

## Classroom Checker's Reports

As mushers arrive at checkpoints along the trail, the checker goes through a list of required items for each one. In order to be able to continue the race, the musher must meet certain requirements. The official checker sheet lists these things to look for:

- dog team diary
- snowshoes
- cooker
- promotional packet
- sleeping bag
- hand axe
- booties
- 8 hour layover
- 24 hour layover

I took a sample of the checker's report and modified it for a classroom management tool. My students are in teams. Each team picked a theme and named themselves based on that theme, just as the litters of puppies are named by themes. I changed each of the categories above to fit the classroom expectations. For example, the "dog team diary" is the student's assignment calendar. So, if every puppy on the team gets their assignment calendars signed, they get a paw print sticker (instead of a musher getting a checkmark) When they fulfill all of the requirements, they receive extra tickets they may use toward my monthly Shopping Spree. The required "sleeping bag" became having a clean floor around your team at the end of the day; no one wants to put their sleeping bag down on a dirty floor. Raising hands to speak replaces "hand axe", etc. You can make the categories fit what you need. Maybe the required "cooker" can be a clean lunch table. Kindergarten teachers - how about points for "booties" if a student ties his/her own shoes? The only limit is your creativity.