

Cover a round table with butcher paper or craft paper. Allow students to work in pairs and small groups to add to *The Dot*. This allows students to talk about working as a group as well as explore relationships between shapes and colors, and the wonder of in-between spaces. Make it a goal to fill *The Dot* with color and see what happens as students negotiate use of space and relationships among shapes and colors within *The Dot*.

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# CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FROM THE CLASSROOM!



## HANDMADE PAPER DOTS

Make paper pulp with shredded colored paper that is mixed with water in a blender. Students use embroidery hoops stretched with window screen to scoop out colorful circular sheets of hand-made paper. Colors can be layered and shaped for unique effects. When dry, the paper will accept watercolor and ink pens for further decoration.



## THE BUDDY DOT

Give each student six circles to cut out and decorate. Then, cut their dots in half. Each student gets a colored piece of construction paper of their choosing. They then glue half of each dot on their paper. Students find six buddies to trade their remaining half dots with. They then glue down their half dots, matching them up with the halves already glued down, creating a mosaic of dots on their construction paper. Then they cut out their favorite dot. Students color a square background for their cut-out dot on a piece of canvas. They choose their favorite part of the new dot. Using various art tools they create a new dot that is then placed on their square background. Put these all together and create a class masterpiece.



## AUGMENTED REALITY

Bring your Dot design to life with the Quiver 3D Coloring App. Search “Quiver - 3D Coloring App” in the Apple App Store, Google Play Store, and Amazon. Download the coloring page for **Dot Day** at: [www.quivervision.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Q\\_Dotday\\_page.pdf](http://www.quivervision.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Q_Dotday_page.pdf). Follow the instructions found at the bottom of the template.



## BIRTHDAY DOTS

Interview or research someone born on Sept. 15, and discover how they made their mark. Do a presentation to the class or have a class project to share with the school? Some historic Sept. 15 birthdays include: Marco Polo, who ventured into the “unknown” and linked cultures and brought back pasta to his homeland; Visvesvaraya, an engineer in India, famous for design innovations like the flood protection system in Hyderabad, he is a revered figure in the Indian community, receiving the Bharat Ratna, the highest honour granted to an Indian civilian. In his native India, Sept. 15th has been dubbed “Engineer’s Day” in his honor.

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# CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FROM THE CLASSROOM!

## WEAR DOTS

Bring in some plain T-shirts and fabric paint and create your own **Dot Day** attire. You could also wear clothing with dots already on them or put dot stickers on clothing.

## POINTILLISM

Study Georges Seurat, Pointillism, and the value of dots.

## NAME TAGS

Have students decorate dot-shaped name tags for their lockers by making a collage of pictures that tell about themselves.

## BUBBLE DOTS

Take five colors of bubble mix - tempera paint, a bit of water and a squirt of dish soap. Give each child their own straw to blow into the mixture until it bubbles just over the top. Don't forget to place paper on top of the bubbles to "catch" the prints.

## CDS

Decorate dots the size of CDs, stick them to a CD, then mount the CD on a bulletin board with 3D putty. Place these alongside photographs of students, and the "story" of how they were named.

## MOBILE DOTS

Supply paper dots for students to color and decorate and hang them all up on strings. Then attach those strings to a metal circle or multiple coat hangers that you can tape together and hang up.

## BE THE DOT

Let the students be The Dots. They wear hats and create artwork with their bodies as body dots. Pictures can be uploaded to create a video.

## VIDEO

Make a video of the book and at the end, film students saying "try, try it," or "make your mark." Share it with the whole school.

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# CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FROM THE CLASSROOM!



## ERASER STAMP DOTS

Have students use the erasers at the ends of pencils as stamps to create their own works of art. You can use ink pads or regular paint.

## ONE BLACK DOT

Make multiple sheets of paper with one black dot on each of them and tell the kids to fill in the blanks and see what they can create with one black dot.



## OPEN HOUSE

At the annual open house, have a table where students and families “Make Their Mark” and color/decorate a dot that will be added to a big dot mural. Give “DOTS” candy to any guests who participate.

## DOOR DOTS

Have the classroom door covered in plain colored dots, waiting like a blank canvas.



## PINWHEELS

Decorate pinwheels using *The Dot* painting technique of Australian indigenous people.

## TRADING CARDS

Make artist trading cards to exchange with students in your class or from another school.

## CLAY DOTS

Use clay to make dots. Twist and mix several colors until students have their perfect combination. Teachers glue pin backs onto The Dots so the children can wear them home.

## EDIBLE DOTS

Bring in baked goods with dots, like M&M’s, chocolate chips, etc. (Please be sure to follow your school’s policies regarding food allergies.)



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# CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FROM THE CLASSROOM!

## DOT RAINBOW

Make a dot rainbow by assigning each student a color and having them decorate a circular object (such as a paper plate) any way they like as long as they use their color. Then hang them all up in the corresponding colors of the rainbow.

## COFFEE FILTERS

Color on coffee filters with markers, then spritz them with water. Mat them and have a dot gallery.

## THE STORY DOT

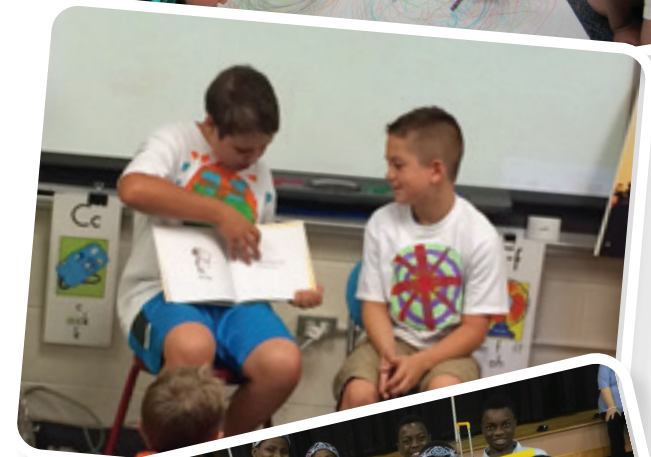
What is your Make Your Mark story? Can you animate it with Animation-ish? Can you build it In FabMaker Studio? Share your story with Get Published!

For more information visit: [www.FableVisionLearning.com/shop](http://www.FableVisionLearning.com/shop).

Here are some programs, apps, media, and links you may find helpful...

Animation-ish  
FabMaker Studio  
Animoto  
Blabberize  
Doodle Buddy  
Drawing Pad  
Glow Paint  
Google Drawing  
Kerpoof  
KidPix  
Pixie  
Skype  
QuiverVision

Bingo markers  
Colored pencils  
Crayons  
Do A Dot markers  
Markers  
Pastels  
Pom poms  
Sculpey clay  
Sidewalk chalk  
Stampers & construction paper  
Watercolors

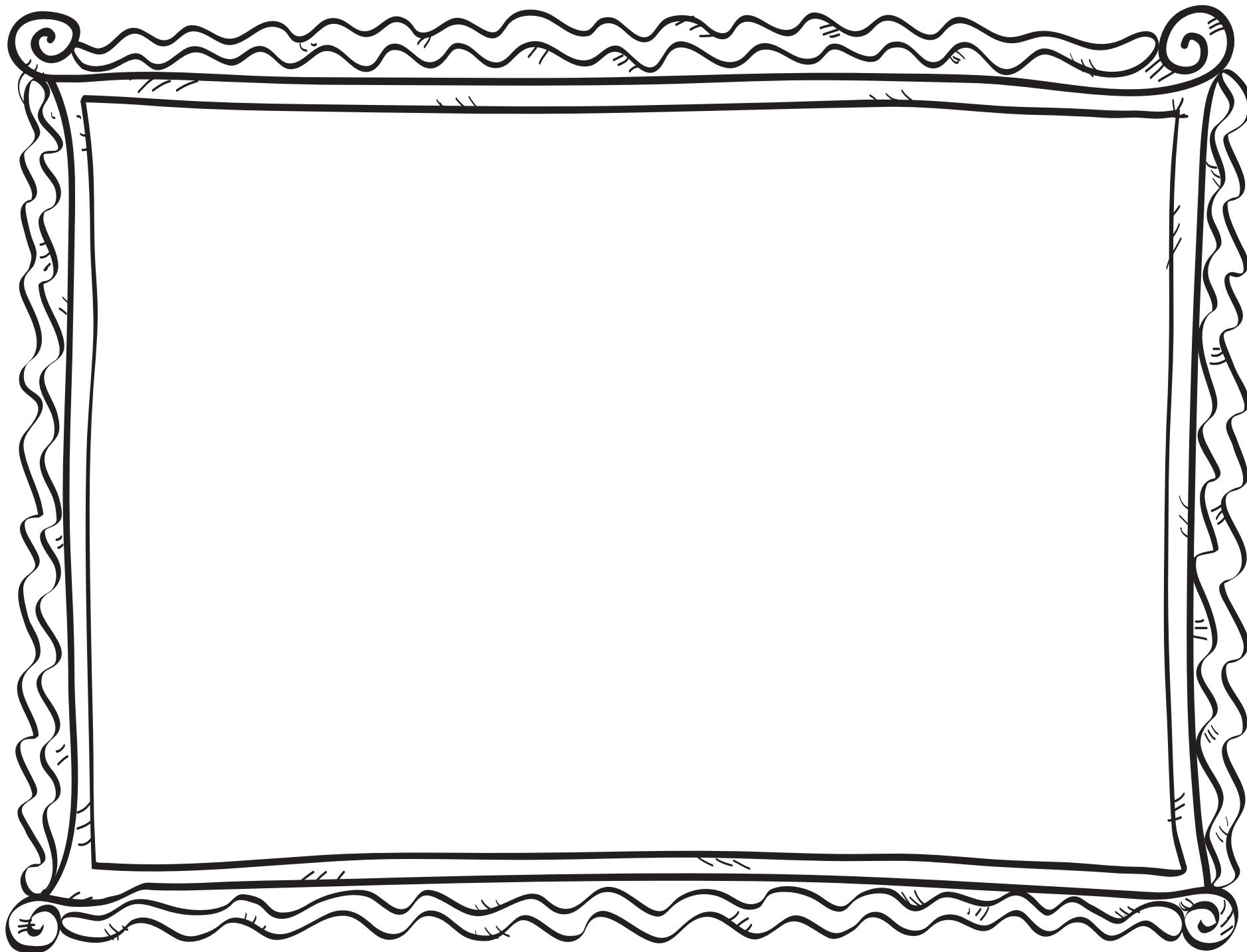


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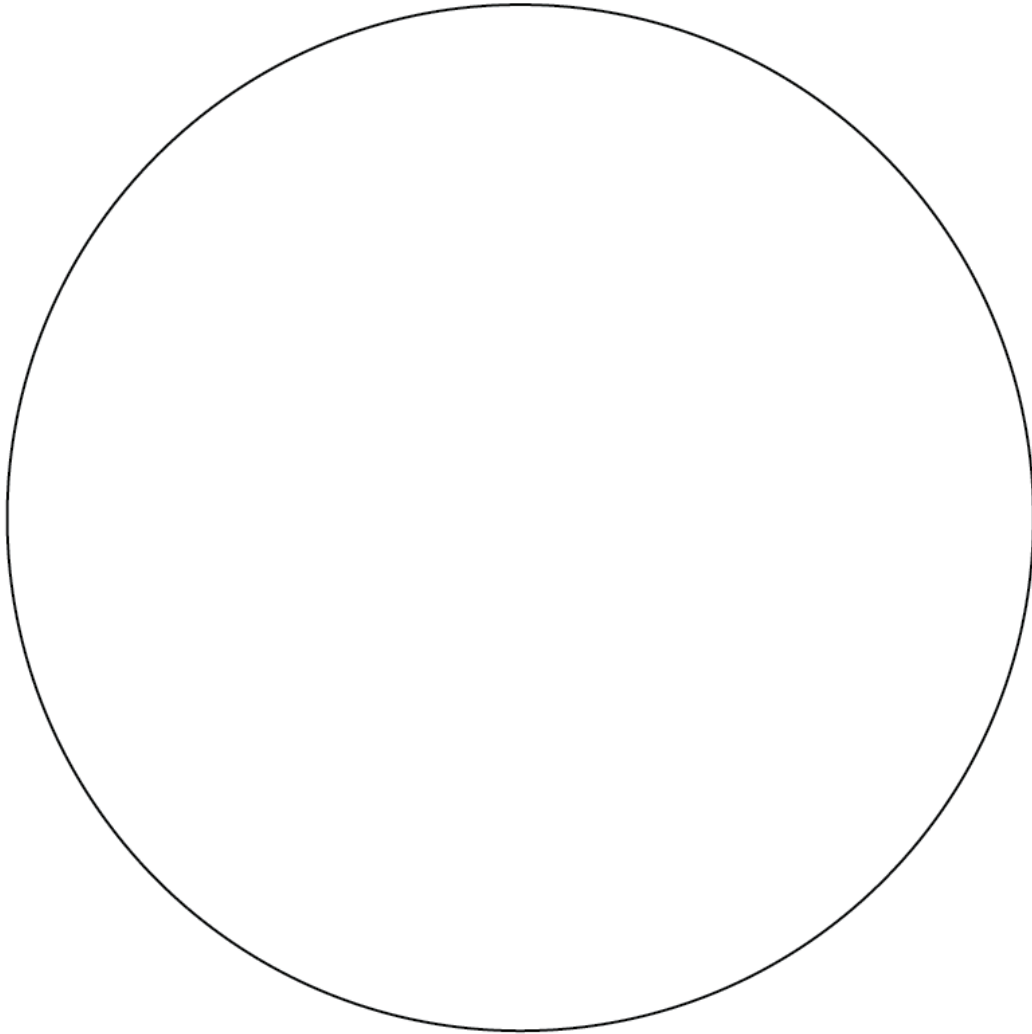
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# MAIL A DOT! THIS DOT DAY SEND YOUR MARK TO A FRIEND!



TO:

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FROM:

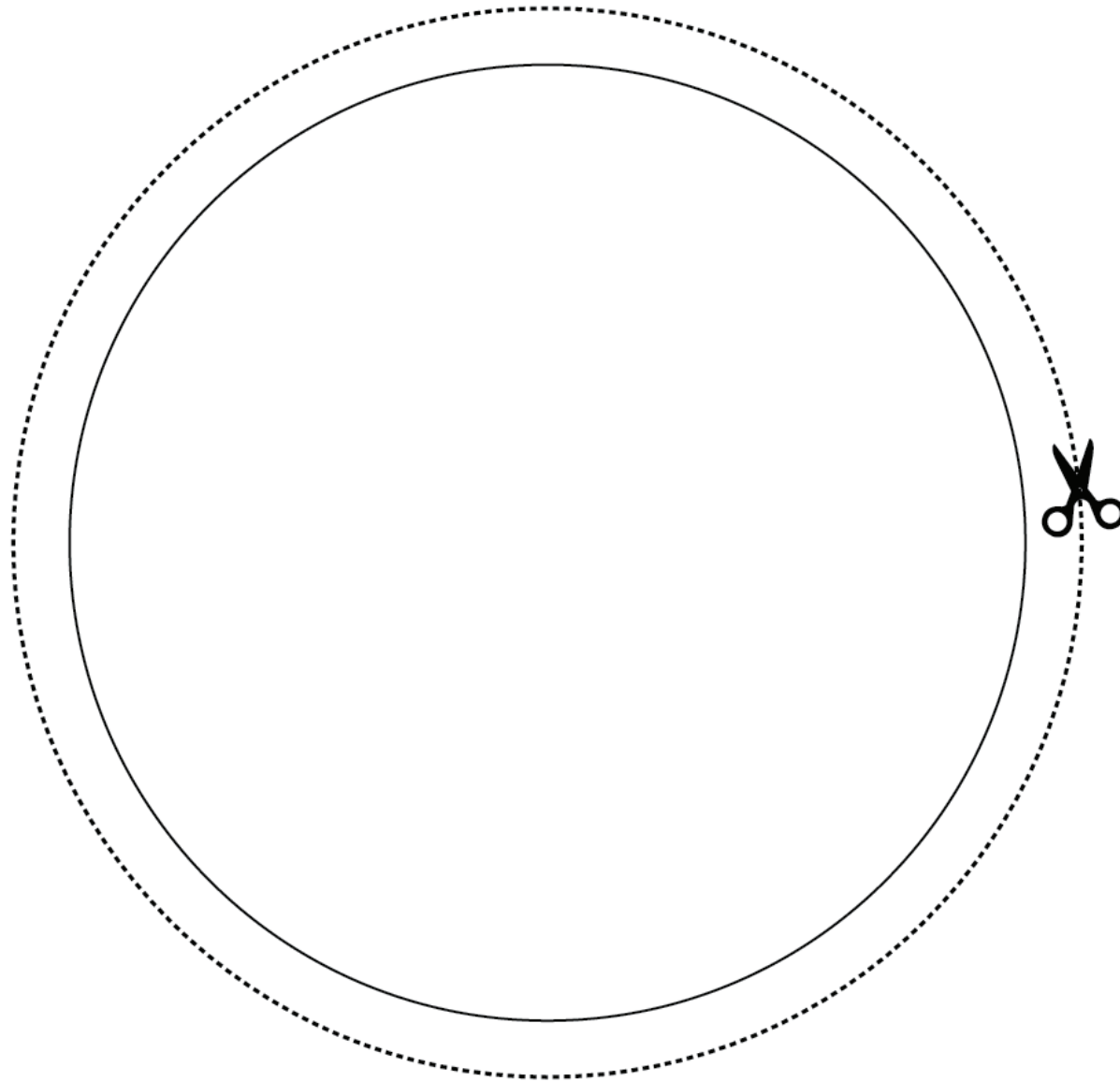
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MAIL A DOT! THIS DOT DAY SEND YOUR MARK TO A FRIEND!







Make Your Mark...  
And See Where It Takes You!



This is to certify that:

.....  
**made their mark on International Dot Day!**

Thank you for bravely joining us in celebrating creativity around the world

Date: .....

Signed:  .....

Peter H. Reynolds, Author of *The Dot*



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# SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Now that you have seen what others have done, we'd love to hear from you.

Do you have plans for **International Dot Day**? Do you want to share a project you have in mind?

Connect with like-minded educators on Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, and Twitter. Simply **"like"** the **International Dot Day on Facebook and Instagram**. **Follow the International Dot Day board on Pinterest**. **Tweet with #InternationalDotDay** or **follow @DotClubConnect**.

If you want to spread the word about *The Dot*, consider these fun posters, T-shirts, and other supplies.

Order yours at [www.TheDotCentral.com](http://www.TheDotCentral.com)



## The Educator's Handbook for International Dot Day

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