FamilyCanvas: A Family Whiteboard Calendar Designed for Blended Families

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Blended families with joint custody face challenges in managing schedules and maintain stable remote connections. In this study, we aim to design a digital calendar to address these challenges. At this stage, we have designed and developed an initial prototype calendar called *FamilyCanvas* using a whiteboard metaphor.
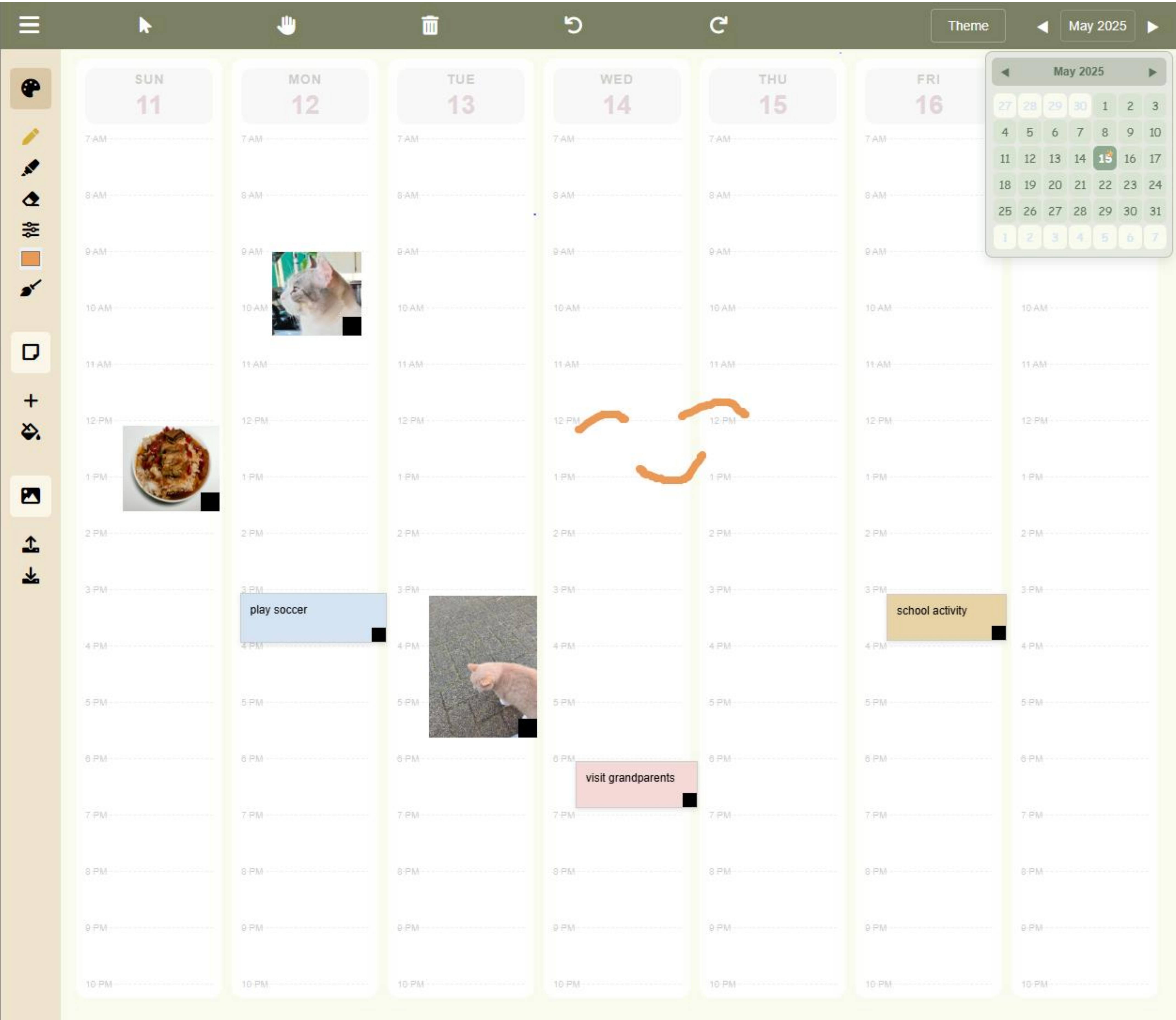
Features:

- Ubiquitous visible: It is running on a touch sensitive display placed in a high traffic area of a family's home. It is also accessible on mobile devices for children to use when they are staying with their other parent in a remote home.
- Multi-generation inclusive: The whiteboard metaphor used in our system makes the calendar moving away from the notion of a rigid time grid of days and time slots to allow for more fluid writing of events. This design, along with other children-friendly design elements in our system make it inclusive to multiple generations.

Future work:

We will involve continued iterative design as well as testing of the design in the homes of blended families.

Home Use

Interaction Design

Mobile Interface