



ENGAGING PARENTS CALENDAR



Georgia Department of Education Important Dates 2015-2016

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.



2 NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

National Read Across America Day is an annual event that is part of Read Across America, an initiative on reading that was created by the National Education Association (NEA).



Each year, National Read Across America Day is celebrated on March 2nd, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. This day is an awareness day, calling all children and youth in every community across the United States to celebrate reading.

Activity

The NEA has several activities prepared to celebrate National Read Across America Day from taking the Reader's Oath to singing the Read Across America song. Check out these and other ideas at the link below.

bit.ly/nea-raad



3 NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY

Written by Francis Scott Key, the Star Spangled Banner is the national anthem of the United States of America.

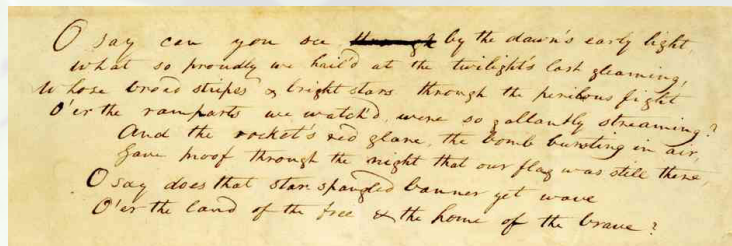
The Star Spangled Banner was written during the War of 1812 and references the bombardment of Fort McHenry. Key, having witnessed the battle, was inspired to write the song when he saw that the American flag was still flying after the attack.

On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a congressional resolution that officially made the song the national anthem of the United States.

Activity

Have your child study the lyrics to The Star Spangled Banner and analyze the words and phrases for meaning and thematic elements.

bit.ly/ssbactivity



march

14 NATIONAL PI DAY

National Pi Day is celebrated annually on March 14th.

National Pi Day is an annual celebration commemorating the mathematical constant π (pi). Pi Day is observed on March 14 (or 3/14 in month/day format), because 3, 1 and 4 are the three most significant digits of π in the decimal form. In 2009, the United States House of Representatives supported the designation of Pi Day.



Activity

Piday.org has numerous activities to celebrate Pi Day from calculating Pi from the circumference of a circle to using Pi to write a story. See all the activities here:

bit.ly/pidayactivities

april



5 NATIONAL READ A ROAD MAP DAY

Annually, Read a Road Map Day is celebrated April 5. If your student is beginning to drive, knowing how to read a road map is still a handy skill for them to learn.

While you may intend your student to use a GPS device, what if the batteries die, or there's no service in a remote location? Your student may have to purchase a road map and read it to reach their destination. Aside from reading road maps, there are many professions that still rely on reading maps.

Activity

National Geographic has a great activity for learning how to read highway maps.

bit.ly/readamap

6 NATIONAL STUDENT ATHLETE DAY

National Student-Athlete Day, celebrated annually on April 6, provides an opportunity to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of student-athletes. National Student-Athlete Day honors those student-athletes who have achieved excellence in academics and athletics, while making significant contributions to their communities.

Activity

Celebrate the day by presenting student-athletes with award certificates, planning special ceremonies and presentations, connecting with young people in the community who support their athletics teams and more.

11 NATIONAL PET DAY

National Pet Day was founded to celebrate the joy pets bring to our lives and to create public awareness about the animals in shelters that need forever homes.

Activity

petdayusa.com provides 10 ways to celebrate the day from adopting a pet to donating supplies to an animal welfare organization.

22 NATIONAL EARTH DAY

This day is held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The concept of Earth Day was established in 1969 at a UNESCO Conference in San Francisco. On March 21, 1970, an official proclamation was signed at the United Nations. On April 22, 1970, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day.

Activities

This Education World article lists numerous Earth Day activities from growing a tree to learning about endangered species. Consider hosting a service day when your children can learn about civic responsibilities by picking up litter on a stretch of road or at their school.

bit.ly/earthdayactivities

29 NATIONAL TEACH CHILDREN TO SAVE DAY

Teach Children to Save is a national program—sponsored by the American Banker's Association (ABA) Community Engagement Foundation—that organizes banker volunteers to help young people develop a savings habit early in life.



Activity

The ABA has assembled a variety of free materials, including a video webinar, to help you teach your children (gear toward grades K-8) how to save. Check out the materials at the link below.

bit.ly/childrensav



ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the first ten days of May as a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Twelve years later, President George H.W. Bush signed an extension making the week-long celebration into a month-long celebration.

In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843. The anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad is also in May. It was completed on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.



Activities

This Education Word article provides a wealth of activities to celebrate Asian-Pacific American Month, from acting out Asian folktales, to creating a book with biographies of famous Asian Americans, to learning how to fold origami.

bit.ly/asianpacificamerican

2-6 TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Since 1984, the National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) has designated the first week in May as a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children.

PTA events at the national, state and local levels celebrate the outstanding contributions teachers make.

Activity

The National PTA has put together free resources to help you honor the influential teachers in your child's life. Visit the link below to see them.

bit.ly/appreciatetheteachers

5 NATIONAL ASTRONAUT DAY

On May 5, 1961, Navy Commander Alan Bartlett Shepard Jr. was launched into space aboard the Freedom 7 space capsule, becoming the first American astronaut to travel into space. To honor this achievement, we celebrate National Astronaut Day.

Activity

Have your child pick an astronaut from the list in the link below and have them research what that astronaut did.

<http://bit.ly/astrolist>

may

27 GRAPE POPSICLE DAY

In 1905, 11-year-old Frank Epperson was on his porch, mixing water with a white powdered flavoring to make soda. He went inside and forgot that he left it on the porch with the stirring stick still in it. On that California night, the temperature reached a record low and the following morning Frank discovered the drink had frozen to the stick.

In 1923, Epperson made and sold his frozen "Popsicle" at an amusement park. In 1924, he applied for a patent for his frozen confectionery.



Activity

Frank Epperson turned a simple innovation into a business. After you tell your child this story, ask your child to dream up an invention while you make grape popsicles together.

25 NATIONAL BROWN-BAG-IT DAY

This creative day is all about ways to save you and your child money at lunchtime by taking a lunch to school. Think creatively and healthily while packing your lunch.

Packing a lunch is a sure way to know exactly what you are eating. You will be in control of what you pack and can eat a good, healthy, and inexpensive lunch.



Activity

The internet is an invaluable resource for finding healthy ways to eat. Teach your child about using a search engine online to find healthy lunches. To simply get started with healthy lunch options, visit the link below.

bit.ly/brownbagitlunch



Mae Jemison, pictured here aboard the space shuttle Endeavour in 1992, was the first female African American astronaut.