

## Cal and the Classroom Pen Pals

### *Celebrating National Pen Pal Day*

Cal loved Room 12. It wasn't the biggest or fanciest classroom, but it had one thing he loved more than anything-The Pen Pal Wall.

It all started in September, when Ms. Rivera asked the class, "What if we made friends around the world, one letter at a time?"

Each student got matched with a pen pal from a different country. Cal was paired with Aiko from Japan, Zoe from South Africa, and Luis from Brazil. Every month, they'd write a letter and pin a copy on the big world map at the back of the classroom.

Cal's letters always started the same way: "Hi! I'm Cal. I like frogs, building forts, and learning weird space facts."

One day, Aiko sent a drawing of a frog in a spaceship, and Cal laughed so hard he nearly dropped his pencil. Zoe wrote about the animals she saw on a trip to Kruger National Park, and Luis sent a recipe for po de queijo-cheese bread!-that Ms. Rivera helped the class bake on International Day.

For National Pen Pal Day, the class threw a celebration. They made mailbox hats, read each other's favorite letters, and created postcards to send out.

Cal stood in front of the class and read aloud a message from Aiko: "Even though we're far apart, your words feel close. Happy Pen Pal Day!"

Cal smiled and held up a drawing he'd made of all four of them holding hands around the globe.

"Pen pals," he said, "are proof that friends can be anywhere."



**Cal and the Classroom Pen Pals**  
*Celebrating National Pen Pal Day*

**Activity Prompt:**

- Design a postcard to send to a real or imaginary pen pal!
- On one side: draw a picture of something you love or a place you'd like to share.
- On the other: write a short message about yourself and ask a question in return.

