



The Department of Publicity and Publications invites students, staff, and parents to honor and celebrate what each month has to offer.

Celebrations

FOR THE 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

AUGUST 2008

- 26 Women's Equality Day Established by Congress in 1971 to commemorate the 1920 passage of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the vote, and to encourage the ongoing efforts for women's equality in all areas of American life. www.nwhp.org.
- 27 Lyndon B. Johnson's Birthday The 36th U.S. president; born near Stonewall, Texas, in 1908; died January 22, 1973. Commemorated in Texas.

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 1-30 Library Card Sign-Up Month Established by joint resolution of Congress as an annual reminder to ensure all children have library cards. www.ala.org
- 1 Labor Day Legal holiday in all states and Canada to honor working people. Observed on the first Monday in September.
- 2 First Day of Ramadan Beginning of the Islamic holy month in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset each day. The holiest period of Islam, it honors the revelation of the Koran.
- 3 Treaty of Paris Anniversary Treaty between Britain and the United States ending the Revolutionary War; signed in Paris on this day in 1783.
- 4 Richard Wright's Birthday Prominent African-American novelist; lived 1908-1960. His first major novel, *Native Son*, was published in 1940.
- 5 First Continental Congress Assembly Fifty-six delegates representing 11 colonies assembled in Philadelphia on this date in 1774. They protested British measures and called for civil disobedience.
- 6 Marie Zakrzewska's Birthday Polish American physician; lived 1829-1902. She was responsible for the establishment of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, the New England Hospital for Women and Children, and the Philadelphia Women's Hospital. She was a leading proponent of education for African-American nurses.
- 7 Grandparents' Day A day for showing appreciation to grandparents. Always observed on the first Sunday after Labor Day. Information and materials available from the National Grandparents' Day Council. - www.grandparentsday.com
- 8 International Literacy Day A day to highlight the importance of reading, particularly from a multicultural, international perspective. Sponsored on this date each year by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and the International Reading Association. - www.reading.org
- 11 Patriot Day A day to honor the victims who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. On this date, terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners, crashing the first two into the World Trade Center in New York City, the third into the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and the fourth (Flight 93) into Somerset County, PA. Approximately 3,000 people were killed.
- 15 Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) Designated by presidential proclamation as the month to celebrate the rich heritage of Hispanic Americans and the many contributions they have made to American culture.
- 15-16 Mexican Independence Days National Holiday to celebrate Mexico's independence from Spain. In ceremonies held at 11 p.m. on Sept. 15 throughout Mexico, the president, state governors, and mayors deliver a "Cry for Independence" and then sound a bell to symbolize the tolling that announced the beginning of the struggle for independence in 1810.
- 16 Mayflower Day Anniversary of the departure of the ship *Mayflower* from Plymouth, England, in 1620.



17-23 17	Constitution Week and Citizenship Day	After framing the Constitution, the Constitutional Convention adjourned on September 17, 1787, from Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The 12 states represented had voted unanimously to approve the proposed document, which was sent to Congress and the states for ratification. Presidential proclamation sets aside September 17 (Citizenship Day) and September 17-23 (Constitution Week) for observance each year.
21	International Day of Peace	The opening day of the United Nations General Assembly each year. Devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. <i>www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/.</i>
22	First Day of Autumn	Autumnal equinox occurs at 11:44 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.
24	School Desegregation Order Enforced	On this date in 1957, nine Black students attended the previously all-White Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. They were escorted by federal troops sent by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to enforce a federal court order.
28	National Good Neighbor Day	Always observed the fourth Sunday in September to help create a greater understanding and concern for others and develop values in children by giving them a tradition of caring. - <i>www.natgoodneighbor.org</i>
30	Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 30-Oct. 1)	Begins at sunset, September 29. Jewish New Year and holy days. Days of Renewed Responsibility. The first of the High Holy Days marked by solemn religious observance.
30	Racial Integration of American Universities Enforced	On this date in 1962, James H. Meredith was escorted onto the campus of the University of Mississippi by federal marshals. Despite the night of rioting that followed, he registered as a student the next morning.

OCTOBER 2008

1-31	Crime Prevention Month	Information and materials available from the National Crime Prevention Council. - <i>www.ncpc.org</i>
1-31	Czech Heritage Month	A month to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of Czech Americans and the many contributions they have made to American culture.
1-31	Italian American Heritage and Culture Month	Designated by presidential proclamation in 1989; celebrated by some states as a month to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of Italian Americans and the many contributions they have made to American culture.
1-31	Polish American Heritage Month	Designated by presidential proclamation as the month to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of Polish Americans and their many contributions to American culture.
1-31	Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Month	Observed as a global advocacy and fund-raising campaign to help children learn about different countries and cultures. - <i>www.unicefusa.org</i>
2	Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday	Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Indian leader who practiced nonviolent resistance and led the the movement for independence from British rule. Born 1869; assassinated 1948.
2	Id al-Fitr	Muslim day of feasting to celebrate the end of Ramadan.
5-11	Fire Prevention Week	Observed the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. - <i>www.nfpa.org</i>
5-11	National Metric Week	To encourage each person to develop and maintain an awareness of the metric system. Celebrated the tenth month of each year and the week containing the tenth day. - <i>www.nctm.org</i>
6	German American Heritage Day	Designated by presidential proclamation as the day to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of German Americans and the many contributions they have made to American culture.
8	The "Great Chicago Fire" Anniversary	On this date in 1871, a fire broke out in Chicago and raged for three days, destroying most of the city. The blaze killed 250 people.
9	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Jewish holy day devoted to prayer, fasting, and repentance. (begins at sunset, October 8)
9	Anniversary of Benjamin Banneker's Death	Known as the "first Black man of science," he was an American astronomer, mathematician, surveyor, and almanac author. He took part in the original survey for the nation's capital city of Washington, D.C. Lived 1731-1806.



11	General Casimir Pulaski Memorial Day	Casimir Pulaski, born in Warka, Poland, in 1747, was a brigadier general and chief of cavalry in the American Revolution. He died on this date in 1779.
12-18	National Educational Office Professionals Career Awareness Week	Observed the second full week in October. - www.naeop.org
13-17	National School Lunch Week	By annual presidential proclamation, always observed the weekdays of the week that begins with the second Sunday in October. - www.schoolnutrition.org .
13	Canadian Thanksgiving	Celebrated in Canada as a day to give thanks for a successful harvest. Observed on the second Monday in October.
13	Columbus Day/ Discoverers' Day	A day to honor all explorers and commemorate Columbus's sighting of the New World on October 12, 1492. A federal holiday celebrated on the second Monday in October.
14-15	Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)	Jewish festival of thanksgiving, harvest, and the remembrance of the Jews who wandered in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. (begins at sunset, October 13)
16	World Food Day	Proclaimed in 1979 by the United Nations to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. Celebrated on this day each year. www.worldfooddayusa.org
19-25	National Character Counts Week	A week to renew our commitment to instill values in young people and encourage all American to remember the importance of good character.
20-24	National School Bus Safety Week	Always observed the third full week in October. Poster contest theme: "Avoid Harm, Obey The Stop Alarm." - www.napt.org
20	Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth, in 1819, of "the Báb," the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í faith. One of the nine holy days of the year where work and school are suspended for Bahá'í's.
20	John Dewey's Birthday	American educational reformer and philosopher. Lived 1859-1952.
21	Shemini Atzeret	The closing day of the Jewish festival of Sukkot. A day of prayer. (begins at sunset, October 20)
22	Simchat Torah	Jewish holiday. Reading of the law (Torah) is concluded and begun anew in the synagogue. (begins at sunset, October 21)
23-31	Red Ribbon Week	Every year in which this week is observed, red ribbons are worn and displayed to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a Drug-Free America. Programs and observances are carried out to create awareness concerning the problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs; organize community prevention coalitions; and support healthy, productive, drug-free lifestyles. - www.nfp.org
24	United Nations Day	Established by annual presidential proclamation to commemorate the founding of the United Nations in 1945. - www.un.org/events/unday/
25	Make a Difference Day	To encourage children, youth, and adults to volunteer on behalf of their communities. - www.usaweekend.com/diffday/
31	Halloween	Evening before All Saints or All Hallows Day. Traditionally an occasion for masquerading and pumpkin carving, and for children to play pranks.

NOVEMBER 2008

1-30	American Indian Heritage Month	By presidential proclamation, a month to remember the contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives and to honor the unique heritage of our continent's first inhabitants.
1	All Saints Day	A Catholic and Protestant commemoration of all the saints.
2	Standard Time	Begins for all U.S. time zones. At 2 a.m., clocks move back one hour. Standard time was recently changed to the first Sunday in November.



4	Election Day	Observed for many state and local elections on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.
7	Marie Curie's Birthday	Polish-born French scientist who won the 1911 Nobel Prize for chemistry for her work with radium and its compounds. Lived 1867-1934.
10-16	Youth Appreciation Week	Always observed the second full week in November (beginning with Monday). This program provides an opportunity to recognize youth for their talents in the arts, athletics, and academics, and for their contributions to the community. Sponsored by Optimist International. - www.optimist.org
11	Veterans Day (Armistice Day)	Federal holiday to celebrate the anniversary of the World War I Armistice between the Allied Powers and the Central Powers, signed at 5 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918; hostilities ceased at 11 a.m. In many places, silent memorial is observed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month each year.
11	National Community Education Day	Sponsored by the National Community Education Association to draw attention to the importance of community education programs. For more information, contact National Community Education Association. www.ncea.com
12	Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Birthday	Organizer of the first women's rights convention in 1848 at Seneca Falls, New York. In 1866, she ran for U.S. Congress; in 1869, she co-founded the National Woman Suffrage Association with Susan B. Anthony. Lived 1815-1902.
16-22	American Education Week and Education Support Professionals Day	Co-sponsored by the National Education Association, National PTA, and other national education associations to keep the public aware of what schools are doing. American Education Week is always observed the week before Thanksgiving. Education Support Professionals Day is observed the Wednesday of American Education Week. Information from National Education Association. - www.nea.org/aew/
19	Education Support Professional Day	See American Education Week, Nov. 16-22.
19	Gettysburg Address Anniversary	On this date in 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech at the dedication of a national cemetery at the Gettysburg battlefield. It expressed the resolve "that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."
20	Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution	Mexican national holiday celebrating the start of the social revolution begun in 1910.
20	National Parental Involvement Day	Always the Thursday of American Education Week. Information and materials available from Project Appleseed, www.projectappleseed.org .
23-29	National Family Week	Recognized Thanksgiving week every year to show appreciation to families and their role in caring for individual members, thus contributing to a strong society. Sponsored by Alliance for Children and Families. www.nationalfamilyweek.org
27	Thanksgiving Day	Day appointed for giving thanks for blessings, always celebrated the fourth Thursday in November. A federal holiday and legal public holiday in all states. Many schools also observe the following Friday.
30	Mark Twain's Birthday	Author, journalist, and humorist Samuel Langhorne Clemens; lived 1835-1910.

DECEMBER 2008

1	Beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott	On this date in 1955, Rosa Mae Parks refused to give up her seat to a White passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus. Her consequent arrest sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott on December 5, which brought Martin Luther King Jr. to national prominence. Parks became known as the "mother of the civil rights movement."
1	World AIDS Day	Day to promote AIDS education and commemorate those whose lives have been lost or affected by AIDS. www.worldaidsday.org
7	Pearl Harbor Day	Japanese warplanes bombed Pearl Harbor at 7:55 a.m. on this date in 1941, killing 2,300 people and sinking or damaging 19 ships. The U.S. declared war on Japan the following day.
8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Roman Catholic Holy Day of Obligation; commemorates the Virgin Mary's freedom from original sin at her conception.



9	Id al-Adha	Muslim holy day known as the Feast of Sacrifice, marking the end of the Pilgrimage.
10	Emily Dickinson's Birthday	Prolific American poet who wrote more than 1,770 poems, only seven of which were published in her lifetime. Lived 1830-1886.
10	Human Rights Day	Observed on this date each year as the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
15	Bill of Rights Day	Anniversary of the adoption of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution in 1791. Often marked by presidential proclamation.
16	Boston Tea Party Anniversary	In response to the Tea Act passed by the British Parliament that secured a monopoly on colonists' tea by the East India Company, a group of colonists, dressed as Native Americans, threw a cargo of the company's tea into Boston Harbor on this date in 1773.
17	Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' Flight	On this date in 1903, brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright achieved the first piloted, powered airplane flight near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Their airplane remained aloft for 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet.
21	First Day of Winter	Winter solstice occurs at 7:04 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.
22-29	Hanukkah (Festival of Lights)	Jewish holiday commemorating rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees. Primarily a children's festival – a time for fun, songs, games, and gift-giving. It starts on the 25th day of the Jewish calendar month of Kislev and lasts for eight days and nights. (begins at sunset, December 21)
25	Christmas	Celebration of the birth of Christ. A federal holiday celebrated in all states and territories.
25	Clara Barton's Birthday	Nurse and philanthropist; founder of the American Red Cross. Lived 1821-1912.
26	Kwanzaa (Dec. 26 - Jan. 1)	African-American seven-day spiritual festival dedicated to seven principles: unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. The American celebration is related to the spirit and rituals of the harvest festivals of Africa.
29	Wounded Knee Massacre Anniversary	On this date in 1890, the 7th Cavalry killed 300 Hunkpapa Sioux at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. It was the final "battle" that brought to an end more than three centuries of warfare between Native Americans and Western pioneers.

JANUARY 2009

1-3	Japanese New Year Festivities	Beginning of the year Heisei Twenty-First, the 21st year of Emperor Akihito's reign. To celebrate the new year, the front entrances of houses are decorated, and people dress in their best clothes to visit local shrines and exchange visits with friends.
1	Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary	On this date in 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all people held as slaves within the rebelling Confederate states "are, and henceforth shall be, free."
1	New Year's Day	Legal holiday in all states and territories; also a federal holiday.
1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Roman Catholic Holy Day; celebrates the motherhood of Mary.
7	Christmas Day (Orthodox)	Celebrated on this day by Eastern Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Christians who follow the Julian Calendar.
18	World Religion Day	To call attention to the need for the religions of the world to strive to be a unifying influence for humanity. Always the third Sunday in January. - www.worldreligionday.org .
19	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance	Civil rights leader, minister, and winner of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. Born in Atlanta, GA, on January 15, 1929; assassinated April 4, 1968. A federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in January.
19	Robert E. Lee's Birthday	Commander of the Confederate forces during the Civil War; lived 1807-1870. Celebrated in some states on the third Monday in January.
23	First Native American U.S. Senator	On this date in 1907, Charles Curtis of Kansas became the first Native American U.S. Senator.

- 26 Chinese New Year Beginning of the Year of the Ox.
- 28 Christa McAuliffe Day Observed in Illinois to commemorate high school teacher Christa McAuliffe, who was one of seven astronauts killed on the space shuttle *Challenger* when it exploded 74 seconds after takeoff on this date in 1986.

FEBRUARY 2009

- 1-28 Black History Month Always observed the entire month of February. This observance was first created by Carter G. Woodson in the 1920s as Negro History Week. In 1976, the month-long celebration was established as a time to reflect on the history, teachings, and achievements of African-Americans.
- 1-28 National Children's Dental Health Month Promotional activities are available on the ADA Web site. - www.ada.org.
- 1 National Freedom Day To commemorate the signing of the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865. Presidential proclamation established the date in 1949.
- 2-6 National School Counseling Week Sponsored by American School Counselor Association. - www.schoolcounselor.org.
- 2 Groundhog Day Folklore says that if the groundhog sees its shadow on this day and returns to its burrow, winter continues for six more weeks. - www.groundhog.org.
- 5 Anniversary of Mexican Constitutions Anniversary to celebrate the adoption of the Constitutions of 1857 and 1917.
- 8-14 National FCCLA Week Always the second full week in February, to focus attention on the activities and goals of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. - www.fcclainc.org.
- 11 Thomas Alva Edison's Birthday American inventor who patented more than 1,000 inventions, including the phonograph, the microphone, and the incandescent electric lamp. Lived 1847-1931.
- 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday Sixteenth president of the United States; born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, KY; assassinated 1865. Observed as a federal holiday (Presidents' Day) on the third Monday in February. (See February 16)
- 14 St. Valentine's Day An occasion for the exchange of affectionate greetings in the United States, Canada, and Europe. The celebration probably dates from the Roman festival Lupercalia.
- 15-21 Take Your Family to School Week A week to build positive partnerships with parents and let children know that their families value Education. Sponsored by the National PTA. - www.pta.org.
- 15 Susan B. Anthony's Birthday Crusader for abolition of slavery and for women's rights. Lived 1820-1906.
- 16 Presidents' Day Federal holiday observed on the third Monday in February. Combines the observances of George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays.
- 17 National PTA Founders Day An occasion to mark the work of the PTA and to rally together with other parent groups to pledge anew their commitment to children. Sponsored by the National PTA. - www.pta.org.
- 20 Frederick Douglass Day African-American journalist and antislavery leader; died on this date in 1895.
- 21-28 National FFA Week Always celebrated during the week of Washington's traditional birthday, beginning the Saturday before February 22 and ending the following Saturday. For information, contact National Future Farmers of America Center. www.ffa.org.
- 22 George Washington's Birthday First president of the United States; born February 22, 1732; died 1799. Observed as a federal holiday (Presidents' Day) on the third Monday in February. (See February 16).
- 23 W.E.B. DuBois's Birthday Scholar, social critic, and African-American leader; lived 1868-1963. Helped organize the Niagara Movement, the first Black protest movement of the 20th century and the forerunner of the NAACP. He was also the first African-American to hold a doctoral degree.

- 24** Mardi Gras Also called Shrove Tuesday. Celebrated especially in New Orleans, LA; Mobile, AL; and certain Mississippi, Florida, and Texas cities. Last feast before Lenten season.
- 25** Lent (Feb. 25 - April 11) Lent, a period of fasting and penitence observed by Christian churches; lasts 40 days, excluding Sundays, from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter.
- 25** Ash Wednesday First day of Lent. Catholic priests place ashes in the middle of parishioners' foreheads during mass on this day.

MARCH 2009

- 1-31** American Red Cross Month Always observed during the entire month of March. Sponsored by the American Red Cross. - www.redcross.org.
- 1-31** Irish American Heritage Month By presidential proclamation each year, this month is set aside to recognize the contributions made in American society and culture by the Irish and Irish Americans.
- 1-31** National Mental Retardation Awareness Month To promote public education concerning mental retardation and the welfare of the 7.2 million Americans who have this condition. Sponsored by The Arc of the United States. - www.thearc.org.
- 1-31** National Middle Level Education Month To encourage middle level schools to schedule local events focusing on the educational needs of early adolescents. Sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. - www.principals.org.
- 1-31** National Nutrition Month® To promote the importance of healthful eating and physical activity habits all year long. Sponsored by the American Dietetic Association. - www.eatright.org.
- 1-31** Music in Our Schools Month To communicate the importance of music in the learning experience. Sponsored by MENC: The National Association for Music Education. - www.menc.org.
- 1-31** Social Work Month To honor social workers and raise the public's awareness of the important and often unnoticed work that social workers do. Information from National Association of Social Workers. - www.socialworkers.org.
- 1-31** Women's History Month Proclaimed by Congress and many governors and state legislatures as a month to celebrate the rich and inspiring heritage of women's contributions to the United States. Information: National Women's History Project. www.nwhp.org.
- 1-31** Youth Art Month Observed during March each year to emphasize the importance of art activities for children and to encourage schools and youth groups to support their art programs. Sponsored by The Council for Art Education, Inc. www.acminet.org/youth_art_month.htm.
- 1** Korean Independence Movement Day Annual anniversary of the independence movement against colonial Japanese rule in 1919. The Korean Proclamation of Independence is read.
- 1** Peace Corps Anniversary On this date in 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed the executive order establishing the U.S. Peace Corps. Informational material is available from local chapters, or from the Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters. www.peacecorps.gov.
- 2-6** National School Breakfast Week Sponsored by the School Nutrition Association. - www.schoolnutrition.org.
- 2-8** National Foreign Language Week Sponsored by Alpha Mu Gamma. - www.lacitycollege.edu/academic/honor/amg/nflw.htm.
- 2** NEAs Read Across America A day to celebrate the importance of reading by having caring adults visit schools as "guest readers" to share books with children. Observed every year on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2, but local schools and organizations are encouraged to observe the date whenever it fits into their school calendar. Sponsored by the National Education Association. - www.nea.org/readacross/.
- 2** Orthodox Lent (March 2- April 18) Eastern Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Lent; period of fasting and penitence before Easter.
- 3** Adoption of U.S. National Anthem On this date in 1931, "The Star Spangled Banner" was adopted as the national anthem. It was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key.

4	Casimir Pulaski's Birthday	Born in Warka, Poland, in 1747, he was a brigadier general and chief of cavalry in the American Revolution; died 1779.
4	First Woman to Serve in Congress	On March 4, 1917, Jeannette Rankin began her term as a congresswoman from Montana. She was the first female member of Congress, elected four years before the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteed women the right to vote.
8-14	Girl Scout Week	Sponsored by Girl Scouts of the USA. - www.girlscouts.org .
8	International Women's Day	Established in the early 1900s as a day to honor working women. Anniversary of one of the first organized actions by working women anywhere in the world – the 1857 strike by women garment and textile workers in New York to protest low wages, long working hours, and inhumane working conditions. Widely adopted and observed in other countries, and more recently in the United States.
8	Daylight Saving Time	Begins for all U.S. time zones. At 2 a.m., clocks advance one hour in most states.
10	Anniversary of Harriet Tubman's Death	American abolitionist, Underground Railroad leader; born into slavery in Buckton, MD, about 1820; died March 10, 1913, in Auburn, NY. She escaped from a Maryland plantation and helped more than 300 slaves reach freedom.
11	Johnny Appleseed Day	John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, was a planter of orchards and a friend of wild animals. Born 1774; died March 11, 1847.
14	Albert Einstein's Birthday	Eminent physicist known for developing the theory of relativity. He won a Nobel Prize in physics in 1921; lived 1879-1955. After World War II, he was a leader in seeking international government control of nuclear energy.
15-21	National Agriculture Week and Day	Students learn about America's largest industry as part of the National Agriculture Day (see March 20) and Week program. Sponsored by Agriculture Council of America. - www.agday.org .
15-21	National Poison Prevention Week	To encourage people to learn about the dangers of accidental poisoning of children and to take preventive measures. Observed the third full week of March. Sponsored by Poison Prevention Week Council. - www.poisonprevention.org .
16	First Black Newspaper in U.S. Published	This date in 1827 saw the publication of the nation's first Black newspaper, <i>Freedom's Journal</i> , in New York City.
17	Camp Fire USA Birthday	To commemorate the founding of Camp Fire USA. Sponsored by Camp Fire USA. - www.campfireusa.org .
17	St. Patrick's Day	Commemorates the patron saint of Ireland. Always observed on this date.
19	Absolutely Incredible Kid Day®	Absolutely Incredible Kid Day®, celebrated on the third Thursday in March, is Camp Fire USA's national call to action, asking adults to write letters of love and support to youth, sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, neighbors, and even kids they don't know. This national campaign to honor children has been recognized by child care experts, educators, celebrities, leaders, parents, and kids everywhere as an event to inspire adult-to-child interaction. www.campfireusa.org/a_i_kid_day/ .
20	First Day of Spring	Vernal equinox occurs at 7:44 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.
20	National Agriculture Day	See national Agriculture Week, March 15-21.
21	Bahá'í New Year's Day (Naw-Rúz)	Originally a Persian holiday, Naw-Rúz is one of the nine holy days of the year where work and school are suspended for Bahá'ís. For more information, contact Bahá'í National Center. - www.us.bahai.org . (begins sunset March 20)
21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Day to remember the people throughout the world who have been victims of racial injustice. Information from United Nations Headquarters. - www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/iderd/ .
23	Anniversary of Patrick Henry's Speech	On this date in 1775, in a speech at Virginia's second revolutionary convention, American Revolution leader and orator Patrick Henry stated, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

APRIL 2009

1-30	Keep America Beautiful Month	An annual celebration of the ongoing efforts of Americans to improve their environment through a variety of educational, clean-up, and improvement projects. - www.kab.org
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1	April Fools' Day	Always observed on April 1. A day for pranks placing people in situations that make them look like an "April Fool."
2	International Children's Book Day	Celebrated on Hans Christian Andersen's birthday to help children develop an understanding of other cultures through literature. Each year a different national section of International Board on Books for Young People sponsors the day, chooses a theme, invites an author to write a message, and invites an illustrator to design a poster. These materials promote books and reading around the world. - www.ibby.org and www.usbby.org
6	Founding of the Mormon Church	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was founded on this date in 1830 by Joseph C. Smith and Oliver Cowdery.
7	World Health Day	Celebrated on this day each year to emphasize significant issues in public health of worldwide concern. - www.who.int/en/ .
8	Celebration of Buddha's Birthday	Founder of Buddhism, lived 563-480 B.C.
9-10	Passover (Pesach), First Days	Jewish festival marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. (begins at sunset, April 8)
10	Good Friday	Observed by Christians the Friday before Easter. Commemorates Christ's crucifixion, death, and entombment.
12-18	National Library Week	To promote the use and support of all types of libraries. Sponsored by American Library Association. - www.ala.org .
12	Easter	Christian celebration of Christ's resurrection. Observed the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox.
12	Anniversary of the First Man in Space	Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space on this date in 1961, when he made a one-hour, 48-minute voyage, orbiting Earth in spacecraft <i>Vostok I</i> , launched by the USSR.
13-19	Young People's Poetry Week	Sponsored by the Children's Book Council. - www.cbcbooks.org/yppw/celebrate/
13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	Third president; lived 1743 to 1826. Author of the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom, and founder of the University of Virginia.
15-16	Passover (Pesach), Concluding Days	Jewish festival; see April 9-10. (begins at sunset, April 14)
15	Anniversary of the Sinking of the <i>Titanic</i>	On this date in 1912, the "unsinkable" ship <i>Titanic</i> sank on its first voyage, after colliding with an iceberg; 1,513 of the 2,200 people on board died.
18	Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride	The "midnight ride" of Paul Revere started at about 10 p.m. on this day in 1775.
19-25	Administrative Professionals Week and Day	Always the last full week in April with Administrative Professionals Day falling on Wednesday of that week. (See April 22.) Observed to recognize the contributions of administrative support staff in the workplace and to encourage professional development. - www.iaap-hq.org/APW/apwindex.htm
19-25	National Coin Week	To promote coin collecting and to emphasize its educational aspects. - www.money.org
19-25	National Student Leadership Week	Sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to encourage and recognize the many student leadership activities in our nation's secondary schools. - www.principals.org
19-25	National Wildlife Week	Information available from National Wildlife Federation. - www.nwf.org .
19-25	Public School Volunteer Week	To encourage parents and citizens to volunteer in their public schools; observed the third week of April. - www.projectappleseed.org
19	Orthodox Easter	Called Pascha, observed by Eastern Orthodox and Greek Orthodox churches.

- 20 Patriot's Day Always observed the third Monday in April in Maine and Massachusetts to commemorate the Battle of Lexington and Concord, which began the Revolutionary War in 1775. Always observed on April 19 in some states.
- 21 Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah) Honors the memory of six million Jewish martyrs and heroes who perished in the Nazi Holocaust. (begins at sunset, April 20)
- 22 Earth Day Observed on this day each year to acknowledge our responsibility for the environment and to make a stronger commitment to take action for the coming year. - www.earthday.net
- 22 Administrative Professionals Day See Administrative Professionals Week, April 19 - 25.
- 23 William Shakespeare's Birthday William Shakespeare, poet and dramatist in Elizabethan England, was born on this date in 1564, and also died on this date in 1616.
- 23 Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day™ Always the fourth Thursday in April. This program encourages parents and other adults to bring girls and boys to work with them and show them the wide range of jobs available to them. - www.daughtersandsonstowork.org
- 24 Commemoration of Armenian Genocide A day to remember the Armenians who were tortured, killed, and deported against their will by the Young Turks and Turkish Nationalists during 1915-1918 and 1920-1923. - www.armenian-genocide.org
- 24 National Arbor Day To encourage people to plant and care for trees. Sponsored on the last Friday in April by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Many states observe Arbor Day on other dates. - www.arborday.org

MAY 2009

- 1-31 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Designated by presidential proclamation to celebrate the collective accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans, who comprise many ethnic groups with diverse backgrounds, histories, languages, and cultures.
- 1-31 Better Hearing and Speech Month Sponsored by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to raise public awareness about how to identify, prevent, and treat speech, language, and hearing disorders. - www.asha.org
- 1-31 National Physical Fitness and Sports Month Sponsored by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports to encourage all Americans to take part in regular physical activity and increase their knowledge about the health benefits of exercise. - www.fitness.gov
- 1-31 National Sight-Saving Month To alert the public to the value of eye care and safety and the early detection of eye problems. - www.preventblindness.org
- 1-31 Preservation Month To recognize the accomplishments of groups working to preserve neighborhoods, districts, and landmark buildings. - www.nationaltrust.org
- 1-7 National Physical Education And Sports Week To increase awareness of the value of quality physical education and sports programs. - www.naspeinfo.org
- 1 Dia del Trabajo Labor Day in Mexico and many other countries.
- 1 Law Day Day to celebrate and learn about the rule of law in a constitutional democracy. Sponsored by the American Bar Association. - www.abanet.org.
- 1 Loyalty Day By presidential proclamation each year, a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.
- 3-10 National Music Week Celebrated the first full week in May. Sponsored by National Federation of Music Clubs. - www.nfmc-music.org/Events/NMW/NatlMusicWeek.htm
- 3-9 Be Kind to Animals Week Always observed the first full week in May, this event celebrates the bond between humans and animals. - www.americanhumane.org
- 3-9 Teacher Appreciation Week National PTA founded this week to give PTAs an opportunity to conduct activities to strengthen respect and support for teachers and the teaching profession. National Teacher Day falls on Tuesday of Teacher Appreciation Week (see May 5) and is a day for honoring teachers, and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives. - www.nea.org/teacherday/

3	World Press Freedom Day	To celebrate the independence of the international press and journalists. - www.unesco.org .
4-8	Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week	To encourage directors, managers, parents, students, teachers, and school administrators to show child nutrition professionals appreciation. Sponsored by the American School Food Service Association. www.schoolnutrition.org
4-10	Respect for Law Week and Day of Non-Violence	This program inspires respect for the law among young people. Optimist Day of Non-Violence falls on Saturday of Respect for Law Week (see May 9) to encourage peace and harmony within communities all over the world. - www.optimist.org
4	Horace Mann's Birthday	Father of the American free public school system; first secretary of the State Board of Education in Massachusetts. He lived 1796-1859.
5	Anniversary of the First American Man in Space	On this date in 1961, Alan B. Shepard, Jr. became the first American man in space. His suborbital flight lasted 15 minutes, 22 seconds, and reached a height of 116.5 miles.
5	Cinco de Mayo	Mexican anniversary of the victory over the French army in the Battle of Puebla in 1862.
5	National Teacher Day	See Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-9.
6	National School Nurse Day	To develop a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. - www.nasn.org
8	VE Day	Victory in Europe Day. Germany surrendered to Allied forces in 1945, ending World War II in Europe.
8	World Red Cross Day	Always on the birthday of Swiss citizen Jean Henri Dunant, who in 1863 founded the Red Cross movement in Geneva, Switzerland. - www.redcross.org
9	Day of Non-Violence	See Respect for Law Week, May 4-10.
10-16	Food Allergy Awareness Week	This week is set apart as an opportunity to learn how to help the approximately 12 million Americans with food allergies. - www.foodallergy.org .
10	Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad	On this date in 1869, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroad lines were joined by golden spikes at Promontory Point, Utah, completing the transcontinental railroad line.
10	Mother's Day	Since 1914, Mother's Day has been observed on the second Sunday in May.
11-17	National Children's Book Week	Sponsored by the Children's Book Council, 12 West 37th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018-7480. www.cbcbooks.org
16	Armed Forces Day	Always observed on the third Saturday in May, by presidential proclamation.
17-23	National Educational Bosses' Week	Observed the third full week in May. - www.naeop.org
17	Anniversary of School Desegregation Ruling	On this date in 1954, racial segregation in public schools was unanimously ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in <i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka</i> , as a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment clause guaranteeing equal protection under the law.
18	Victoria Day	Canadian national holiday, also called the Queen's Birthday. Celebrated on the Monday preceding May 25.
20-21	Lindbergh Flight Anniversary	Anniversary of the first transatlantic solo flight. On these dates in 1927, Charles Lindbergh flew nonstop from New York to Paris.
21	Ascension	Celebrated the Thursday approximately 40 days after Easter, to commemorate Christ's ascension into heaven. Roman Catholic Holy Day of Obligation. Celebrated on the following Sunday, May 24, in Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Utah, California, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Nevada.
22	International Day for Biological Diversity	Biological diversity is the number and variety of living organisms on the planet. The day is used to raise awareness of the threats to species from pollution, overuse, and destruction of habitats. - www.cbd.int .
25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday	American author, philosopher, and Unitarian minister; born in Boston, MA. Lived 1803-1882.

- 25 Memorial Day A state and federal holiday in remembrance of war dead; also known as Decoration Day. Celebrated on the last Monday in May.
- 29-30 Shavuot Jewish festival that commemorates the giving of the law (Torah) to Moses on Mount Sinai. (Festival of Weeks) (begins at sunset, May 28)
- 31 Pentecost Christian observance, considered the birthday of the Church, celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter; commemorates descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Disciples of Jesus.
- 31 World No Tobacco Day Observed annually on this day around the globe. Strives to bring international focus to the detrimental effects on health caused by tobacco use and environmental tobacco smoke. - www.who.int/en/.

JUNE 2009

- 1 Fireworks Safety Month Sponsored by Prevent Blindness America. - www.preventblindness.org (June 1 - July 4)
- 1-30 Caribbean-American Heritage Month By presidential proclamation, a month to celebrate the many ways in which Caribbean Americans have helped shape the United States and to pay tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and Caribbean countries.
- 1-30 Great Outdoors Month A month to celebrate the natural beauty of the outdoors and to renew our commitment to protect our environment. Also, an opportunity to pay tribute to those whose dedication keeps our country's open spaces beautiful and accessible. - www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org.
- 2 Republic Day (Italy) Commemorates the day in 1946 when Italy selected a republican government instead of returning to a monarchy.
- 3 Jefferson Davis' Birthday President of the Confederate States of America; lived 1808-1889. Observed in some states on the first Monday in June.
- 5 World Environment Day Annual observance to reaffirm concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment. www.unep.org/wed/
- 8-14 National Little League Baseball Week By presidential proclamation and a Congressional resolution passed in 1959. Always the week beginning the second Monday in June.
- 12 Anne Frank's Birthday The young German Jewish girl who, with her family, lived in hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam for two years; she died in a concentration camp at age 16. Her diary was published in 1947.
- 14-18 National History Day Contest The National History Day program is a year-long education program that culminates in a national contest every June. Its purpose is to engage students in grades 6-12 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. - www.nationalhistoryday.org
- 14 Race Unity Day Bahá'í - sponsored observance promoting racial harmony and understanding, and the essential unity of humanity. Always the second Sunday in June. - www.us.bahai.org
- 14 Flag Day The Stars and Stripes was adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. A day for patriotic observances.
- 15 Anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's Kite Experiment Noted author, diplomat, and inventor Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning is electricity by flying a kite in a thunderstorm on this date in 1752; invented the lightning rod.
- 15 Magna Carta Day Anniversary of the signing in 1215 of the Magna Carta by King John; it was the first charter of English liberties.
- 16 Anniversary of the First Woman in Space Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space on this date in 1963, when she made a 70-hour, 50-minute voyage, orbiting the Earth 48 times in the Soviet spacecraft *Vostok 6*.
- 16 Day of the African Child Celebrated on June 16 every year to commemorate the achievements and future challenges of Africa, and to celebrate the heritage of African-American children. - www.unicef.org

18	Anniversary of the First American Woman in Space	On this date in 1983, Sally Ride became the first American woman in space aboard the space shuttle <i>Challenger</i> .
19	Juneteenth	Commemorates the emancipation of African-Americans in Texas. On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger landed on Galveston Island and proclaimed the sovereignty of the United States over Texas and the freedom of all who had been slaves - two and a half years after slavery had ended in other parts of the South. Made a Texas state holiday in 1979, it is now celebrated in many parts of the United States.
21	First Day of Summer	Summer solstice occurs at 1:45 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.
21	Father's Day	Always observed on the third Sunday in June.
27	Helen Keller's Birthday	Blind and deaf, Keller graduated from Radcliffe College with honors; she became an author, educator, and crusader for better treatment of persons with disabilities. Lived 1880-1968.

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