

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page features three concentric blue circles of varying sizes. Two thin blue lines intersect at the top left, forming a large 'V' shape that frames the circles. The circles are positioned at different heights, with the largest one at the top right, a medium one in the middle, and a large one at the bottom right.

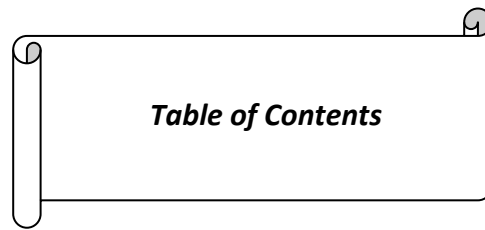
English Learner Family Support Handbook

Welcome to our new families!

Parents play a very important role in the education of their children in America. We hope this booklet helps you become familiar with your new school.

***Holly McClurg, Ph.D., Superintendent
Del Mar Union School District***

Translations also available in Spanish, Korean & Chinese at:
<http://www.dmusd.org/Page/881>

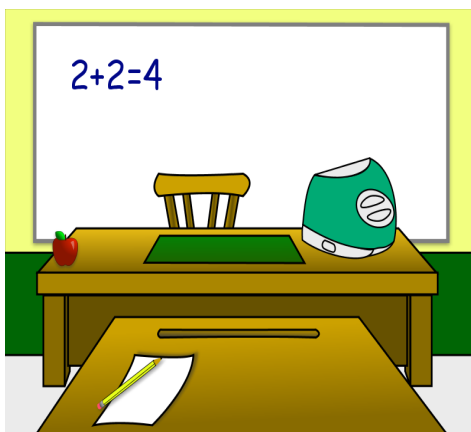


Welcome!

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WELCOME!



The best way to receive current information about your school and the district is by visiting our website at www.dmusd.org

You may also reach us at the following numbers:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>Admin Assistant</i>
Ashley Falls	858-259-7812	Abby Domingo	Terri Alper
Carmel Del Mar	858-481-6789	Julie Lerner	Ann Hoffman
Del Mar Heights	858-755-9367	Jason Soileau	Karrie Beach
Del Mar Hills	858-755-9763	Andrea Sleet	Jenna Ellis
Ocean Air	858-481-4040	Ryan Stanley	Marina Russo
Sage Canyon	858-481-7844	Alison Fieberg	Christine Sanchez
Sycamore Ridge	858-755-1060	Dr. Peg LaRose	Lesa House
Torrey Hills	858-481-4266	Kristin Stanton	Tabitha Farber
District Office	858-755-9301	Holly McClurg, Ph.D., Superintendent	Holly Palmer

In order to make your transition into our school as easy as possible, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions.

How do I enroll my child?

Enrollment information is available at www.district.dmusd.org. Click on the **Pupil Services Department, Student Registration** Link.

Enrollment forms are available at each of the 8 schools and at the District Office located at:

Del Mar Union School District

11232 El Camino Real, San Diego, CA 92130

Phone: (858) 755-9301 ~ Fax: (858) 755-4361

ASHLEY FALLS SCHOOL, Abby Domingo, Principal

13030 Ashley Falls Drive, San Diego, CA 92130

CARMEL DEL MAR SCHOOL, Julie Lerner, Principal

12345 Carmel Park Drive, San Diego, CA 92130

DEL MAR HEIGHTS SCHOOL, Jason Soileau, Principal

13555 Boquita Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014

DEL MAR HILLS ACADEMY, Andrea Sleet, Principal

14085 Mango Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014

OCEAN AIR SCHOOL, Ryan Stanley, Principal

11444 Canter Heights Drive, San Diego, CA 92130

SAGE CANYON SCHOOL, Alison Fieberg, Principal

5290 Harvest Run Drive, San Diego, CA 92130

SYCAMORE RIDGE SCHOOL, Dr. Peg LaRose, Principal

5333 Old Carmel Valley Rd, San Diego, CA 92130

TORREY HILLS SCHOOL, Kristin Stanton, Principal

10830 Calle Mar De Mariposa, San Diego, CA 92130

International Family Contacts

The following family volunteers are happy to help you.
Feel free to contact them with any questions you may have.

<i>Language</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
French	Kate Takahashi	Carmel Del Mar	858-922-2747	ktakahashi@san.rr.com
Finnish	Mari Jussila	Carmel Del Mar	858-847-8750	mari.jussila@live.com
Hebrew	Jennie Starr	Del Mar Hills	858-245-9375	jenniestarr@gmail.com
Japanese	Yuka Inagaki	Ashley Falls	858-793-4512	yukakent@gmail.com
Korean	Chung Kyu Hwang	Carmel Del Mar	858-436-4047	chungkyu.hwang@gmail.com
Mandarin	Wenjie Li	Sage Canyon	858-794-7899	wenji05@gmail.com
	Sara Chang	Sycamore Ridge	858-755-2227	sarachang@earthlink.net
Mandarin	Xuemei Zhang	Ocean Air	858-344-4673	lilywoods2000@yahoo.com
Russian	Julie Mochernak	Del Mar Heights	858-720-8384	Julia.mega@hotmail.com
Serbo-Croatian	Svetlana Maric	Ocean Air	858-350-9083	scmaric@sbcglobal.net
Spanish	Cecile Burnstein	Ashley Falls	619-701-8029	cecileburnstein@gmail.com
	Danielle Hamue	Torrey Hills	858-461-0119	daniellegattegno@hotmail.com

International Cultural Centers

Below are a few International Cultural Centers you may find useful:

Balboa Park House of Pacific Relations International Cottages – hosts 32 international cottages and numerous cultural events throughout the year: www.sdhpr.org

American Turkish Association of Southern California: <http://www.sdturks.org/>

International Ethnic Groups Cultural & International Multicultural Events in San Diego: http://www.runoftheworld.com/san_diego_international_ethnic/

Japanese Friendship Garden: <http://www.niwa.org/>

Little Italy San Diego: <http://www.littleitalysd.com/>

Persian Cultural Center: <http://www.pccsd.org/>

San Diego Chinese Historical Museum: <http://www.sdchm.org/>

San Diego World Beat Center in Balboa Park: <http://www.worldbeatcenter.org/>

Tarbuton, and Israeli Cultural Center: <http://www.tarbuton.org>

UC San Diego Cross-Cultural Center: <http://ccc.ucsd.edu/Links.asp>

How can I become involved in the school?

Parents play a very important role in the education of their children in America. Teachers want to see you and talk to you about your children.

The most important first step is to get to know your child's teacher and to share important information with that teacher.

At Del Mar Schools, we have many opportunities for parents to participate directly in their child's education:

- ❖ Volunteering in the classroom
- ❖ Joining the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)
- ❖ Serving on committees
- ❖ Attending Parent-Teacher conferences

You may also consider participating with English Learners by joining:

- ❖ International Family Contacts
- ❖ District English Learner Advisory Committee
- ❖ School English Learner Advisory Committee

Please call the school to learn how you may become involved.

You can schedule a time to talk with your child's teacher at any time.

See the school office assistant or e-mail the teacher.

There is a staff list on each school website with phone extensions and email addresses of all teachers.

What is the school schedule?

Supervision on the blacktop and in the kindergarten area begins at 7:45 a.m.

There is no supervision available before 7:45 a.m.



Grades 1-6 students attend school every day from 8:00 – 2:30, except Wednesdays. For the first six weeks of school, Kindergarten students attend 8:00 to 12:40 pm. Beginning with the seventh week of school, Kindergarten students also attend 8:00 – 2:30, except Wednesdays. Every Wednesday is a minimum day in the district and students are dismissed at 12:30.

Grade	Start Time	Recess*	Lunch*	End Time
<i>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</i>				
Grades K-6	8:00	10:00 – 10:15	11:30 – 12:15	2:30
<i>Wednesday</i>				
Grades K-6	8:00	10:00 – 10:15	11:45 – 12:30	12:30

*Recess and lunch times may vary at each school site. Please check at your school office or school website for the current daily schedule.

What is a typical day in the classroom?

Exact blocks of time for each content area or subject area will vary among grade levels.

Most classrooms begin the day with a **Morning Meeting**.

The Pledge of Allegiance is recited:

I pledge allegiance to the flag
Of the United States of America,
And to the Republic, for which it stands,
One nation under God, indivisible,
With liberty and justice for all.



Many Del Mar Union School District classrooms also recite the PeaceBuilders Pledge:

I am a PeaceBuilder.
I pledge. . .
*To praise people
*To give up put downs
*To seek wise people
*To notice and speak up about hurts I have caused
*To right wrongs
*To help others
I will build peace at home, at school,
and in my community each day.

The **English Language Arts** block of time is when students focus on reading, writing, and speaking.

Mathematics activities occur daily.

Students also study **Science** and **Social Studies**.

Physical Education and **STEAM+** (technology, science art, and/or music) is offered at different times throughout the week.

Daily recess is when children go outside to play and eat a snack. (Children bring snacks from home.)

What is STEAM+?

In Del Mar Union, STEAM+ provides robust and engaging opportunities for students to experience an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Purposeful learning occurs around clear concepts that require students to think critically and explore solutions to real-world problems. We are preparing our students for the future! Dynamic learning environments support strategic thinking, innovation, and collaboration. These practices promote deep understanding and sustain a lifetime of inquiry. Students who are prepared for their future must be able to connect experiences from a variety of disciplines and think about problems through a new lens. **Science** and **engineering** concepts fuse together with **technology** and **art**! **Physical education** and **music** collide in ways never before imagined. STEAM+ is an exciting curriculum taught by teacher specialists and provided to all students. Your child will receive STEAM+ instruction each week in one or more of the following areas:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| ☞ Science | ☞ Art |
| ☞ Technology | ☞ Physical Education |
| ☞ Music | |



What is the Del Mar Schools Education Foundation?

Every school in the Del Mar Union School District is fortunate to have exceptional staff supporting STEAM+ as a result of community support and a strong partnership with the Del Mar Schools Education Foundation (DMSEF). Our commitment to providing the highest quality education is one reason the schools in the Del Mar Union School District are ranked among the highest in the state. The Del Mar Union School District has established a foundation to help pay for STEAM+ programs in art, music, science, technology, and physical education. You will be receiving information about this foundation. We hope you will consider making a contribution to support these exciting programs.



Is attendance important?

It is VERY important that your child is in school on time every day. Your child will miss a lot of information if they are absent.

If your child is sick and needs to stay home, please call the school office and tell the office staff. It is very important for you to call when your child is absent.

When reporting an absence, be prepared to tell the following:

- Your child's name
- The teacher's name
- The grade
- The date
- Your name
- Your relationship to the child
- The reason for the child's absence



Each school has a health office if your child is hurt or sick during class or on the playground. School psychologists are also available at each school campus.

Absences due to travel and/or vacation are unexcused and any missed homework must be made up. After three unexcused absences, unresolved absences, or unexcused tardies of more than 30 minutes, a letter will be sent to the home to make families aware of the attendance problem. After four unexcused absences, unresolved absences, or unexcused tardies of more than 30 minutes, a second letter will be sent to the home asking parents to attend a School Attendance Review Team (SART) meeting at the school. After five unexcused absences, unresolved absences, or unexcused tardies of more than 30 minutes, a third letter will be sent home informing parents that the student will be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). All students will be afforded the three-letter process, regardless of current attendance status. This will ensure each student maximum opportunity to correct problematic patterns of attendance.

Change of address and/or phone number



It is very important that the school always has your current address and phone number.

If you are moving during the year, it is important to let the school secretary know immediately so that emergency information may be updated. Please check with the school to see if you will remain within the same school boundary area.

What type of assessments will my child receive?

ELPAC Testing

In order to determine your child's English level, he or she will be given the state-approved test called the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) at the beginning of the school year. You will be mailed the results of this test in late fall or early winter. Your child will either be an English Learner (EL) or be designated as Fluent English Proficient. If your child is Fluent English Proficient, he/she will receive no further language assessment. If your child is an English Learner, he/she will be tested annually until he or she reaches a level of Fluent English Proficient. English Learners also receive additional support in learning English, as described on page 10.

CAASPP Testing

In the spring, usually the first three week of May, Del Mar Schools administers the computer-based California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The school will send home information to parents prior to testing week. CAASPP test results are mailed home to parents in the summer.



What are parent conferences?

Classroom teachers meet with parents in the fall and again in the spring. Your child's classroom teacher will schedule a conference with you during Parent Teacher Conference Week to review your child's current classroom work and long-range instruction goals. You may also discuss any issues and concerns about your child's progress with his or her classroom teacher at that time.

To be able to provide quality time for parent-teacher meetings, **students are dismissed at 12:30 p.m. every day during Parent-Teacher Conference Week.**

Please note that **After-School Enrichment Classes are canceled during Parent Teacher Conference Week.** Please confirm the schedules for childcare, as well.

Please check the current school calendar for scheduled Parent Conference Weeks.



What school supplies will my child need?



A list of requested supplies for each grade level will be posted on the district website each summer: www.dmusd.org

You may purchase them before school starts.

What kind of homework can we expect?

The amount of homework varies in each grade level.
Homework can begin in kindergarten.
Please ask your child's teacher about required homework.



How will the nutritional needs of my child be met?

Parents can provide lunch for their child every day, or a hot lunch can be purchased for a fee. Your child will receive information about purchasing hot lunches throughout the school year.

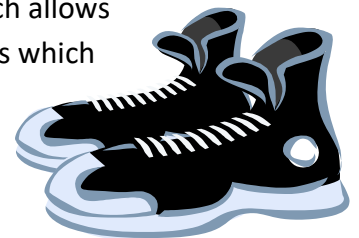


Parents are also encouraged to provide a healthy snack for their child each day. Examples of healthy snacks include fruit, yogurt, raisins and vegetables.

No candy, gum or other sugary snacks are allowed at school.

What type of clothing is appropriate?

Children should come to school wearing comfortable clothing which allows them to move freely. It is especially important children wear shoes which allow them to run and play without injury.



The Del Mar Union Board of Trustees has adopted a dress code policy for all students. You may obtain a copy from the district website or from the school office.

Is child care provided after school?

Child care is provided after school **for a fee** in two locations:

- ☞ The **Del Mar After School Program** is located at each school site and is available after school every day. You can call **858-793-0071** for more information.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM, Justin Slagle, Director, ext. 3649 #858-793-0071
Cindy Yamate, Administrative Assistant, ext. 3640
Samantha Adams, Office Assistant Child Care ext. 3644
Office @ Torrey Hills School
10830 Calle Mar De Mariposa, San Diego, CA 92130
Phone: (858) 793-0071 ♦ Fax: (858) 259-0416
Locations: Ashley Falls School ♦ Carmel Del Mar School ♦ Del Mar Heights ♦
Del Mar Hills ♦ Ocean Air ♦ Sage Canyon ♦ Sycamore Ridge ♦ Torrey Hills

Bilingual instruction *may* be offered after school. Please check the DMUSD After School Program webpage for current information:

<https://www.dmusd.org/Domain/129>

- ☞ The local **Boys and Girls Club** also offers child care each day after school. They can be reached at **858-793-9196**.

School Events

Back to School Night – Orientation night in the fall for parents to find out the latest information about the school from teachers and the principal

Field Day – a day of games and fun for the whole school

Halloween Parade – a chance for students to come to school dressed in a costume

Jog-a-thon – a combination of a school fundraiser and run/walk activity for all students and staff, supported by parents and friends; students wear clothing for jogging and walking

Lunch Time Clubs and Groups – activities available for children during the free time of the lunch period

Open House – an evening in the spring for families to visit the school campus and see the work of students displayed in the classrooms

Parent Teacher Conference – one-on-one meeting between parents and a teacher to discuss the academic progress of a student, held in the fall and in the spring

PTA Food Drive – voluntary collection of non-perishable food for families in need, organized by the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

Red Ribbon Week – a week of drug awareness, including the teaching of refusal skills and the dangers of using drugs and alcohol

Reflections – an art competition open to all students

Sixth Grade Camp – a week-long overnight outdoor education program for sixth-grade students, facilitated away from their families in cabin camps around San Diego



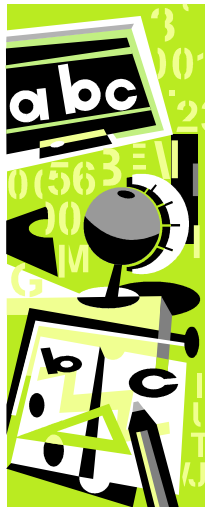
Sixth Grade Promotion – A ceremony celebrating the end of elementary school and the beginning of middle school. Each site has its own celebration on the last day of school for their sixth graders.

CAASPP Testing – required state tests measuring academic progress of students in grades 3-6 usually the first three week of May

Student Council Elections – a chance for children to get involved in student government at school where they can run for offices, such as president, vice-president and secretary

Volunteer Orientation – information meeting at the beginning of the year for parents interested in volunteering at school

Schools also hold events that are unique to their sites. For example, some have a Dad's Club. Some hold a Grandparent's Day when grandparents may come to school for an activity. Your school will tell you about their special days and activities.



Holidays Celebrated in the United States

There are many holidays celebrated around the world with religious and secular traditions. Not all schools celebrate all holidays.

Here is a list of some holidays that are recognized here and in other places:

AUGUST

Del Mar Schools generally begin the new school year the last week of August. Please check the current school calendar for the first day of school.

Other days to note:

Ramadan (Islamic, Muslim, Moslem)	Pakistan's Independence Day
India's Independence Day	Liberation Day (Korea, South Korea)
Lammas and Lughnassad (Britain, Pagan, United States)	

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day is a legal holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September in honor of the working class. Parades are held throughout cities and towns. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.

Other days to note:

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Mexico)	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
Israel Miraji Ascent of Prophet Muhammad	San Gennaro Day (Italian-American)
Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)	Autumnal Equinox (Japan)
Eid-Al-Fitr (Islamic, Muslim)	Sukkot (Jewish)
Mexico's Independence Day (September 16)	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
Lailat-UI-Quadr (Islamic, Muslim)	

OCTOBER

Halloween is the eve of All Saints' Day, falling on October 31 and celebrated by children who carve pumpkins, dress in costumes and beg for treats. They walk from door to door collecting candy. The chant "trick or treat" is heard throughout the neighborhood. There is no significance to Halloween other than it is fun to dress in costumes, go to parties, play spooky music and collect candy!



Other days to note:

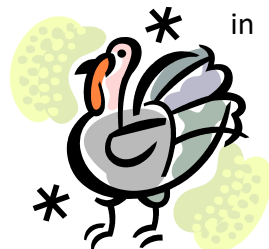
German-American Heritage Month	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
National Italian-American Heritage Month	Cirio de Nazare (Brazil)
Polish-American Heritage Month	

NOVEMBER

Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day and is celebrated on November 11 or the second Monday in November. It is observed to honor all the men and women who served in the U.S. armed forces during the wars. American flags are displayed outside homes, banks, and offices. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday set apart for giving thanks. It is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November, usually with a feast of turkey, stuffing, corn, mashed potatoes and other foods. It was first celebrated in colonial times in New England. When the Pilgrims landed their ships at Plymouth Rock in the year 1621, they needed the help of the Native Americans to learn how to plant crops and grow food. After they had their first harvest, the Pilgrims had a feast with the Native Americans to celebrate their friendships. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Other days to note:

National American Indian Heritage Month
Dia de los Muertos (Mexico)
Diwali (Buddhist, Hindu)

Birthday of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
Eid al-adha (Islamic, Muslim)

DECEMBER

Del Mar Schools are generally closed for two weeks at the end of December for Winter Break. Please check the current school calendar for the dates of Winter Break.

Other days to note:

St. Nicholas Day (International)
Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
Hannukkah (Jewish)
Al Hijra - Muslim New Year
Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico)
Santa Lucia Day (Sweden)

Ashura (Islamic, Muslim)
Las Posadas (Mexico)
Christmas (Christian)
Boxing Day (Canada, United Kingdom)
Kwanzaa (African American)

JANUARY

New Year's Day is the first day of the calendar year, January 1. It is a celebration of the old year and the new one to come. The traditional New Year's Ball is dropped every year in Times Square in New York City at 12:00 midnight, which is seen on television around the world. Each New Year, people make resolutions to change (such as to eat better, to exercise more, or to give up bad habits) and promise themselves to keep these resolutions all year. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Martin Luther King Day is celebrated the third Monday of January. It is a remembrance of the life and legacy of civil rights champion Dr. Martin Luther King. It is a time for the nation to celebrate the values Dr. King fought for: equality, tolerance, freedom and dignity of all races and people. Dr. King said we should create change through nonviolence. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Other days to note:

Emancipation Day (African American)

Japanese New Year (Japan)

Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday (Sikh)

Three Kings' Day (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic)

Lohri (Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh)

Religious Freedom Day

World Religion Day

India Republic Day

Tu b'Shvat (Jewish, Israel)

FEBRUARY



Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14. People send greeting cards or treats to loved ones and friends to show them that they care.

President's Day is an observance combining Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington's birthdays in a mid-month celebration to honor these great U.S. leaders. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Other days to note:

National Black History Month

Mexico Constitution Day

National Foundation Day (Japan)

Chinese Lunar New Year (China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam)

Tet Nguyen Dan (Vietnam)

Mardi Gras (United States)

Flag Day (Mexico)

MARCH



Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17. There are many different customs that people do. One of the most widely known customs is to wear green on this day. One famous saying is, "On St. Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish!"

Other days to note:

Greek-American Heritage Month
Irish-American Heritage Month
Spiritual Wellness Month

St David's Day (Welsh)
Naw Ruz (Baha'i, Persia)

APRIL

Del Mar Schools are generally closed for one week in April for Spring Break. Please check the current school calendar for the dates of Spring Break.

Arbor Day is a tree-planting day to beautify our cities and towns. Most public schools celebrate Arbor Day in order to teach about protecting our forests.

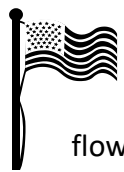
Other days to note:

Easter (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
Sinhala and Tamil New Year (Sri Lanka)
Vesak – Buddha's Birth (Buddhist)

Passover (Jewish)
St. George's Day (English)

MAY

Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May, honoring mothers. It is a time of commemoration and celebration for Mom, and all women who have acted as a mother figure in your life. It is a time for family gatherings and lots of love.



Memorial Day is a legal holiday on the last Monday in May, in honor of the nation's armed forces who were killed in defending their country in war. It is celebrated with parades, memorial speeches and ceremonies, as well as decorating graves with flowers and flags. Memorial Day is also a reminder that summer is on the way. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.

Other days to note:

Asian Pacific American History Month
Beltane (Celtic)
Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)
Malcom X's Birthday (African American)

Israel's Independence Day
Shavuot (Jewish)
Victory Day (Russia)
Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)

JUNE

Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June, honoring fathers. It is a day not only to honor your dad, but all men who have acted as a father figure in your life. It is a time for family gatherings and lots of love.



Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. The first national observance of Flag Day was one hundred years after George Washington's display of the first U.S. flag. Since that day in 1877, June 14 has been celebrated each year as the National Flag Day.

Other day to note: Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjan (Sikh)

JULY



Independence Day is July 4. It celebrates the birthday of the U.S.A. It commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Many families celebrate this day by having picnics and going to the beach. You will also find fireworks displays in many towns and cities across America. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.

Other days to note:

Canada Day (Canada)

Fil-American Friendship Day (Philippines, US)

Bon Festival/Feast of Lanterns (Japan)