

# ENGAGING PARENTS CALENDAR

## Important Dates 2014-2015

### Mark Your Calendars!

This calendar has been created for you to use as a guide as you seek new opportunities to plan Title I school events and activities that can engage parents, children, and families! While schools are encouraged to create their own ideas, this calendar includes possible academic activities that can be used as opportunities to strengthen the responsibility that schools, families and the community share to support student learning. Please note that some of the dates listed are unconventional and included for sheer fun! Therefore, while many are Title I allowable activities, not all would qualify. In these instances, it is recommended to seek other school and community partners to implement.

### 03 AMERICAN FAMILY DAY

This day brings families together to share their love and appreciation of one another.

#### Activity

Have students bring in a picture that represents their families and write a story describing how the picture illustrates their family history. Afterwards, attach the pictures together in the style of a quilt pattern to display in the classroom or school recognizing family diversity.



### 13 INTERNATIONAL LEFTHANDERS DAY

This day marks an annual event in which lefthanders everywhere celebrate their uniqueness and increase public awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed.

#### Activity

Ask students to research the history of lefthanders in their families or circle of friends, interviewing one person who is left-handed and giving a report on that person's experiences and thoughts as a lefthander. Enhance this project by asking students to rely on their "opposite hand" for an entire day to appreciate the differences.

## august

### 15 NATIONAL RELAXATION DAY

This day encourages parents to sit back and relax with their children.

#### Activity

Use this day to partner with community organizations and businesses that provide resources and services designed for relaxation, such as spa services, gym memberships, gardening centers and health services. Host a back to school event to offer these organizations and



businesses an opportunity to share information and tips with parents and students while the school provides parents with information about communicating with the school and working with their students for the year. What a great way for parents and students to start a new school year!

## FRUITS & VEGGIES MORE MATTERS MONTH

This month promotes healthy eating and is a time when the CDC joins other public and private organizations to promote eating more fruits and vegetables for better health.

### Activity

Using the website, [www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org), host a five day program explaining the benefits of a nutritious diet and encourage parents and students to “pack” more fruits and veggies into their meals. Ask students to create a vegetable and fruit bar from A-Z to explore different types of fruits and vegetables and the various environmental factors associated with cultivating the fruits and vegetables from around the world.

## 07 NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY

This day honors grandparents and has been observed since 1978. It’s celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

### Activity

Ask students to interview their grandparents or talk with their parents to learn more information about the lives of their grandparents. Students will then give a presentation comparing and contrasting their own lives with those of their grandparents while identifying similarities despite living in different eras.



## 08 INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

This day focuses on worldwide literacy needs and aims to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and societies.

### Activity

Invite students, parents, or guests who have lived in other parts of the world to read a story or to talk about their experiences in different classrooms in other countries. Learn other ways that your school can support this important day at: [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).

## Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

This month recognizes the contributions Hispanic Americans have made to the United States and celebrates Hispanic culture.

### Activity

Celebrate the rich Hispanic history by highlighting different Hispanic American authors and sharing these books with parents, students, and teachers. Use these books to promote literacy and increase cultural awareness in your school. Engage students in a competition to design their classroom doors representing the various authors and books in an artistic manner. Learn more ways to recognize Hispanic culture at [www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov](http://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov).

# september

## 17 CONSTITUTION DAY

This day recognizes the legacy of 39 brave men who signed the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787.

### Activity

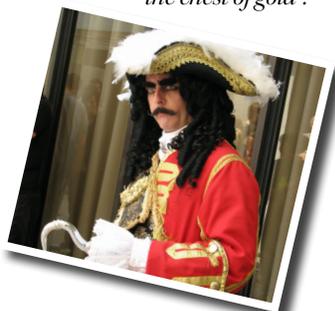
Take time to recognize modern day heroes in your school and community by contacting local police departments, fire companies, and military personnel as well as reaching out to parents who have served in these roles to speak to students about their experiences and to work with teachers to help teach students about the history and importance of the Constitution.

## 19 INTERNATIONAL TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

This day is a celebration of the Golden Age of Piracy when everyone is challenged to talk like a pirate.

### Activity

“Argh maties, time to search for ye gold!” Use this fun day to set sails at your school and plan an exploration for parents and students to discover what is happening at the school, including a journey through the curricula. Build a map that leads parents to “the chest of gold”.



## 22 NATIONAL FAMILY DAY

This day encourages families to make “family dinner” a regular and important feature in their lives.

### Activity

Partner with local businesses or community groups to help sponsor an evening to celebrate the families in your school with a community dinner. Ask students and parents to sign-up to bring items and possibly contribute towards the meal as a way to recognize different ethnicities and cultures in your school. Ask parents to provide interesting facts and information to educate the audience about the history and background of their item. Sharing a meal is a perfect time for schools to share information with parents and partake in healthy eating and dialogues.

## 27 FAMILY HEALTH & FITNESS DAY

This day promotes family involvement in physical activity as a method for remaining healthy and physically fit.

### Activity

Coordinate a health event, such as a 5K race/walk or a fitness camp, in conjunction with a health expo to offer community resources and information to families on the numerous benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle and staying active. Position different stations around the course for teachers to help students and parents calculate their heart rate and other fitness measurements. Discover helpful tips at [www.fitnessday.com](http://www.fitnessday.com) to plan an educational and active event.

## 05 WORLD TEACHER DAY

This day recognizes those who educate our children and the positive effect they've had on their lives.

### Activity

"Take a Stand for Teachers!" is the theme for World Teacher Day this year. Help promote the role of teachers by asking students to write a letter to their parents describing how a teacher has made a difference in their lives including what they learned from that teacher and how they benefited as a result of that teacher.

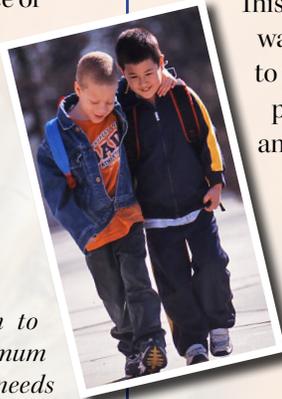


## 06 NATIONAL CHILD HEALTH DAY

This day addresses the critical importance of quality health care, nutritious foods, clean air and water, and safe communities for all children.

### Activity

In order for children to perform at their maximum potential, their basic needs such as health and safety need to be met. Consider using this day as an opportunity to educate parents on how maintaining a healthy lifestyle can impact their child's performance in school by partnering with school social workers to offer educational resources and programs for parents.



## 08 NATIONAL STOP BULLYING DAY

This day is observed as a global initiative to stop bullying at school and in the community.

### Activity

Parents, students, and teachers can unite together to raise awareness to stop bullying at your school. Coordinate with the school counselors to plan activities and lessons for this day. Focus on the strength and unity of your school community and stomp out bullying by challenging students and parents to develop posters to display around the school illustrating the importance of supporting bullying prevention. For more ideas, visit

[www.pacer.org/bullying](http://www.pacer.org/bullying).

## 08 WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

This day encourages walking to school to promote health, physical activity, and concern for the environment.

### Activity

Engage your school community by promoting the active participation in walking or biking to school on this fun day. Consider designating starting points for those families who live farther away from school or offer walking/biking at school on this day. Add an educational element to this activity by calculating the combined distance traveled, gas saved and calories burned by your school! Make the event a yearlong activity by visiting

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

# october

Oct. 13 - 17

## NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

This week helps children learn that eating a healthy and nutritious school lunch is essential in helping them get the most out of their action-packed day!

### Activity

The 2014 campaign theme is "School Lunch Across the USA" and celebrates the regional flavors, ingredients, and traditions across the country. Use this theme to ask students to design healthy lunch menus for the week representing specific cultures and the history of different states or cities. Encourage parents to assist their children in preparing a lunch item selected from their menus. Discover tasty recipes and other fun activities at

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

## 23 LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

This day calls attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families, and communities so children are not left unsupervised at home.

### Activity

Promote the importance of out of school learning time by hosting a STEM afterschool event for students and parents designed to improve attitudes towards STEM fields and careers and increase STEM capabilities and skills in students. Learn more at

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

25 MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

This day is meant to give parents an opportunity to teach their children the importance of volunteer work by extending a helping hand to a friend or neighbor.

### Activity

Host a community action event for students, parents, and teachers to roll up their sleeves and tackle projects around the community and school. Collaborate with local businesses and community groups to address areas of need in the community to build mutually beneficial partnerships. Use the event to show how everyone can make a difference by illustrating to parents how every one of them can make a difference in the educational lives of their children.

Oct. 23 - 31

## NATIONAL RED RIBBON WEEK

This week encourages parents to talk to their children about the dangers of drugs and is also called Drug Prevention Week.

### Activity

Work with the school counselors to help plan and coordinate ideas for this week in order to encourage parents to have conversations with their children about the use of drugs and alcohol by providing them with conversation starters and resources. Conclude this week by asking students to give presentations or develop videos talking to their friends about drug use.

## NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

This month recognizes the roles of American Indians and Alaska Natives and their part in U.S. history. Schools and communities sponsor numerous activities and programs to celebrate this month.

### Activity

Embark on a journey through U.S. history with your students and families as they visit different stations spread around your school representing significant moments in Native American heritage and exploring the cultural origins of respective tribes in Native American diversity. Take advantage of educational resources and materials at [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu).

## 01 FAMILY LITERACY DAY

This day calls on families to read with each other in order to showcase the importance of family literacy programs.



### Activity

Think for a moment how much we depend on the ability to read throughout the day whether at work, in the grocery store or at home. Use this day to kick off your school's reading campaign and share information and digital resources with parents on how to motivate their children to read and capture the importance of literacy.

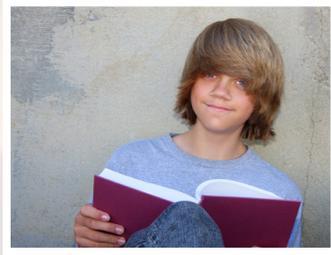
Find ideas at

[www.readwritethink.com](http://www.readwritethink.com).

Nov. 11 - Nov. 15

## NATIONAL YOUNG READERS WEEK

This week encourages parents to check out new books and read them with their children.



### Activity

Select a well-known children's author to highlight during this week and find creative ways to encourage parents and students to pick up a book written by this author and read it together. Schools can use other activities and information found at [www.readingrocket.org](http://www.readingrocket.org).

Nov. 17 - Nov. 21

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

This week provides an opportunity to celebrate and promote international education in schools.

### Activity

Turn education into a spectator sport! Everyone knows about spelling bees, but use this week to host your school's first ever international social studies bee that dives into language, history, and geography from around the globe. Think of fun ways to create teams for competition and involve parents in the competition, judging, cheering, or question development.

# november

Nov. 17 - Nov. 21

## AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

This week highlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college.

### Activity

Celebrate excellence in education by sending out personal invitations to all parents inviting them to take time this week to visit their child's school for a firsthand look at a regular school day starting off with a welcoming reception each day updating parents on school news.

20 NATIONAL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT DAY

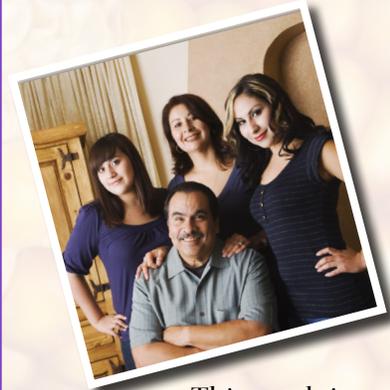
This day is a call to action for parents to commit to being an active part of their child's education.

### Activity

Encourage parent involvement by providing them with the answers they need. Establish a one-day hotline and helpdesk for parents to call with all questions relating to their child's school and education. Have information readily available on the different ways parents can be involved in the school as well as help their child to be successful. Staff the hotline with teachers from all subject areas in order to answer questions about the school's curriculum. Advertise and promote this unique opportunity for parents during the weeks leading up to November 20th.

Nov. 23 - Nov. 29

## NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK



This week is designed to celebrate strong families and advocate for policies that foster community connections.

### Activity

Ask students to sit down and work with their families in order to create a family timeline that depicts important dates and events throughout their families' history. Celebrate the families in your school by displaying these timelines around classrooms and the school.

**\*DONT FORGET!**  
November is **Parent Engagement Month!**

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/o4rf6ux> for ideas, resources, and tips of how you can Get the facts... get connected...  
**GET INVOLVED!**



# 01 EAT A RED APPLE DAY



This day promotes parents eating an apple with their children because “an apple a day keeps the doctor away”.

### Activity

Promote critical thinking towards food nutrition by encouraging students and parents to analyze nutritional labels to determine the nutritional value of food. With their parents' help, ask students to collect the nutritional labels for a whole week from items and meals they enjoyed. Use these labels to calculate the calories and nutrients consumed by students and parents! Build partnerships in the community by coordinating with local healthcare providers to offer educational classes on nutrition, cooking, and diets.

# 07 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

This day has been recognized since 1941 when Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by Japan. Use the day to educate your students about the importance of this event.



### Activity

Remember this significant day in U.S. history by engaging students in researching the impact of this event on the political landscape and international relationships of the time. After researching the events surrounding this day, help students develop a quiz to give their parents asking them what they know about the attack on Pearl Harbor and the significance to them.



# december

# 07 WORLDWIDE CANDLE LIGHTING DAY

This day unites families and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor and remember children who have died at any age and from any cause.



### Activity

Consider using this special day as a way to strengthen relationships or build ties with the organizations in your community to remember those lives lost in the community. Use this day to partner with the school social worker and respective community groups to address school and personal safety issues.

# 28 NATIONAL CARD PLAYING DAY

This day is celebrated by encouraging families to play card games together. Parents can teach their children older card games and children can teach their parents new card games.

### Activity

While schools may be closed on this day, it is still a fun day to advertise for your families by providing them with a list of educational card games as a good way to spend quality time teaching and learning as a family while their children are enjoying their school vacation.



## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER BLOOD DONOR MONTH

This month encourages parents to donate blood with their children in the hope of saving someone's life.

### Activity

Hosting a blood drive is a great opportunity to welcome parents and the community to your school. Take advantage of having visitors in your school by sharing current educational resources developed by the science department for those parents who are not squeamish about donating blood to learn more about the facts of science. Build on this opportunity by sharing information with parents about other ways in which they can volunteer at their child's school



## 04 NATIONAL TRIVIA DAY

This day is celebrated by playing trivia games such as Trivial Pursuit or other knowledge testing games with friends and family.

### Activity

See who is smarter than their student by pitting parents' knowledge against their students' brains by hosting a family quiz show event. Ask teachers to help develop questions, coach teams, and facilitate individual classroom competitions between students and parents.

## 05 NATIONAL BIRD DAY

This day celebrates birds!

Share pictures of your favorite bird with your children or walk around outside and bird watch.



### Activity

Think outside the cage on this feathery day! Organize a bird walk with students and parents or challenge participants to recognize different bird calls found on [www.nationalbirdday.com](http://www.nationalbirdday.com). It is a perfect time to reflect on the beauty of birds and increase awareness of the many species facing extinction around the world.

# january

Jan. 08 - Jan. 14

## UNIVERSAL LETTER WRITING WEEK

This week was set aside to help people remember how satisfying it is to both write and receive a handwritten letter, so parents are encouraged to get out the pens and paper and write letters with their children.

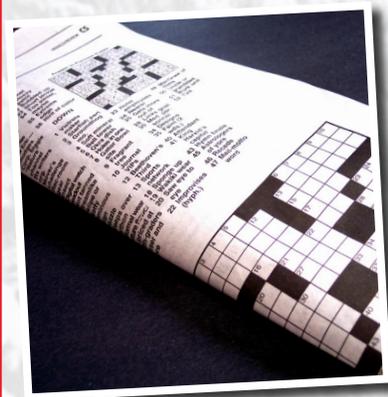
### Activity



Partner with a school in another state or even better, another country, to develop a letter exchange system with students and parents. Invite and encourage parents to participate in this activity by writing a letter or sending a note of their own with the rest of the school's correspondence. Through old fashion letters, your school, students and parents can learn more about another population, culture, and school system.

## 29 NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY

This day promotes parents solving puzzles with their kids and teaching them how to think "outside the box".



### Activity

World puzzles, picture puzzles, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, math puzzles are just a few of the many different types of fun games to engage parents and students in learning. Consider hosting a puzzle event utilizing numerous games to compliment and introduce parents to what their children are learning in the classroom. For more ideas, visit [www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org).

## CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

This month raises awareness about the importance of oral health care for children.

### Activity

Bring a smile to the faces of your students and parents by taking a bite into a great opportunity to teach parents and students about the importance of a solid education. Embrace this month by partnering with local dentists and orthodontists to teach families about the educational courses and other requirements to prepare for a fascinating career in the dental profession in addition to providing free dental screenings, products, and resources for families. Discover other ways to celebrate this month at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org).

## PARENT LEADERSHIP MONTH

This month is celebrated to expand opportunities for parent leaders to participate in meaningful parent leadership

activities at the local, state and national levels.

### Activity

Stand up and recognize the parent leaders in your school this month. Ask parent leaders to share their stories about how being involved in their child's school has made a difference in the educational lives of their children, including tips and strategies for other parents on helping their children learn at home. Consider developing a video of testimonials from parent leaders to post online or share at school.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

This month celebrates and educates children about African-American history.

### Activity

Celebrate the rich culture, powerful past and influential leaders throughout African American history during this important month by taking part in the National African American Read-In. Schools can make literacy a significant part of Black History Month by hosting and coordinating a community Read-In. It can be as simple as bringing together families and students to read a book or as elaborate as arranging public readings and media presentations that feature professional African American writers.

## 11 NATIONAL INVENTORS DAY

This day celebrates the birthday of Thomas Edison by encouraging parents to create new things with their children.

### Activity

Combine the celebration of this day with a twist on the traditional science fair event. Encourage students to create new inventions or improve on existing ideas, then ask parents to help judge the projects with a rubric and score card.



# february

## 17 NATIONAL PTA FOUNDERS DAY

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice

This day serves as a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families.

### Activity

In spite of living during a time when women did not have the right to vote, the women who founded the National Parent Teacher Association created an organization devoted to education success and family engagement. Celebrate your PTA and the significance of their achievements by asking students to research other movements or organizations that made positive contributions in the face of opposition. Share these projects with parents during your school's first ever social studies fair!

## 17 INTERNATIONAL PANCAKE DAY

This day is sponsored by IHOP, and it is meant for parents to enjoy a pancake with their kids.



### Activity

Flapjacks, hotcakes, silver dollars – pancakes have almost as many names as there are different types. Cooking is a science and there are numerous pancake recipes around the world. Consider partnering with a community organization to sponsor a pancake breakfast for students and parents to highlight the science and social studies curricula and this popular breakfast item.

## MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION MONTH

This month was initiated by the National Middle School Association (NMSA) and brings together a wide range of organizations to focus on the needs of adolescents, ages 10 to 15.

### Activity

Remind parents and families of what life as a middle school student is like during this month. Ask students to write poems, develop videos or create presentations illustrating to their parents what a quality middle level education is all about. Find more resources at [www.amle.org](http://www.amle.org).

## MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

This month promotes students having access to music education taught by excellent music instructors.



### Activity

Turn classrooms into exciting theaters! Music and singing hold significant meaning and places throughout history and culture around the world. Use this month to connect music with social studies and bring a little rhythm into the classroom for students and parents to enjoy. Consider participating in "The Concert for Music in Our Schools Month" and other educational activities available on [www.nafme.org](http://www.nafme.org).

## NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

This month brings awareness about the importance of families eating healthy and nutritious meals.

### Activity

Although celebrated during March, the theme for National Nutrition Month is "Eat Right, Your Way, Every Day". Help parents and student see the benefits of a healthy diet by sharing some of the resources found on [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org) during a parent event or meeting. Encourage students to keep a food journal for one week cataloguing what they eat and analyzing it to determine the nutritional value with the help of their teachers.

## 02 DR. SEUSS READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

This day celebrates the birthday of Dr. Seuss by encouraging parents and families to read his books to their children.

### Activity

Start planning now for this exciting and educational event to motivate children to read and create lifelong learners! Invite parents to your school to enjoy high school students performing reader's theater and poetry slam, and middle school students can organize book fairs and read to elementary school students. Remember, "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child!"

# march

## 03 NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY

This day encourages parents to sing the "Star Spangled Banner" with their kids, and to also teach them the significance of the song.

### Activity

Recognize this historic tribute to our country by igniting students' creativity. Ask students to submit a picture of themselves and their parents with an American flag and include an essay describing what this picture means to them. Grow the event by displaying the pictures around the hallways or as a colorful representation of the American flag for your school to enjoy.

## Mar. 02 - Mar. 06

## NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFASTWEEK

This week emphasizes the importance of eating a healthy breakfast every day.

### Activity

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but is often the one that is skipped the most. Partner with CTAE teachers to challenge students to develop a strategic business plan with the ultimate goal of how they would market breakfast to their parents as an essential part of the day. Ask students to track the success of their campaigns by measuring how frequently their parents eat breakfast and quantify the impact through informal assessments.

## 14 INTERNATIONAL ASK A QUESTION DAY

This day encourages parents to sit down with their children and allow them to ask questions about topics of interest.



### Activity

Many schools are preparing for schoolwide assessments during this time of year and every assessment contains questions, so use this recognized day to host an interactive event for students and parents to ask questions about assessments at your school! Provide helpful test preparation and test-taking advice and strategies for both parents and students.



**NATIONAL STRESS  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**



This month was created to promote

awareness about the dangers of stress, successful coping strategies, and identify harmful misconceptions about stress.

**Activity**

Whether you are a parent, teacher, principal or student, you can be negatively affected by the stress in your life. This is why it is so important to reserve a whole month to increase public awareness about the causes and cures for stress. Alleviate stress in your school by partnering with the school counselors to develop and offer helpful information on stress management practices associated with the pressures of school.



Apr. 12 - Apr. 18

**WEEK OF THE  
YOUNG CHILD**

The purpose of this week is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families.

**Activity**

The focus of this week is on the whole student, which is a perfect opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of all students in every subject. Kick off this week with a special showcase event displaying student work in math, English, social studies, science, art, and other school subjects for parents to enjoy. Consider other fun ideas for this week at [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org).



# april

**23 TAKE OUR  
DAUGHTERS &  
SONS TO WORK DAY**

This program was created to inform the future generation of young boys and girls about the variety of career paths they can have.

Apr. 20 - Apr. 24

**PUBLIC SCHOOL  
VOLUNTEER WEEK**

This week invites families to assist school teachers and administrators with everyday activities by volunteering with their children.

**Activity**

Encourage families to find time this week to visit their child's school and lend a hand. Create a list of responsibilities and opportunities for parents to sign up in advance for specific days and times during the week. Think of everything from small tasks to larger school projects to support student learning and academic achievement.



**Activity**

Created originally to educate students about different career paths, help keep kids in school on this day by hosting a work day at your school. Consider transforming rooms into offices, restaurants, or shops. Ask parents to support this event by speaking to students about career options and experiences. Give the students a guide for career exploration throughout the day to associate the educational requirements with various career paths.

## ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

This month celebrates the culture, traditions, and history of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the US.

### Activity

Join students as they take a journey around the world as they explore Asian culture through folk tales. Add increasing levels of participation to this project through in depth research leading to presentations and discussions. Consider inviting parents to the school to enjoy watching students' presentations and learning more about the Asian-Pacific American culture.

## 02 NATIONAL SCRAPBOOKING DAY



This day invites scrapbookers all over the country to celebrate their passion for scrapbooking! Parents can teach their children how to scrapbook on this day.

### Activity

Scrapbooking is an art that can be used to capture almost anything! Consider using this fun activity as a tool to review for upcoming final exams. Get parents involved in the enjoyment by hosting a scrapbook fair to display students' work and share test preparation information.



## May 01 - May 07

### NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION SPORT WEEK

This week promotes physical fitness and sports for children to remain active and physically fit.

### Activity

Set schoolwide goals for fitness and participation to motivate your students and parents to be active and fit. Collaborate with physical education teachers to develop fun activities and games for the entire week including opportunities for parents to join before or after school. Then ask science or math teachers to assist with calculating how many calories were burned by the school and students. Find information and great ideas for the entire week at [www.aahperd.org](http://www.aahperd.org).

## May 04 - May 10

**SCREEN FREE WEEK**  
This week encourages everyone to turn off the television and read, daydream, enjoy nature, and spend time with family and friends.

### Activity

The possibilities and activities for parents and students are endless from art projects, games and puzzles, books and letters, to enjoying nature and exercising. Challenge students to keep a log of everything they accomplish this week with their parents or provide a checklist of activities to spark their interest. Need more help? Go to [www.screenfree.org](http://www.screenfree.org) for great ideas!

## 05 NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

This day focuses on teachers who make public schools a great place for students to achieve and soar. This day honors and recognizes our teachers for the contributions they make to our children and families.

### Activity

Celebrate and recognize the important roles and contributions of educators in the lives of students and parents. Host a competition for students to decorate their classroom doors as a symbol of appreciation for everything they learned from their teachers during the school year. Recognize the shared responsibility in education between teachers and parents by encouraging families to visit the school this week to lend support and assistance as a gesture of appreciation.

## May 12 - May 16

### NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK WEEK

This week encourages people to ride a bike to work for a week, if possible, in order to reduce the harmful CO2 emissions that come from cars.

### Activity

Remind parents that if it were not for them, then their children would not know how to ride a bike. Use this theme to encourage parents to keep teaching their children every day and offer take home activities for parents and children to use together. Connect the activities with the science curriculum in support of this day to help students understand the importance of saving our resources by studying the different advances in engineering, agriculture, technology, and science devoted to energy efficiency and the exploration of alternative energy sources.

# may

## May 18 - Jun. 18

### NATIONAL SMILE MONTH



This month is meant to encourage everyone to take good care of their teeth so that they can have a sparkling white smile!

### Activity

Say cheese! Everyone loves to have their picture taken with a big smile. Build on the theme of this month by asking students to take a picture of themselves with their biggest and happiest smile, then write about one thing they learned in class during the school year that made them smile, reflecting on how this lesson made a difference in their lives. Parents can easily join this activity by sending a fun picture with a note recognizing one favorite moment this year.



## 05 NATIONAL GINGERBREAD DAY

This day encourages parents to make a gingerbread man with their school aged children and enjoy!



### Activity

Provide parents with an activity plan they can follow with their student to create a gingerbread figure that represents the student. Ask students to bring in their gingerbread to present and explain how it represents them. Paper and glue can substitute for flour and frosting.



## 05 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

This day is used by the United Nations to stimulate worldwide awareness of environmental issues and encourages preventative action to keep our environment clean and sustainable.

### Activity

Teach the importance of giving back to the community by collaborating with community partners to combine resources to clean and improve the school and neighborhoods. Focus on the need for everyone to recycle by teaching students and parents how they can recycle different products and how this benefits the environment and future generations.

## 14 FLAG DAY

This is a day of patriotism, so parents can take the opportunity to hang or display their native flag on their lawns with their children.

### Activity

Although students may be on summer vacation, there are still plenty of opportunities for parents and students to engage in learning activities. The Library of Congress ([www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)) offers a Performing Arts Encyclopedia that contains 27 different patriotic melodies. Parents and students can use these songs to have a conversation about U.S. history and the importance of the American flag. Parents can also find interactive games for Flag Day at [www.famlit.org](http://www.famlit.org).



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## 18 INTERNATIONAL PICNIC DAY

This day encourages everyone to break out the blankets and Tupperware containers to enjoy a family picnic!

### Activity

A picnic is a wonderful opportunity to teach students about nature while enjoying a fun meal together. Learn more about our beautiful country through the eyes of science by planning a great outdoor adventure to learn about the ecosystems in nature at nearby parks or your own backyard! Explore more information at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

## NATIONAL CULINARY ARTS MONTH

This month is meant to allow parents to teach their children the basics of cooking by allowing them to help out with meal preparations and around the kitchen.



### Activity

Navigating your way around a kitchen and following a recipe is an excellent way to build important skills and teach the responsibility of preparing a meal. Parents can use this month to teach their children the steps involved in planning and cooking a meal from buying ingredients within a budget to the importance of measuring and counting ingredients to maintaining a clean kitchen after a meal.

## 01 INTERNATIONAL JOKE DAY

This day gives parents and children an opportunity to share laughter together by telling their favorite jokes.

### Activity

Did you know that positive thoughts, such as laughter, can help fight stress and strengthen your immune system? Help students and parents lead a healthier life

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by supplying them with a variety of good, clean classroom jokes. Include literary tips such as rhyming and alliteration for students to write their own jokes.

